



# Massillon Council 554



## *Knights of Columbus*

*December 2025*

### **Grand Knight's Report, by Bryan Stewart, Grand Knight**

Welcome to the most wonderful time of the year! December brings tradition, hope, joy, and merriment as the holiday season kicks into full swing. It also brings remembrance in those that are no longer with us and have been called home. May they forever be held in our hearts this holiday season. In remembrance, our Memorial Mass was held on November 18 at St. Barbara as we remembered 22 Brother Knights and 2 Columbian Ladies we've lost over the past year. Our celebrant was Fr. John Sheridan, with Fr. Mike Seifert and Fr. Ed Gretchko concelebrants. Thank you to Mark Thewes and Kevin Kutz for the beautiful music as well. Thank you to all who made this a beautiful mass.

Remember that Monday, December 8 is a holy day of obligation for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Our final council meeting of 2025 will be held Tuesday, December 9 with food and fellowship at 6:30, business at 7pm. Please plan on attending as we finish the calendar year strong. We're also planning a thorough cleaning of the Financial Secretary office at 9am on Saturday, December 27. Show up to the club that morning if you'd like to help. Remember.... Many hands make light work!

We have a big start to kick off the new year! Mark Sunday, February 1 on your calendar for our 125th Anniversary Dinner! Details and pricing will be coming very soon for this exceptional event. As Grand Knight, I wish all of you a joyous Christmas, and a prosperous 2026. Pray for our country, and most importantly our people, for peace and unity this holiday season. I'll end this with a lyric from one of my favorite Advent hymns: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. May the love of Christ be with you always. Vivat Jesus!

### **Chaplain's Report, by Fr. Mike Seifert, Chaplain**

As we enter advent, we prepare for Christmas and the birth of Jesus Christ. It should be a happy time for everyone. However, for some the holidays are depressing. The days are shorter, the weather, cold and snowy, and we miss those who have passed away this year. Make sure you check in on your neighbors and friends to see that their needs are taken care of. That way the holidays will be merry for everyone.

### **Honorees of the Month for October 2025**

Congratulations to **Paul Biedenbach** for being selected as our Knight of the Month. Paul volunteers for many projects and helps with the sound board at St. Mary Church.

We also congratulate **Joe and Mary Jane Perrotti** for being selected Family of the Month. Joe volunteers for many of the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree assembly fall-outs.

Congratulations to **Annie Ziegelhofer** for being selected as Volunteer of the Month. Annie works our Wednesday Hot Lunch and our Monday Bingo.

### **Massillon Knights Foundation Complex –Business Hours**

**K-Club Bar:** Hours: open Monday - Saturday from 4:00pm to closing at the discretion of the Bartender.

**K-Club Dining:** The Kitchen is open 4pm to 8pm Tuesday through Saturday. See page 5 & 6 of website newsletter for latest K-Club menu

### **Fraternal Report, by Ken Girt PGK**

**On our Member Sick List:** Bill Ringley, John Scheetz, Sam Meyer, Joe Vilhosky, Jim Sieber, Paul Thayer, and Dr. Larry Bucher.

**On our Member's Family Sick List;** Barbara Piper (wife of Dale), Mary Francis and Patty Carmola (daughters of Al), Kathleen Fealko (wife of Ed), Cristen Farris (daughter of Ed), Nancy Eberhart (wife of Ron),

If you want your name or a member's name added to our list, please email girtken@sssnet.com or call 330-608-1729.

## **The Massillon Knights Foundation**

**Foundation Trustees:** One Year: Terry Philips, Dave Harman, Bill Beese

**Two-Year:** Gary Lamielle, Jeff Heitger (Secretary), Rick Chapis (Treasurer),

**Three-Year:** James Brelish (Vice President), Paul Lambert (President), Bob Pittinger



### **Massillon Knights Foundation Report, By Paul Lambert, President**

I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving and as we are entering the Christmas Season, please remember Christ is the reason for the Season. Remember your family and friends and please make sure they are all okay with the winter season moving in. Have a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

The new air conditioners are in, and they are working great. We now must replace 2 more units because the heat exchange has worn out. The units are over the Council and Julie's offices.

The Nina room is almost finished. I really appreciated everyone who volunteered to help and again....thank you very much.

John Haubert has installed the rest of the LED lights. Thank you for the great job.

### **Clubroom Report, Julie Harman, Complex Manager**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!!

The club room will be CLOSED for the holidays December 24th thru December 27, reopening December 29, 2025 and CLOSED December 31st and January 1, 2026 reopening January 2, 2026.

