

# The Shield

**March 2025**

Knights of Columbus  
 Fr Thomas A Brandon Council 451  
 P.O. Box 15296,  
 Ft Wayne, IN 46885-5296  
 Phone: 260-414-0421  
 Office: 260-484-3392 x347



Brother Knights,

Let us say goodbye to our brother, Sir Knight Jerry Kessens, who passed away last week. There is a Rosary Service this Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:30 pm at the Divine Mercy Funeral Home on Lake Ave. for those of you who can make it. Be sure to check out the Divine Mercy website for further obituary information.

This month Council 451's officers' nominations begin for next year's team, whose terms in office begin in July. I believe most of the officers will be continuing their present positions with the exception of our Grand Knight and Deputy Grand Knight. My 2-year position as Grand Knight will end July 1st and be taken over by our Deputy Grand Knight, Dennis Holp. The result is the Council will be looking for a candidate for Deputy Grand Knight. In this Council the GK always passes on the reins after 2 years to the present DGK.

The DGK's duties, although lite in nature, prepare him for being the Grand Knight 2 years later. Most of you are probably thinking, being a Grand Knight is not for me. I most likely thought the same thing 3 and 1/2 years ago when I agreed to become DGK, I was wrong. Being GK for Council 451 has been both an honor and a privilege. The Past Grand Knights are always there to lend a hand, while the Financial Secretary, Doug Baisinger, and Treasurer, Joe Mikolay, are there to show you the ropes. Yes, it is a slight time commitment but one you'll cherish for the rest of your life. So, consider becoming a Deputy Grand Knight.

Our upcoming calendar includes the annual Family Night, which was changed to March 22, due to a school conflict. So be sure to show up and bring your kids and grandkids and their friends for a fun evening of food and relaxation. Also, invite any prospective gents who are interested in the Knights of Columbus.

Vivat Jesus,  
 Jack Wehrly, Grand Knight Council 451



|    | <b>March</b>  |    | <b>April</b>  |
|----|---|----|---|
| 3  | 6:45 PM Monthly Meeting - Hession Center                  | 2  | Mass at the VA Hospital - Noon                            |
| 5  | Mass at the VA Hospital - Noon                            | 7  | 6:45 PM Monthly Meeting - Hession Center                  |
| 22 | Family Knight   | 11 | Annual Fish Fry   |
| 25 | 8:15 AM Mass followed with breakfast with brother Knights | 22 | 8:15 AM Mass followed with breakfast with brother Knights |
|    |   |    |   |

### Monthly Mass & Breakfast !



Each month Council 451 invites members to attend Mass for Knights in Need on the fourth Tuesday. We attend the 8:15 AM Mass and follow it with breakfast for fellowship at a local restaurant. Please join us on Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at St. Charles for 8:15 A.M. Mass.

Breakfast for fellowship to follow the Mass. If you have any questions please contact Darren Schortgen at (260) 385-7603.



We want to welcome **Russ Eshwar** who joined our Council in the past month.

We hope to see you are many of our upcoming events!

### Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Joe Ruden** for recently becoming a 3rd Degree Knight!



### 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, George Kessen, Gerry Kessens, Sr. Mirian Kessens SSND, Jo Ellen Koehl, Patty Kohrman, Tony Kraft, Lillian Krider, John Londt, Don Luther & Sharon Luther, Kathleen Magasam, Family of Jay Nelson, Bill & Kathy Palmersheim, the Tom Pycz family, Jill Redding, Keith Robertson, Janet Rose, Carl Sabo, Emily & John Sasser, Ann Schwartz, Ray & Tony Shot, Colin Smith, Roger Steup, John Thieme, Barbara Tratnyek, Janet Waldschmidt, 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.*



### Deceased Member

Please remember Sir Knight Jerry Kessens and all the deceased brother Knights in your prayers.



### 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 March 5, 2025 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.

