

The Shield

September 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:

Labor Day is upon us, honoring workers and recognizing their contributions to society. Our Knights of Columbus Council 451 goals focus on making such contributions, with projects and events utilizing our gifts of time, talent and treasure for the betterment of family, parish and community. Have you actively supported the pursuit of our Council goals?

We'll be voting on the proposed FY26/27 budget at our upcoming **membership meeting on Monday, September 14**. Please take the time to review it, as it outlines our proposed expenditures for this fraternal year, as recommended by our Board of Trustees and officers. It was presented at the August membership meeting and is available to review in the August Shield, posted on our 451 web page.

Council 451 just completed a VERY successful and entertaining Mushball tournament. Thanks to the team of Knights who helped pull it off. Planning involved acquiring the gear, officials, support program and food, all needed for the event. It took the effort of lots of Knights and was done successfully! Our mini tournament drew a very nice crowd of spectators as well as players. We've received all positive comments and will look at how we can improve on things for next year! Suggestions and additions to the Mushball planning team are welcomed! The war stories from this year are hilarious!

We're in search of someone to lead a team of Knights and supporters to revive our annual St. Joseph's Day/Family Day event, previously held around the Feast of St. Joseph, March 19. We're open to suggestions on the event contents, promotions, etc. The pattern from past events can be a good starting point. A clean sheet is an option, but it needs someone to take the lead. Have an interest? Be sure to contact me or another officer.

Be sure to check out calendar of events and opportunities on our web page!

Vivat Jesus!

Dennis Holp
Grand Knight, Council 451

	September		October
2	Mass at the VA Hospital - Noon	4	SVdP Walk for Hope
12	Cardinal Fest	5	6:45 PM Monthly Meeting - Hession Center
14	6:45 PM Monthly Meeting - Hession Center	7	Mass at the VA Hospital - Noon
22	8:15 AM Mass followed with breakfast with brother Knights	27	8:15 AM Mass followed with breakfast with brother Knights
26	Young Adults Retreat		
			1



Deceased Members

Please remember all the deceased brother Knights in your prayers.

Seminarian Bake Sale 2026

The sale was held the weekend of **August 15–16** and was a wonderful success. A heartfelt **thank you** to everyone who supported the fundraiser - both those who purchased baked goods and those who generously donated items.

Your kindness and participation made the event truly fruitful for our seminarians.



Brothers Justin Purdy and Gene Delaney purchasing a cookie from Fr. Drew at the St. Charles Borromeo Seminarian Bake Sale.

Photo provided by Joe Mikolay



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 **September 7, 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, **September 27, 2026**

Happy September Birthdays



Theodore Campbell
John Delaney
Daniel Distelrath
Robert D'Souza
David Fairchild
Larry Fisher
Mark Graf
Nick Groves
Jeffrey Henry
Rev. Noah Isch
Maurice Linder
Michael Niese
Frederick McNulty
Joseph Mikolay, Jr.
Joseph Reifel
Steven Richard

Joseph Ruden
Thomas Ryan
Stewart Schenkel
Andrew Schneider
Daniel Schneider
Robert Silva
Timothy Slater
Steve Straessle
Greg Sult
Ed Toby
Michael Vanderpool
Mark Venderley
Vincent Wallace
Michael Wass
Carl Wilt



Can Crushers Schedule

Aug. 23 - Aug. 29 : Jim Pifko
 Aug. 30 - Sept. 05 : Dave Lothamer
 Sept. 06 - Sept. 12 : Eric Seely
 Sept. 13 - Sept. 19 : Sean Digan
 Sept. 20 - Sept. 26 : OPEN
 Sept. 27 - Oct. 03 : 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.

Mushball Extravaganza

On Sunday August 23rd, Council 451 held their second annual Mushball Extravaganza. Last year's exhibition game featured two teams numbering about 20 players. This year, with a greater emphasis in promotion, the event fielded four teams numbering 42 players. Participants were split right down the middle with 21 Knights and 21 parishioners that included women. Cub Scout Pack 3307 of St. Charles opened the program by posting the colors for the national anthem. Father Drew Curry offered the invocation.

On this beautiful day, families came to watch dads, a few grandpas and friends give it their best in trying to hit and field this unwieldy ball. Our grillers, Tim Isch, Jim Pifko and Sean Digan were busy frying up free hamburgers and hotdogs complemented by bags of chips and drinks. Many other Knights were busy filling positions as score keepers, press box announcers, setup and tear down staff. These included GK Dennis Holp, Frank Koehl, Jim Keefer, Tom Keefer, Greg Sult and Jack Wehrly. Our planning team was: Steve Lutz, Sean Digan, Mike Ripley and Dennis Redding.