The Kitchen will be CLOSED for maintenance and repairs December 24th thru January 1, 2026 reopening January 2, 2026.

Social memberships for 2026 are \$20 and now available at the bar or office. Renew by the end of the year, December 31st, to be eligible for all the drawings and the Queen on January 1, 2026.

Nite at the Races will be Saturday, January 17, 2026 sponsored by the Massillon Knights Foundation. Call the office or ask at the bar for tickets. If you would like to volunteer, please call the office 330-837-9101.

The Blood Mobile will be here on January 14, 2026

Bingo every Monday 6:30pm doors open at 4pm.

**See K-Club flyers on the revised clubroom menu, specials, parties and live music performances on the web version of the newsletter** <http://www.massillonkofc554.org>

### **Columbian Ladies Guild, by Karen Franz, President**

Columbian Ladies; Thanks to all who participated in the Memorial Mass.

We are getting ready to have our Christmas party in December. Our party will be December 16<sup>th</sup> and you must make a reservation. Reservations should be made with Annie at 330-844-2051. You have a menu choice of chicken or fish. the cost is \$20.00 for a guest. Columbian ladies are free. Make that reservation today !!!!!

We will have a Christmas bingo lottery basket thanks to Mary Ann. Our pop and candy sales continue to do well at bingo thanks to Annie and Vickie.

Dues can be paid at Christmas party, or paid in January. Our new membership person is Linda Girt,

Review of our bylaws at February. No January meeting. We have made suggested changes and they will be read and approved at this meeting.

A box located in the clubroom for toiletries for the homeless shelter. There is a list of items that is needed. Please donate if you are able.

May God bless you and friends and family until we meet again.,

### **Columbian Ladies Guild Collection of Toiletry Items for the area Homeless.**

The Ladies Guild is collecting small toiletry items to help the displaced families at the Family Living Center on Lincoln Way in Massillon. The center houses 40 to 50 homeless women and their children weekly assisting them to find employment and homes. A collection box is located in the K-Club entrance. Thank you for your gracious support!

### **Columbian Ladies Guild Dues, by Linda Girt, Membership Director**

Columbian Ladies Guild dues are being accepted for 2026. Dues are \$10 per year, except for members with 20 years of service, who pay \$5. If you are 90 years old, dues are free. I will have dues cards available at the December 16 Christmas Party. After that evening, you can drop off your dues to the bartender at the K-Club and I will then mail your dues card to you. If you are unsure of your dues amount, the bartender will have a list. Call me at 330-933-5518 with questions.

## BISHOP MASSILLON ASSEMBLY FOURTH DEGREE

Faithful Friar	Fr. Raymond Paul 833-8091	Faithful Navigator	Chuck Maier 418-8741
Faithful Purser	Edward Shuman 854-3691	Faithful Inner Sentinel	Ray Badzik
Faithful Captain	Bryan Stewart 605-8840	Faithful Outer Sentinel	Jim Coughlin, PFN 704-0048
Faithful Admiral	Bob Pittinger 571-5150	Faithful 1-year Trustee	Paul Haig, PFN 837-1185
Faithful Comptroller	Ken McLaughlin 571 1203	Faithful 2-year Trustee	Matthew Meyer, PFN 284-9365
Faithful Pilot	Edward Custer	Faithful 3-year Trustee	Roger Piper, PFN 936-0974
Faithful Scribe	Graham Zeneri 844-7712	Commanders	James Sieber / Graham Zeneri

### Faithful Navigator Report, by Chuck Maier, Faithful Navigator

If you blinked your eyes, here we are, it's December. This year has gone by pretty quickly. Our next Assembly meeting is on Tuesday, December 2nd at 7 PM there will be food available at 6:30 PM. This is not a lady's night. However, our Tom and Jerry Christmas Banquet is going to be on Saturday, December 6th. The doors will open at 5:30PM with Tom and Jerry drinks being served. The buffet dinner will start at 6:30 PM. Reservations should already be in and tickets have been sold for this event.

The next 4th Degree Exemplification will be January 17th at Saint Ambrose in Brunswick Ohio. Everyone is welcome to come and observe the revised Exemplification. If you know someone that's interested in becoming a 4th Degree Sir Knight, contact them we are always looking for a few good men.

Have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### From the Editor..... Ken Girt, PSD, PGK, Newsletter Editor

Our "printed" newsletter format includes the first four pages of our multi-page electronic newsletter. This four-page document will be mailed to those who requested it. There will be copies of the four-page newsletter in the clubroom. We encourage you to read the complete electronic newsletter on our website.... <http://www.massillonkofc554.org>.