### Happy March Birthdays

Jeffrey Bauermeister, Matthew Bokhart, Timothy Cooper, Robert Current, Russ Eshwar, Joseph Firestine, Timothy Freeman, Robert Garrett, John Haselden, Dave Helmkamp, Daniel Howe, Joseph Keefer, John Kohrman, John Krouse, Robert Leszcznski, Richard Martin, Samuel Mathews, John McCullough, Lynn Meyers, John Minick, Thomas Pycz, Ronald Russell, Craig Scherschel, Seth Secaur, Thomas Seculoff, Charles Smith, Arnold Starewich, Andrew Stein, David Stevens, John Tippmann, David Venderley, & Richard Wise



### From the Financial Secretary:

Dues for 2025 are due now. Please send in your due's payments promptly to the Council, the more that we receive will help cut down on the cost to mail a second requests for payment. I will be sending out "Second Request" statements on the first of March. If you have already paid your dues, I thank you for your payment. You can send your check to our P.O. Box or drop them off at the Knights office on Tuesday or Thursday between 9 am—1 pm. If you are experiencing a financial hardship at this time and do not think that you will be able to pay your dues, please contact Doug Baisinger at 260-450-0804 or email [dbaisinger@gmail.com](mailto:dbaisinger@gmail.com) . Thank you and may God Bless you and your family. Doug.

## Can Crushers Schedule

February 16 , 2025 to March 15, 20205



|                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Feb 16 - 22:    | Joe Lauer     |
| Feb 23 - Mar 1: | Bruce Bennett |
| Mar 2 - 8:      | Chuck Smith   |
| Mar 9 - 15:     | Dave Lothamer |

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.**

## Science Fair 2025

Judging for the 2025 St. Charles School fair was held on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025. Students from the 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades presented their projects in-person to the judges. As the judges listened and reviewed more than 150 projects, they were asked to identify a selective list of candidates to be considered for regional competition. At the regional level, each school is allowed to submit just one project for each grade. Given the number of impressive presentations, the school requested and received permission to send two finalists plus an alternate for each grade; thereby, allowing six students to advance to regional. Of the 18 volunteer judges, eight were Knights from our council. Our thanks to: Joseph Keefer, Frank Koehl, Vince Lochbihler, Dennis Redding, Rolland Taylor, Matt Ueber, Jack Wehrly, and Jim Yoder.



A few of the many Knights and other volunteers who served as judges. Shown are Mark Thurber, Joe Keefer, Dr. Jack Wehrly and Dennis Redding.

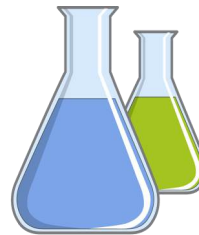


Photo provided by Dennis Redding



## Anthony Wayne Assembly Fourth Degree



Hi,

Our meeting was on the 11th. We discussed our contributions to the Military Seminarians and the Seminarians. We also discussed where the Honor Guard was going to attend. Other items were discussed about 4th Degree items. The March 22 exemplification was discussed. We enjoyed fried chicken and soda. Our next meeting will be March 11 in the St. Mother Guerin Chapel starting at 6:30 with snacks. It will include the 1st nomination of Officers.

Dave Barrett  
Faithful Navigator, Anthony Wayne Assembly 239

*Meetings are held at the Saint Mother T. Guerin Chapel basement on the  
2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 PM.*



## Free Throw Contest

On Sunday January 26, 2025, Council 451 held our annual Free Throw Contest for 9 to 14 year old Parish members in the School Gymnasium. Eleven Knights assisted as eleven kids each attempted 10 free throws.

The following boys and girls will compete in the district contest being held at St. Vincents on February 9: Drew Blotkamp, James Morris, Lydia Ferguson, Hannah Blotkamp, Juliana Bird, and Abby Hasselschwert.

We hope to see them back at St. Charles for the Regional Free Throw Contest on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. All the contestants received a \$10 gift card to McDonalds for participating, compliments of Council 451.



Knights who volunteered to help with the annual Free Throw Contest. Bill Sliger, Mark Graff, Dave Steven's, Justin Purdy, Dr. Tom Ryan, GK Jack Wehrly, Derek Pillie, Rich Deutsch, Jim Yoder, Chris Boersma and Sam Sliger.



Harper Purdy shows Dad, Justin how to make a Free Throw.



Juliana Bird has her eyes on the basket.



Left: Abby Hasselschwert takes aim at the rim.



Parents and contestants watching from the bleachers.

*Photos provided by Jack Wehrly*

## Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for John Hope

Council 451 held a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on Thursday January 30<sup>th</sup> for John Hope, younger brother of Karen Hope, Music Director at St. Charles Parish. John underwent a heart transplant on January 21, 2025. His sister Karen had undergone the same procedure several years ago. To help John and his family with significant medical cost, Council 451 raised nearly \$4,500 on John's behalf and will present the said amount to the trust set up in John's name.

The Hope family has a long history with St. Charles Parish. Robert Hope, John and Karen's father, was my Boy Scout leader when I attended St. Charles 60 years ago.

