# The Shield

## November 2026

Knights of Columbus
Fr Thomas A Brandon Council 451
P.O. Box 15296,
Ft Wayne, IN 46885-5296
Phone: 260-438-3112
Office: 260-484-3392 x347
E mail: Knights451fw@gmail.com

### Grand Knights Message

Brother Knights:

We're in the period of time at the end of the church year, about to prepare to celebrate the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. At your home you might add insulation or install the storm windows or get your furnace checked, all in preparation for the upcoming cold weather. How will you prepare for Christmas? It can become a very busy time of the year, with the fall holidays potentially putting pressure and stress on us all, sometimes impeding our ability to enjoy family or celebrate the reason for the season. Make sure you set aside some time to reflect on all the blessings you have been gifted, as well as express gratitude to those responsible, including God. Perhaps our upcoming Morning of Reflection on November 14th might provide that opportunity. Regardless, remember that tomorrow is always a gift.

We have just completed a successful membership drive weekend and recruited a good number of new Knights. We need to continually solicit men of our Catholic families to join us and help us grow our supply of resourceful Knights and continue the ongoing mission of the K of C. Have you considered becoming an officer or perhaps a member of one of our service committees? All officer positions are one-year terms, and although it is customary for each officer to serve 2 terms, there are no term limits and each year all positions are open to new faces. If you'd consider upping your involvement, simply contact one of us via email or phone to toss your hat in the ring. New ideas and faces are always welcomed.

Be sure to check out the articles and calendar below. There are plenty of opportunities to become more engaged with us at 451. We remember our fallen Knights on Wednesday, November 11 at the 6:30 mass. Join us for this solemn ceremony. Give the gift of life to a person in need this Thanksgiving weekend with our November 28th blood drive. Our annual Jack Henry Euchre Tournament on November 21 is always a fun way for our members to enjoy some friendly competition. Get engaged!

Vivat Jesus!

Dennis Holp
Grand Knight, Council 451

| | November | | December |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 6:45 PM Monthly Meeting - Hession Center | 2 | Mass at the VA Hospital - Noon |
| 4 | Mass at the VA Hospital - Noon | 7 | 6:45 PM Monthly Meeting - Hession Center |
| 11 | Veteran's Day Memorial Mass @ 6:30pm | 22 | 8:15 AM Mass followed with breakfast with brother Knights |
| 14 | Men's Morning Reflection "Called" | | |
| 21 | Youth retreat at St. Felix | | |
| 21 | Annual Jack Henry memorial Euchre Tournament | | |
| 24 | 8:15 AM Mass followed with breakfast with brother Knights | | |
| 28 | Red Cross Blood Drive | | |
| | | | |




## Deceased Members

Please remember **Robert Silva** and all the deceased brother Knights in your prayers.







## Prayers for Brother Knights

*Brother Knights, please pray for the following Brother Knights or family members:*

Mike Bonaham, Larry Delaney, Teri Dennison, A J Drew, Elsie Faghih, Justin Fralick, Michael Friend, Caroline Grote, Dave Grote, John Hackman, Jo Ellen Koehl, Patty Kohrman, Tony Kraft, Lillian Krider, John Londt, Sharon Luther, Kathleen Magasam, Family of Jay Nelson, Bill & Kathy Palmersheim, the Tom Pycz family, Keith Robertson, Janet Rose, Carl Sabo, Emily & John Sasser, Ann Schwartz, Ray & Tony Shot, Colin Smith, John Thieme, Barbara Tratnyek, Janet Waldschmidt, Diana Wallace, Richard Wallace, Ed Welling, Sheila Welling and Frank Yeranko.

Pray for all the brother Knights sick or in distress, those confined to nursing homes and all deceased brother Knights.

Pray for all the Priests of our Diocese and for all Seminarians studying for the priesthood. Please pray for our military.