**Articles of Interest:** Council Meeting Minutes, Membership Recruitment/Degree information, Council 554 activities, K-Club Dining Menu,

### Upcoming Calendar of Events...

#### .....December, 2025

- 2 7:00 PM 4th Degree Meeting (No Ladies Night Program)
- 6 6:00 PM 4th Degree Dinner Party Tom & Jerry
- 8 ***Feast of the Immaculate Conception***
- 9 7:00 PM Reg. Council Meeting
- 16 6:00 PM Columbian Ladies Christmas Party
- 17 6:30 PM Special Officer & Trustee Meeting
- 25 ***Christmas***
- 31 ***New Years Eve***

#### .....January, 2026

- 1 ***Solemnity of Mary; New Year's Day***
- 6 7:00 PM 4th Degree Meeting
- 8 7:00 PM Stark County Chapter Meeting
- 13 7:00 PM Reg. Council Meeting
- 14 1:00 PM Bloodmobile
- 17 6:00 PM "Nite at the Races"
- 27 6:30 PM Officer and Trustee Meeting
- 7:00 PM Columbian Ladies Meeting

**Bingo:** Monday Night 6:30 pm **Hot Lunch:** Wednesday 10:45-Noon **Massillon Knights Foundation Mtg:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues of month 6pm  
**Massillon Squires Circle Meeting:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, 7pm at St Joseph School

## Massillon Council 554's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Celebrate Massillon Council 554's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on February 1<sup>st</sup> with a buffet dinner. We are preparing for this special occasion and need your help! If you would like to be on the committee, please contact Matt Meyer 330-284-9365 or email [mattm@sssnet.com](mailto:mattm@sssnet.com). Your ideas and input are greatly appreciated. What we also would like from everyone are pictures or memorabilia to share at the dinner. The pictures can be digital or physical. Please write your name and number on the back of the photos if you would like them returned.

**MASSILLON COUNCIL 554 2025 - 2026 OFFICERS & TRUSTEES****Officers**

Chaplain	Fr. Mike Seifert	933-4148
Grand Knight	Bryan Stewart	605-8840
Dep Grd Knight	Graham Zeneri	844-7712
Chancellor	Tim Paul	603-502-4455
Recorder	Tom Seesan	234-650-4021
Treasurer	Ken McLaughlin, PGK	571 1203
Financial Sec	Paul Haig, PGK	837-1411
Advocate	John Ferrero, Jr.	265-9584
Warden	Eric Fichter	
Inside Guard	Ken Smith	
Outside Guard	Chris Newstetter	
1-Year Trustee	Bob Pittinger, PGK	571-5150
2-Year Trustee	Matt Meyer, PGK	284-9365
3-Year Trustee	Chuck Maier PGK	418-8741
Field Agent	Larry Suter	280-2626
Bulletin Editor	Ken Girt, PGK	608-1729
Webmaster	Kyle Shane	

Web: <http://www.massillonkofc554.org>

**Round Table Coordinators**

Council Chairman	Ken Girt, PGK	608-1729
St. Mary	Ken McLaughlin PGK	571 1203
St Joseph	Tom Ferrero	844-0469
St Barbara	Joel Fichter	830-9301

**Program Activity Chairmen:**

Gen Program Dir	Graham Zeneri	844-7712
FAITH	Ken McLaughlin, PGK	571 1203
FAMILY	Bob Pittinger, PGK	571-5150
COMMUNITY	Matt Meyer, PGK	284-9365
LIFE	Joe Vilhosky	
Squires	Nathan Courter	
Membership	Chuck Maier	418-8741
EFF Director		
Youth Chairman	Chris Campbell	
Degree Team Capt	Bryan Stewart	605-8840
Complex Mgr	Julie Harman	837-9101
Bingo Mgr	Ron Kurpieski	936-8058
Bereavement Chr	Graham Zeneri	844-7712

**Council 554 Round Table Report, by Ken Girt, Council Round Table Chairman**

Thanks to the following Round Table members who helped move an individual needing assistance. Ken McLaughlin, Rick Chapis, Tim Eberhardt, Graham Zeneri and Ken Girt.

We will advise when help is needed for the Christmas decorations at each of our Divine Mercy Parish churches as well as assistance for the St. Mary – St Vincent de Paul Food Giveaway on the weekend before Christmas.