Approximately 20 Knights volunteered at least 140 hours setting up, preparing and serving spaghetti and meatballs, salad, rolls and drinks for 200 donors. Recognition needs to be given to Gene Delaney, Tim Isch and Joe Mikolay for all the planning they did ahead of time to make the evening such a success. Thanks to them and all the Knights who volunteered.

*Photos provided by Jack Wehrly*



Paul O'Shaughnessy and Mike and Pat Wass appear to be taking donations.



John Hope's wife and sons



Jim and Peggy Keefer with Doug Baisinger directing patrons



## Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for John Hope, Continued



Ron Russell and the salad man Bruce Bennett



Sean Digan also on clean up duty gets instructions from Gene Delaney.



Anna Delaney watches Rollie Taylor, Tim Miller, and Ron Russell serve up spaghetti and meatballs with meat sauce. Our salad man Bruce Bennett lingers in the background.



John Murray handles the cleanup duties.



John Prascsak helps by clearing tables.



Frank Koehl, Bill Sliger and Jim Pifko are preparing the kitchen.



Project leaders Gene Delaney and Tim Isch take time out for a picture.



Blaine Ryan and Dave Lothamer, with back to the camera, watch the preparation process.



John Prascsak and Bill Sliger discuss strategy.



Alex Maher receives instructions from Tim Isch.



Frank Koehl visits with the first patrons PGK Don Luther and guests.



Patrons enjoy the festivities.



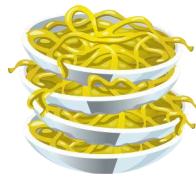
Knights and guests spend time together.



Mystery man, Dave Lothamer, Steve Benz & Jim Pifko pause the serving line for a picture.



Dennis Redding prepares desserts supplied by the funeral lunch ladies and Knights or their wives.



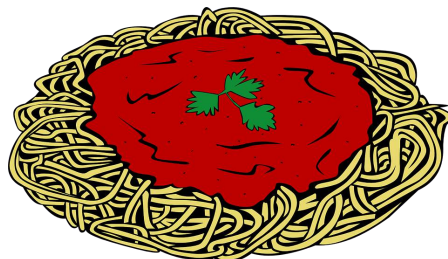
Mike Maskal is setting up the drink table.



Dawn Smith is in control of the drink table.



Anna Delaney passes out rolls and butter





**2024-2025 Officers**  
Council 451

**Chaplain**

Deacon Robert Lortie

**Grand Knight**

Jack Wehrly 414-0421

**Deputy Grand Knight**

Dennis Holp 493-1018

**Chancellor**

Jason Gabet 403-6230

**Financial Secretary**

Doug Baisinger 486-8533

**Recorder**

Michael Ripley 205-3689

**Warden**

Gene Delaney 750-7600

**Treasurer**

Joe Mikolay 348-9416

**Trustees**

3 Bruce Bennett 409-0229

2 Dennis Redding 615-1692

1 Gary Mackela 402-9614

**Advocate**

Ed Tobey 602-2609

**Inside Guard**

Blane Ryan 615-1728

**Outside Guard**

Charles Smith 403-7792

**District Deputy**

Tom Ryan DO

District14@indianakofc.org



**2024-2025 Directorships:**

**Membership and Public Relations Director**

Justin Purdy 410-3125

**Fraternal Director**

Gene Delaney 750-7600

**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**  
2024-2025

**Faithful Friar**

Rev. William Kummer 260-639-3748

**Faithful Navigator**

Dave Barrett 260-403-2180

**Faithful Captain**

Mike Blankman 260-639-7201

**Faithful Pilot**

Pete Duran 260-579-6054

**Faithful Scribe**

Keith Burns 260-515-0609

**Faithful Comptroller**

John Murray 260-486-6870

**Faithful Purser**

Loren Nichter 260-413-1463

**Faithful Inside Sentinel**

Mike Shane 260-246-1117

**Faithful Outside Sentinel**

Chuck Irvin 260-417-0343

**Faithful Trustee**

1. Rick Jennings 260-494-5982

2. Mike Descala 260-999-4141

3. Edward Koehl 260-338-0743

**Faithful Admiral**

Richard Burton 260-432-7030

**Faithful Honor Guard**

Pete Duran 260-579-6054

peteduran@frontier.com

**Master IN District**

SK Pat Glavin 773-954-3975

master@indianakofc.org

**Master Sir Knight IN District**

Michael R Ticich 773-447-7587



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](mailto: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](mailto:nick.goralczyk@kofc.org)