***If there are changes to this list, (additions or deletions), please notify any officer.***

## First Wednesday of The Month Mass

The first Wednesday of each month Steve Lutz, State Knights of Columbus Veterans Affairs Chairman and Dr. Thomas Ryan PGK sponsor the noon Mass at the Fort Wayne VA Hospital at 2121 Lake Avenue, Ft. Wayne, IN 46805.

They would like for you to join them on **November 4, 2026** and each following month. Steve will greet you at the main entrance and direct you to the Mass location. Brother Knights from other Councils have been attending and they look forward to seeing you.



## Monthly Mass & Breakfast!

Our monthly Knights Mass and Breakfast is held on the forth Tuesday of the month. We meet at St. Charles for 8:15A.M. Mass, and follow Mass with breakfast at Lakeside Cafe. All nights and potential Knights are welcome to join us for this faith and fellowship opportunity. If you have any questions, call or text Darren Schortgen at (260)385-7603.

Please join us on Tuesday, **November 24, 2026**

## Happy November Birthdays



Leo Backs, Jr.
Cody Barney
Ken Bugajski
Richard Claycomb
Tracy Collins
Joseph Colone
Sean Digan
Robert Heidenreich
Mark Herrberg
Dennis Jackson
Charles Jinks
Thomas Keller
John Kesson
Frank Koehl
John Kowalczyk
Gerald Lehman
John Leonard
Stephen Lutz
Alexander Maher
Michael Miller
Timothy Miller
James Morton
Omar Navarro
James Pifko
John Prascsak
Bishop Kevin Rhoades
Kevin Ruger
Anthony Sliger
Martin Sweigert
Benji Walley
Jeffrey Wilder
Mark Wissel
Stephen Woods



## Can Crushers Schedule

**Oct. 25 - Oct. 31 : Jack Wehrly**
**Nov. 01 - Nov. 07 : Jim Pifko**
**Nov. 08 - Nov. 14 : OPEN**
**Nov. 15 - Nov. 21 : OPEN**



**If you would like to volunteer your time to help crush can please contact Jason Gabet at 260-403-6230 or gabet60@aol.com.**

**Remember all funds collected from the cans go to support Gibault.**

# Walk for Hope 2026

## St. Charles - Amazing, Caring, Generous
## Making a Positive Difference for Those in Need

On Sept 20, 2026, St. Charles Conference of St. Vincent de Paul Society (SC SVdP) participated, as one of 23 conferences in the Fort Wayne area. This was the 10th annual Walk for Hope to help people in need. The generosity and caring of St. Charles Parishioners and business sponsors (listed on back) are amazing, raising $53,281. In fiscal year 2026, SC SVdP distributed over $138,000 directly to help just under 3,500 adults and children with dire needs right here in Ft Wayne. The needs are many ranging from providing hope and encouragement to urgent needs for food and clothing, rent, utilities, beds, gasoline, car repairs and the list goes on.





On the day of the Walk, Msgr. Tom was once again awarded the top individual fundraiser, raising $19,831 for the poor. SC SVdP was the top conference fundraiser reaching an amazing $53,281. Thanks to Msgr. Tom, Fr. Jery, our generous St Charles parishioners, reliable Knights of Columbus 451, tireless SC SVdP members and caring business sponsors who together made it possible for SC SVdP to help with the increasing requests for urgent help.

Matthew 7:7 "Ask, and you will receive; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you." When we did not know how to help the increasing requests, God has touched many hearts at St. Charles to meet this need.

*Photos provided by Steve Lutz*

## Walk for Hope 2026 continued . . .





*Photos provided by Steve Lutz*

## SC SVdP Walk for Hope 2026 Business Partners

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Advocate Financial** | **Korte Does It All** | **Northeast Chiropractic** |
| **Atlas Capital** | **L&S Alignment Inc** | **Oak Tree Woodworking Supplies (AITF Inc)** |
| **Century 21 Bradley** | **Lancia Homes** | **Quick Freeze** |
| **Culvers** | **Lupke Rice Insurance** | **St Anne Communities Senior Care** |
| **Dr Jacob Family Dentistry** | **Magic 95** | **SCO Engineering** |
| **Epco Insurance Agency** | **Marr & Thompson Dental** | **Shambaugh & Son LP** |
| **Fort Wayne Custom RX** | **Mike's Carwash** | **St Joe Christmas Tree Farm** |
| **HealthMarkets Insurance Ryan & Angie Pias** | **Morgan Properties** | **The DeHayes Group Ins** |
| **Knights of Columbus 451** | **Move Pro** | **Young's Greenhouse & Flower Shop** |