**2026 1000 Club Calendars, by Matt Meyer, 1000 Club Chairman**

It is Lottery Calendar season again! They have been printed, stuffed, sealed and ready to be distributed. The cost is still the same. \$30 per calendar. We give out over \$17,000 in prizes over the course of the year! Christmas envelopes are also available if you are giving them away as gifts. This perennial fundraiser has been running for almost 40 years and has served our council well. Please consider buying or selling calendars. Great rewards for calendar sellers! Any questions, call Matt Meyer 330-284-9365.

**In Memoriam: Howard Blogna**

Howard L. Blogna, 86 of Massillon, passed away on November 2, 2025. Howard retired from Perry Rubber and more recently was a starter at the Elms Country Club. He was a member of Divine Mercy Parish/St. Mary's Campus, the Massillon K of C Council #554, 3rd Degree and the Italian/American Club.

Howard is survived by his wife of 63 years, Frances, sons, Mark and Matthew, and daughters, Annette and Jennifer. May he Rest in Peace.

*Have a Blessed  
and Joyous  
Christmas!*



# The K-Club Dining

Massillon Knights Foundation

Dining available Tuesday thru Saturday, 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm



## APPETIZERS

Fried Pickles - \$7.00

Pretzel Bites - \$7.00

Potato Skins - \$8.00

Cheese Sticks - \$8.00

Broccoli Bites - \$7.00

Fried Cauliflower - \$6.00

Fried Mushrooms - \$7.00

Cheddar Poppers - \$5.00

Mac-n-Cheese Bites - \$6.00

Sauce's Available: Ranch, Honey Mustard, Cheese Sauce

## SALADS

Grilled Chicken - \$12.00

Dressings: Ranch, Italian, Sweet & Sour, French, Honey Mustard, Blue Cheese

## For the Kiddos

(\$2 Surcharge for adults ordering kid-sized meals)

Chicken Tenders & Fries - \$9.00

Grilled Cheese & Fries - \$6.00

Kid-sized Burger with Cheese & Fries - \$8.00

\*\*\*Consuming raw or undercooked meats, poultry etc may increase your risk of food illness\*\*\*

(Food may contain allergens)

## HANDHELDS

**Comes with Chips**

Basic Burger - \$9.00

Texas Burger - \$11.00

Grilled Cheese - \$7.00

Brother's Sausage Sandwich - \$10.00

Philly Cheese Steak (Chicken or Steak) - \$11.00

Mushroom Burger - \$11.00

BLT - \$8.00

Chicken Sandwich - \$11.00

Bacon Burger - \$11.00

Chicken Parmesan \$12.00

Chicken Bacon Wrap - \$10.00

## SIDES \$4.00

Fresh Cut Fries, Tater Tots, Steak Fries, Onion Rings

## **WINGS**      Bone in or Boneless

Jumbo Naked Wings                      6 for \$8.00                      12 for \$15.00

Wing Dings                                  6 for \$9.00                      12 for \$17.00

Sauces: Buffalo, Hot Buffalo, Honey BBQ, Spicy BBQ, Garlic Parmesan, Sweet Chili,  
General Tso's, Bourbon, Teriyaki

\*\*\* Consuming raw or undercooked meats, poultry etc may increase your risk of food illness. \*\*\*  
(Food may contain allergens)

## **TACO TUESDAY MENU**      (Tuesday Only)

Burrito:      Meat, Lettuce, Onion, Shredded Cheese, Topped with Sour Cream  
w/Side of Hot Rice or Nachos      \$10.00

2 Soft Taco's: Meat, Lettuce, and Shredded Cheese, Tomato w/Side of  
Hot Rice or Nachos      \$7.00                      Chicken Quesadilla: \$10.00

2 Chicken Fajita Mix Taco:      w/Side of Hot Rice or Nachos      \$8.00

Taco Salad:      \$12.00                      Loaded Nachos (lettuce, tomato & taco meat) 12.00

6 pack of Tacos:      (Soft only)      \$10.00

ALA CARTE:              Small Nachos and Cheese      \$5.50

Side of Hot Rice      \$5.00

Jalapenos can be added to anything as well!!!