More than 40 players take the field for the national anthem.



Scouts of Cub Scout Pack 3307 reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.



Dennis Holp, Jim Pifko, Sean Digan, Michael Havens and Steve Lutz take a moment before the action begins.



Tim Isch and Jim Pifko hard at work grilling the first of more than 150 sandwiches.

Photos provided by Steve Lutz

Mushball Extravaganza continued . . .



Justin Purdy, Dan Sordelet, and Sean Digan discussing field conditions.

Jeff Hoffmann, Mike Ripley, Dennis Holp, Greg Sult and Dennis Redding chat about the upcoming event.



Phil Kramer and Jim Yoder staking out good seats early.



Father Jerry taking some batting practice.



Spectators watch the game while having a burger.



Spectators along 1st baseline with more comfortable seating.



Frank Koehl working the sign-in table to keep things organized.



Sam Matthews with the opening pitch.



Jim Keefer manning the press box.

Photos provided by Steve Lutz

Mushball Extravaganza continued . . .



Umpire Tom Ternet, catcher Mike Ripley look on as batter Mike Havens gauges the incoming pitch.



Mark Leeuw ready to let it fly.



Frank Koehl verifying the score while Dcn. Rob, Matt Smith and Dennis Holp look on.



Fr. Drew poses with his personal high-performance bat.



Diane, Tom and Jim Keefer enjoy a visit before the next game.



Steve Lutz, Tom Keefer and Jim Keefer, three of the sideline staff, take a moment to relax.



Teams 1 and 4 congratulating each other on a game well played.

Mushball Extravaganza continued . . .



Jack Wehrly and Dennis Holp just hanging out.



After a hard afternoon of grilling, Jim Pifko is ready for a break.



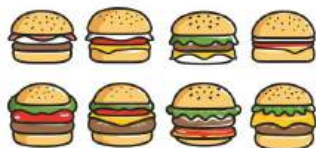
Sean Digan thinks that's a good idea.



A couple of the teams chowing down after a game well played.



Fr. Drew zeros in for the big hit



Catcher Joe Lauer watches as his son Jay sends a pitch.



This ball is out of here as Dcn. Rob takes aim.



Jeff Rose showing that the senior crowd still has what it takes.



Dennis Holp, Sean Digan and Dcn. Rob at day's end having enjoyed a good time.



Anthony Wayne Assembly 239 Fourth Degree News



Sir Knights,

Our summer rest is coming to an end. We have not had any business meetings since June but now we will start up again. Taking a break from meeting in the summer allows for vacations. It also gives us time to look back at the previous year and assess our accomplishments and plan for greater achievements. How can we improve on the past year?

We celebrated our country's 250th anniversary. Did we make the best of it? How many took part in the consecration to the Sacred Heart? We hosted a 4th Degree Exemplification in July and took in many new members. Three more names have been added to our new members, William Hopkins, Mike O'Keefe and Brad Barondeau. We are still working on the difficulty of getting our new members added to our membership roster. It is the responsibility of our 4th Degree District Master to add the new members to our roster. On September 1st we will have a new District Master, Scott Soborosky from La Porte. I hope we can resolve these delays in adding new members.

I have learned a lot this past year and I look forward to the future. With your help I think we can make this year a great one.

Our next meeting will be September 8th 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

The summer we all will agree has simply flown by. I think, also, we all would like another day or two to find time to organize our autumn activities. No such luck. The assembly's mission lies before us, and September's meeting is almost here. As chaplain, Friar, I want to encourage us to have a renewed spirit, to find the Holy Spirit present in our activities and prayers. Together, in these September works, we will find brotherhood and together we will make all things new in Christ. It is our motto, "Vivat Jesus"!

Here are a few thoughts about September; in all the months of the year in most all of the English poetry related to nature it is about September mornings! Do not miss the beauty of God's world on this part of the planet. September weather is conducive to be out of doors for labor and recreation. Our Assembly receives many requests at this time of year to help with building, repairing and providing people power to aid with diocesan and parish projects. Although we have "some age", even our presence makes work lighter for others. For some reason I usually feel good in September, and I hope that you do too! Enjoy the new Fall season.

One final thought.

In the middle and end of the 1980's, the then State Deputies gave me the honor of being named state chaplain of the Indiana Jurisdiction. This appointment provided me with the opportunity to meet priests and people across the state. I remember one priest in particular, a priest of the Gary diocese. He was at once a delight and a hard worker. He was active in state projects but made sure that there was no unnecessary conversation. I was thinking about him; he died about ten years ago in early September. His name was Father Joseph Puscateri, if you met Father Joe, you would not forget him. Please, say prayer for him!

Happy September!

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