**Thank You St. Charles - Amazing, Caring, Generous**
**Touching many lives when they need help the most**



Sean Digan, Deputy Grand Knight, receiving the Star Council Award for fraternal year 2025 - 2026 from District Deputy Dave Barrett.

## Star Council Award

At October's monthly meeting, District Deputy Dave Barrett, presented Council 451 with the Star Council Award. This is the ninth time in eleven years we have received this distinguished recognition. In order to achieve the Star Council Award, a council must earn the Father McGivney Award – achieve a yearly membership quota; the Founders' Award – promote K of C's insurance and fraternal benefits by attending two virtual fraternal benefits seminars; and the Columbian Award – conduct and report programs in each of four categories (Faith, Family, Community and Life) for a total of 16 program credits, with four credits in each category.

With impressive accomplishments in all three areas, it is a testament to Council 451's commitment to serve our church and community. We are indeed blessed with good leadership and a membership of Knights willing to put words into action.

*Photos provided by Dennis Redding*




# Membership Drive 2026

Council 451 held a very successful Membership Drive Weekend on Saturday October 24 and Sunday October 25. Several new members joined over the weekend with several more showing interest to join. Thanks to all Knights that helped make this a successful recruitment weekend!




Justin Purdy and Dennis Holp at table in Gathering Space

Jack Wehrly, Mike Wass, and Dennis Redding at table in Gathering Space



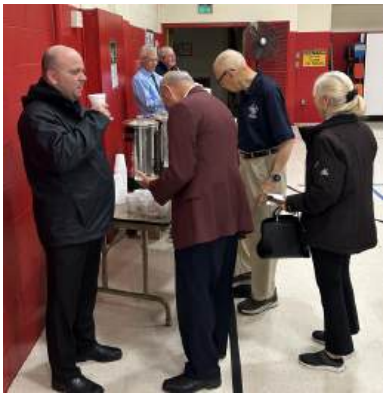


Mike Maskal and Jim Pfiko serving donuts to Father Jery






Vince Lochbihler serving donuts



Dennis Redding, Joe Tratnyek, Mike Maskal, and Tom Ryan serving drinks with Father Drew



Joe Pifko and Mike Maskal serving donuts



Mike Maskal and Tom Ryan serving drinks



Vince Lochbihler serving donuts



Sean Digan at table in cafeteria



*Photos provided by Justin Purdy*

# Knights Helping Neighbors

Our volunteer work projects this month included: yard maintenance for a brother Knight John Kessen and for a handicapped parishioner Deb Wagner. Additionally, Sharon Luther, wife of Don Luther, requested some brick repair on a portion of her house. In all cases, Knights stepped up giving their time and talents.



Geary Hoy and David Lothamer cleaning a bed at John Kessen's house.



Jeff Rose clearing some of the larger brush.



Tom Richter digging in.



Tom Lothamer chainsawing some of the larger brush as Tom Richter looks on.



Dennis Redding giving the yard a fresh cut.

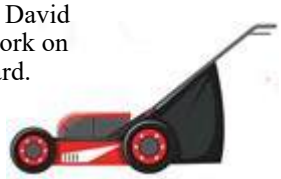


Joe Lauer and David Lothamer at work on the back yard.






The team at John's included David Lothamer, Geary Hoy, Tom Richter, Tom Lothamer, Dennis Redding, Jeff Rose and Joe Lauer. Not shown is Jim Pifko.





The team at Deb Wagner's Jim Pifko, Jeff Rose, Mike Wagner, Geary Hoy and Dennis Redding





Brick damage at Sharon Luther's house.