\*\*\*Consuming raw or undercooked meats, poultry etc may increase your risk of food illness\*\*\*  
(Food may contain allergens)

## **FRIDAY FISH-FRY MENU**      (Fridays Only)

Battered or Floured-Blend Fish Dinners      1, 2, & 3 -piece Dinner with 2 sides.  
\$12.00 / \$14.00 / \$16.00

9oz Broiled Scrod with two sides      \$17.00

Ala-Carte Piece of Fish              \$6.00

Shrimp Basket with Fries      \$14.00

Fish Sandwich with Fries      \$13.00 (Add cheese.. \$.75)

Ala Carte Sides \$4.00 each: Side Salad, Cole Slaw, Cottage Cheese, Applesauce, Mac -n-  
Cheese, Fresh Cut Fries, Baked Potato, Sweet Potato Fries



# Massillon KofC SNAP-SHOTS



Council 554 sponsored a “Divine Time” Breakfast at St. Mary Church on Sunday, November 9 following the 8 am Mass. The breakfast program was chaired by Ken McLaughlin, PGK and Council Treasurer, with the help of former-master chef John Birman who made Egg Frittata, French Toast (prepared by Dave Fischer), sausage and mixed fruit. Over 90 parishioners attended. The good-will offering collected nearly \$900 for our SOS (Support our Seminarian ) program. The council thanks the 554 members and volunteers for assisting.



PGK Ken Girt delivered the new-born baby items collected at Divine Mercy Parish during October to the Pregnancy and Parenting Support of Canton. Also presented to the agency was \$500 from Council 554 from the ASAP Program (Aid and Support after Pregnancy) and \$150 collected from Divine Mercy parishioners. Council 554 thanks the Divine Mercy Parish for their participation.





Ken Girt, PGK of Council 554, presents Council 554's 2025 Measure Up Campaign check of \$4,000 to Chelsea Dietle, Associate Director of Arc of Ohio at the North Canton office on November 14. Support for those with Developmental Disabilities is the flagship charity of the Knights of Columbus. Arc of Ohio offers education, resources and training to professionals, families and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities as well as offering programming and direct support services.



Council 554 Annual Memorial Mass was held on November 18 at St. Barbara Church. Show above, on right, are the nine 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Knights who served as honor guards. On the left is Fr. John Sheridan, Fr. Mike Seifert and Fr. Ed Gretchko, the Mass celebrants. A complete list of the Memoriams for the 22 council members and two Columbian Ladies remembered at the Mass is listed on page 11 and 12.



## **MEMBERSHIP & DEGREES:** There are three ways that a Catholic man or existing 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree member can advance to 3rd Degree.

### **Method 1. Ohio State Council Exemplification:**

#### **For Council 554 First- and Second-Degree Members:**

The Ohio State Council has a “virtual” online Third-Degree Ceremony that is held on the first and third Wednesday at 7:00 pm. If you are interested in advancing to the third degree, and we do encourage it, please email me (Ken Girt) and I will provide a link for registering. My email is. [girtken@sssnet.com](mailto:girtken@sssnet.com). You then will be sent a link for viewing the 30-minute ceremony at home. And yes, your family can view the ceremony as well. Call Ken Girt with any questions. 330-608-1729

#### **Procedure for Online Exemplification for Advancing Members:**

1. The GK, FS or other council designee forwards the **Exemplification Registration** link to members that wish to advance to the to the Third Degree.
2. The member accesses and registers with the Ohio State Council for the degree using the link.
2. The State will then forward the **Exemplification Degree** Link is sent to member after he registers.
3. Advancing Member attends the live online exemplification on Wednesday at 7 PM. Member must be on-line and attend the entire degree. Family members are welcome to view ceremony.
4. The FS or GK are notified that member attended the online Ceremony.
5. FS sends in Form 100 to Supreme indicating member or members advanced to Third Degree. FS issues new Degree card.

#### **For New Candidates:**

If you know of a worthy candidate for membership in the Knights of Columbus, he can also attend the new online Exemplification from the Ohio State Council. See procedure below. Call Ken Girt with any questions. 330-608-1729

#### **Procedure for Online Exemplification for New Member**

1. NEW MEMBER completes a Form 100 and submits to Council.
2. Council Admission Committee contacts and talks with the NEW MEMBER. This can be over the phone or an online meeting.
3. Upon approval of the Admission Committee, the Council votes on the NEW MEMBER.
4. Once the council approves the NEW MEMBER, the GK, FS, Ken Girt or other council designee sends the candidate the Ohio State Council **Exemplification Registration** link to NEW MEMBER.
5. NEW MEMBER accesses the registration link, choosing the Wednesday 7:00 PM Degree, completes the form using “554” for the Council Number field, and signing it with an electronic pen on a tablet or via mouse or finger for touch screen. Then click [Submit].
6. The system will automatically forward the **Exemplification Ceremony** link to the NEW MEMBER.
7. NEW MEMBER attends the entire online exemplification via live degree on assigned date and time. Family members welcome to view ceremony.
8. Upon completion of the degree, the State Warden or other appointed designee will complete the Form 450 and submits to Supreme. Exemplification result is sent to Grand Knight, Financial Secretary, and Membership Director per normal procedure.
9. GK, or FS or other council designee completes the Form 100 from the Officer-On-Line with all fields completed, including dates, proposer name and Membership Number, and ensures all signatures and the proper check boxes are complete. The Form 100 is then submitted to Supreme and State.
10. FS issues a Third-Degree card to NEW MEMBER.