David Lothamer and Dennis Redding repairing loose bricks at Sharon Luther's.

*Photos provided by Dennis Redding*

# Gibault Christmas List 2026

This year, Gibault has organized its Christmas Gift Program a little differently by dividing the state into regions and assigning specific gift categories to each area.

According to the program guide, our council is part of the **Blue Region**. The gift requests for our area can be found in the **upper-right corner** of the guide.

Please bring your donated gifts to our next monthly meeting on **Monday, December 7**.

If shopping is not convenient, you can still participate by making a monetary donation. Cash donations or checks payable to **Knights of Columbus Council 451** will be accepted at the meeting.

You may also donate online using the following link:

https://square.link/u/m9obheLr



## Remembering Robert Silva

Sir Knight Robert Silva passed away on September 23, 2026. Robert had just celebrated his 101st birthday with his family earlier in the month.

Robert was the oldest member of Council 451. He was buried wearing a 451 pin and cap that the Council had given him last year when we celebrated his 100th birthday at our monthly meeting.

The Honor Guard was furnished by Assembly 239, Fort Wayne, IN.



Dennis Redding and Doug Baisinger standing Honor Guard at Robert Silva's funeral on September 30, 2026.

*Photo provided by Doug Baisinger*

Our next Red Cross blood drive is scheduled for **Saturday, November 28 from 7 am until 1 pm**. Yes, it IS the Saturday after Thanksgiving! Please consider taking a few minutes of what will undoubtedly be a busy weekend and giving a person in need a solid reason to be thankful by giving a pint of blood, a small gift that will help up to 3 people. Use sponsor code "knights451" at www.redcrossblood.org or the Red Cross donor app on a smart phone to locate our drives and schedule a time. If you have problems making an appointment, reach out to Dennis Holp at dennis.holp2@redcross.org or via text/voicemail at 260-438-3112.

Come pile onto the weekend turkey and dressing and have a calorie-free donut while you relax and step away from the holiday craziness!

## Summit Awakening Retreat

Council 451 prepared and serve a hardy breakfast on Saturday October 17th for 102 young adults (age 18 to 25) attending the Summit Awakening Retreat held at St. Charles School. We had 11 members volunteer to work at the event. The young adults very appreciate of our effort in support of their Retreat.



Council members preparing food and serving the breakfast



*Photos provided by Doug Baisinger*



The young adults wailing on breakfast to start



# Anthony Wayne Assembly 239
# Fourth Degree News



Sir Knights,

The year is coming to a close. Soon we will begin Advent, preparing for Christmas and the year 2027. But first we have important activities coming up. On Saturday, November 7th, we will participate in the annual Veterans Day parade with our honor guard and float. We will assemble at 10:00 near Northside Park, the exact location will be announced soon. Our regular meeting will be on November 10, and on the following day, Wednesday the 11th we will have our memorial Mass at 7:00 pm for our deceased members and veterans. We hope you can join us for these activities.

Looking ahead to December, our meeting is traditionally replaced with a Christmas dinner. We are moving that to the 3rd Tuesday, Dec. 15th, so as not to conflict with the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Information about the dinner with be sent out in a few weeks. On December 19th we will participate in Wreaths Across America, a nationwide program, by placing wreaths at graves of veterans in the Lindenwood cemetery, info with be coming soon. Also, on the 19th of December we will provide an honor guard for an ordination to the transitional diaconate.

**Our next meeting will be November 10th with the rosary at 7 and the meeting at 7:30.**

For God, Country, and Neighbor
Mike Blankman, Navigator
Anthony Wayne Assembly

**Meetings are held at the Saint Mother T. Guerin Chapel basement on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. The Patriotic Rosary begins at 7:00 PM and the meeting begins at 7:30.**

---

## FOURTH DEGREE FRIAR'S PHRASES

Traditionally, we in the Catholic faith hold the month of November to be a special time to remember the faithful departed, especially our family members and those who have lived heroic lives. Also, to pray for the poor souls who are awaiting a release from Purgatory and entrance into heaven. I am sure that our parishes will each have special prayers and Holy Hours to pray for the dead. (Members of the Fourth Degree should be ready to aid with these prayer services if our Pastors ask for help for organization, prayer leaders, and honor guards, etc.) May the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace, Amen.

Our assembly, in keeping with the tradition will remember those who died this past year, and fallen service men and women with the Assembly's annual November 11 Mass. (I hope we have a good showing this year.) Also, I believe that our cemeteries will all have special ceremonies and Masses. The Catholic cemetery Fort Wayne will have Masses all week beginning on November 2, at noon.

We read in the Second Book of Maccabees, "But if he did this (believe in the Resurrection of the dead) with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought (to pray for the dead).; 2Mac. 12:45"

Please pray often for the dead; and hope that many will pray for us when we too join our ancestors.

God Bless and protect the Knights of Columbus! May He also bless our Assembly!

Vivat Jesus!
Fr. William Kummer F.F.

**2025-2026 Officers**
Council 451

**Chaplain**
Deacon Robert Lortie
**Grand Knight**
Dennis Holp 438-3112
**Deputy Grand Knight**
Sean Digan 417-0216
**Chancellor**
Jason Gabet 403-6230
**Financial Secretary**
Doug Baisinger 486-8533
**Recorder**
Michael Ripley 205-3689
**Warden**
Gene Delaney 699-0544
**Treasurer**
Joe Mikolay 348-9416
**Trustees**
3 Jack Wehrly 414-0421
2 Bruce Bennett 409-0229
1 Dennis Redding 615-1692
**Advocate**
Vince Lochbihler 515-7870
**Inside Guard**
Blane Ryan 615-1728
**Outside Guard**
Charles Smith 403-7792

**District Deputy**
Dave Barrett
david_e_barrett@frontier.com

**2025-2026 Directorships:**

**Membership and Public Relations Director**
Justin Purdy 410-3125
**Fraternal Director**
Gene Delaney 699-0544
**Fraternal co-Director**
Tim Isch 715-5984
**Life Director**
Kirk Crosby (865) 399-3052
**Family Directors**
Sam Sliger 750-8657
**Gibault Envoy**
Mike Smith 479-7199
**Faith Director**
Tony Hasselschwert 413-5310
**Community Director**
Dennis Redding 615-1692

**Anthony Wayne Assembly**
**2025-2026**

**Faithful Friar**
Rev. William Kummer 574-780-0824
**Faithful Navigator**
Mike Blankman 260-413-6376
**Faithful Captain**
Mark Steiglitz 505-710-1553
**Faithful Pilot**
Pete Duran 260-579-6054
**Faithful Scribe**
Blane Ryan 260-623-6808
**Faithful Comptroller**
John Murray 260-486-6870
**Faithful Purser**
Loren Nichter 260-413-1463
**Faithful Inside Sentinel**
Mark Braun 260-409-2337
**Faithful Outside Sentinel**
Dennis Redding 260-615-1692
**Faithful Trustee**
1. Mike Discala 260-553-2572
2. Ed Koehl 260-338-0743
3. Steve Heckber 260-622-7796
**Faithful Admiral**
Richard Burton 260-432-7030
**Faithful Honor Guard**
Pete Duran 260-579-6054
peteduran@frontier.com
**Master IN District**

**Master Sir Knight IN District**




Please bring your cans to the Knights of Columbus shed!
We will crush the cans and recycle them
for cash to be donated to Gibault!
**PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE ALUMINUM FOIL OR ALUMINUM PANS—ONLY CANS**. Thank you!



**Have you recently moved or are you moving?**

If so please advise us by emailing your new address to:
*Knights451fw@gmail.com*
or send a note to:
P.O. 15296
Fort Wayne, IN
46885-5296.

Thank you!!!

Your Insurance Agent
For The Knights of Columbus Insurance is:
**Nicholas Goralczyk**
574-457-8111
nick.goralczyk@kofc.org