Remember the Ohio State Council sponsors - LIVE - Online Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays at 7 PM. This allows the user to either log in via a computer, tablet or smartphone as well as call in on phone.

Each person is required to register. The GK, FS and Council Membership Director are the keepers of the registration link. Therefore, at least one officer should be aware of candidate taking the Exemplification

Contact any of the following for the registration link:

Chuck Maier Grand Knight:	massillonward2@yahoo.com
Paul Haig, Financial Secretary:	haig@sssnet.com
Ken Girt:	girtken@sssnet.com

## **Method 2. Massillon Council 554 Exemplification:**

Council 554 will continue to offer the Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity ever Second Wednesday of the month, with a DVD of the ceremony at 7:00 PM. This is for new members as well as current 1<sup>st</sup> Degree and 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree members wishing to advance to the full 3<sup>rd</sup> degree of the Order. It is a 35-minute video. Please contact Ken Girt to register. 330-608-1729 or [girtken@sssnet.com](mailto:girtken@sssnet.com),

## **Method 3. "Live" Exemplification in area Churches:**

Also, Council 554 is conducting a "live" Degree Ceremony every other month in our local churches after a Sunday Mass, for New Members as well as for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree members to advance to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree. If you wish to attend the "live" degree, please Contact Ken Girt at 330-608-1729 or email at [girtken@sssnet.com](mailto:girtken@sssnet.com). Family members are now welcome to attend our degree ceremony! Watch for notices in the newsletter on upcoming degree ceremonies.

Council 554	
Recruitment	
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## **Membership**

As you know, the exemplification degrees of the Knight of Columbus have been **REVISED**. All three degrees are now exemplified in **ONE 30-minute ceremony**. An on-line degree ceremony is available for new candidates and for any 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> degree member desiring advancement to the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree membership. And we frequently schedule a "live" degree after one of our three weekend Masses at Divine Mercy Parish. Notices on scheduled degrees are posted in our newsletter.

We recommend candidates for membership complete the Online E-Membership registration by scanning the code above. Be sure to use "554" for the **Preferred Local Council** and enter proposer Membership Number in **"Member Referral Number"** field. We will then contact candidate with next degree scheduled.



**Deceased Members of Council 554 Nov. 20, 2024 – Nov. 18, 2025****In Memoriam: Frank A. Monago, Sr.**

Frank A. Monago Sr., 83, passed away on October 17, 2024. He worked his entire career at URS Consultants in Akron, where he was Vice President of the engineering firm until his retirement in December of 2006. Member of Council 554.

**In Memoriam: Thomas Strohmeier, Jr.**

Thomas W. Strohmeier Jr., 89 of Canton, passed away on November 18, 2024. He served in the US Air Force for four years during the Korean War. He was a member of St. Michael's Church, the Knights of Columbus Council 554, and Fourth Degree 820

**In Memoriam: William Houck**

William "Bill" James Houck, age 96, passed away on November 30, 2024. He was a lifelong resident of Massillon, and was a retired machinist, a member of the Divine Mercy Parish, and the Knights of Columbia 554.

**In Memoriam: Tom Adley**

Thomas David Adley, 88, of Massillon, passed away on December 17, 2024. He was a veteran serving in The United States Marine Corps. He retired from Crown, Cork and Seal formerly Central State Can. Thomas was a member of Divine Mercy Parish St. Barbara, He was a member of Council 554 and was a 4th degree member.

**In Memoriam: Dale "Smoothie" Estep**

D. Dale Estep, 72, of Massillon, passed away January 6, 2025. He was a retired semi-driver and also worked for Heitger Funeral Home. Dale was a member of Divine Mercy Parish-St. Joseph, the Men's Club and a member of Knights of Columbus Council #554.

**In Memoriam: Paul D. Lucchesi**

Paul D. Lucchesi, 75, of Uniontown, passed away January 11, 2025. He served in the U.S. Air Force and was a Vietnam Veteran. He was a field service rep at Alpha Technologies and Powell Electric. Paul was a member of Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Massillon K of C Council #554, 3rd and the 4th Degree Bishop Massillon Assembly.

**In Memoriam: Monsignor James Kolp**

Monsignor James Ralph Kolp, 99, peacefully passed away on Thursday, February 6, 2025. A proud Eagle Scout, Kolp was active in Scouting for 90 years. His involvement included the "National Catholic Committee on Scouting" and the Buckeye Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He serviced the Knights of Columbus on the local, state and national level. He served two terms as State Chaplain of the Ohio State Council and served as Massillon Council 554 Chaplain for 51 years. He was also a member of Bishop Massillon 4<sup>th</sup> Degree.

**In Memoriam: Larry Coyne**

Lawrence Michael Coyne, 82, of Massillon, passed away on March 20, 2025. Larry served in the United States Army from 1965 to 1967 and was a Military Police Officer while in Vietnam. During his time in war, Larry was exposed to Agent Orange, causing numerous health complications later on in his life. Larry worked for the Hoover Company for more than 30 years, worked for the Knights of Columbus for over 20 years as bartender, and was a Third-Degree Knight.

**In Memoriam: Edward Murray**

Edward J. Murray, 89, of North Canton passed away on February 14, 2025. He retired from the Hoover Company in 1998 after 25 years of service. He was a veteran of the US Navy, a member St. Paul Catholic Church, North and a member of Council 554.

**In Memoriam: Dennis Duane Harwig, Sr.,**

Dennis Duane Harwig, Sr., 82, of Massillon, passed away on March 24, 2025. He served in the United States Navy. and joined Massillon Police Department in 1964, retiring as Chief of Police in 1991. He served on Massillon City Council as President. Denny was a member of Divine Mercy Parish, St. Mary's.

**In Memoriam: Neil Maier**

Neil W. Maier, 69, of Canton, passed away Friday, April 11, 2025 following a long-fought battle with congenital heart and lung issues. He spent most of his career in the HVAC business. He was a long-time member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Massillon and was a member of the 3rd Degree K of C Council #554.

**In Memoriam: Richard 'Dick' Fries**

Richard 'Dick' Fries, 79, passed away on Wednesday, April 16, 2025. Dick retired from Ford Motor Company. He was a Vietnam veteran and a member of the Knights of Columbus Council 554.



**In Memoriam; Frank Minocchi**

Frank John Minocchi, 82, of Perry Township, passed away on Friday, May 23, 2025. Frank worked as an insurance agent for many insurance companies, including KofC, and his last was with A.I.G. He also operated a catering and concession business. He was a member of Council 554, the 4th Degrees and was a member of St. Joseph's in Massillon.

**In Memoriam; James Hohman**

James "Jim" Paul Hohman, 75, of Canton, passed away on Saturday, May 24, 2025. Jim was born in Marietta, Ohio and was a graduate of the 1968 class of Lincoln High School. He started Jim Hohman's Lawn Service and spent 60 years working in the lawn care industry. He was a member of Council 554 and Bishop Massillon 4<sup>th</sup> Degree.

**In Memoriam; Ed Hill**

Ed Hill, age 76, passed away on June 27, 2025. He was born in Goshen Township, Ohio and worked for the Timken Company as a machinist for 35 years before he retired in 2002. He was very excited to be converted to our Catholic faith. He was a 20-year member of the Divine Mercy Parish at St. Mary's Church, Council 554 and the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree.

**In Memoriam; James Halter**

Jim Halter, 81, of Jackson Township passed away on July 9, 2025. He began farming as a young boy. Alongside his farming life, he spent 32 years with East Ohio Gas Company, retiring in 2000. He was a member of Divine Mercy Parish and Council 554.

**In Memoriam; Jerome Kemp Sr.**

Jerome (Jerry) Kemp Sr., 88, of Massillon, passed away Tuesday, July 29, 2025. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy serving during the Korean Conflict. Jerry had worked as a meat cutter at Superior Meats. He later worked for St. Mary's Catholic Church for 25 years. He was a member of Divine Mercy Parish at St. Mary and Council #554, 3rd Degree.

**In Memoriam: Ron Manse**

Ronald J. Manse, 78, of Jackson Township passed away Sunday, August 31, 2025. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Accounting from Walsh University and retired as Tax Partner from Ernst & Young in 1997 after 27 years with the firm. He was a member of Council 554.

**In Memoriam: Ron Sinay**

Ronald J. Sinay, 89, passed away on September 4, 2025. He served in the United States Air Force for four years. Ron was well known in Massillon as the owner of the Venice Spaghetti House for many years and in management for Buckeye Trophy. He was a member of Divine Mercy Parish and Council 554,

**In Memoriam: Roger Arthur Christ**

Roger A. Christ, 76, passed away on Friday, August 29, 2025. Born in Buffalo, he graduated from Saint Joseph's College of Rensselaer, Indiana, and Ohio Northern University, Claude Pettit School of Law. Roger was a member at Divine Mercy Parish, St. Barbara's and a member of Council 554.

**In Memoriam: Bill Hamit**

Bill Hassan Hamit, 83, passed away on September 16, 2025. After 21 years on the Massillon Police Department, he served five years as the city's safety-service director, held a seat on the City Council At-Large, and was elected city treasurer from 1997 until 2003. He was a member of Council 554 and Bishop Massillon Assembly 4<sup>th</sup> Degree.

**In Memoriam: Howard Blogna**

Howard L. Blogna, 86 of Massillon, passed away on November 2, 2025. Howard retired from Perry Rubber and more recently was a starter at the Elms Country Club. He was a member of Divine Mercy Parish/St. Mary's Campus, the Massillon K of C Council #554, 3<sup>rd</sup> degree.

**Deceased Members of the Massillon Columbian Ladies Guild****In Memoriam: Betty Trubisky**

Elizabeth L. "Betty" Trubisky, 91, passed away on June 24, 2025. She was preceded in death by her husband, Frank Trubisky Jr., who passed on April 22, 2016. Betty joined the Columbian Ladies Guild in 1994. A Member for 31 years.

**In Memoriam: Mary Kay Copeland**

Mary K Copeland, 97, of Navarre, Ohio, passed away on October 26, 2025. She worked at Massillon City Hospital as an E.K.G. Technician. She was a member of St. Clements Catholic Church. A Member for 36 years. She was preceded in death by her husband, Ralph.

# **COUNCIL 554 PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:**

## **Massillon “Knights in Action”**

The “Massillon Knights in Action” lists some of the charitable projects accomplished by Council 554 members. If you want to help in our charity work, please contact any Officer / Round Table Coordinator.

**Hot Lunch** Every Wednesday, volunteers from our council and our social membership cook a hot meal for the needy of the Massillon area. Meals are packaged and distributed from 10:45 am to 12:00 pm. Volunteers are asked to call Hot Lunch Chairman Paul Lambert at the complex office at 330-837-9101.

**Bingo** Our major fundraiser for the Massillon Knights Foundation is our weekly Bingo which starts at 6:30 PM every Monday. Volunteers can call the complex office at 330-837-9101

**Coats for Kids** Our Coats for Kids project is a Supreme Council program in which 554 can purchase boxes of new coats for needy children in the Massillon Community. Coats are purchased from donations from Council 554, the Columbian Ladies, St. Mary – St Vincent de Paul Society, Massillon American Legion Post 221, and private contributors. If you would like purchase a box of coats, please contact the FS office at 330-873-1411.

**Adopt-A-Highway** Volunteers from Council 554 pick-up trash along Route 21 north of Massillon in a two-mile corridor on both north and south lanes. Council 554 needs 8 to 10 volunteers for cleanup in the spring and fall. Cleanup detail involves two to three hours on a Saturday morning. If interested, contact Matt Meyer at 330-284-9365

**Ohio State Council Charity Donations:** Council 554 annually donates to the Ohio State Council’s Measure-Up Campaign (supporting programs for those with Developmental Disabilities), S.O.S. Campaign (Support our Seminarians), and Matching Fund (provides financial support of the Youngstown Diocesan Media Library for instructional books and videos on our Catholic faith. Council also provides \$500 to an area seminarian through the Supreme Council RSVP program.

**Impact Massillon:** Knights support Divine Mercy Parish in this annual ecumenical service to beatify a local neighborhood.

**Council Family Picnic:** Council sponsors an annual picnic for the families of our members.

**Council Bereavement Committee:** When requested, bereavement committee conducts a service at the wake of our deceased members.

**Youth Awards and Squires Support:** Council awards Youth of the Year and Excellence in Religion Awards to area youths. Council also supports Massillon Columbian Squires Circle 2645 for boys ages 10-18.

**Red Cross Bloodmobile Support:** Massillon Knights Foundation provide facilities for blood drive six times a year.

### **Divine Mercy Parish – Council 554 Round Table Activities**

1. **Divine Mercy Chaplet.** Council 554 Round Table members promote a weekly recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. At St Barbara Church: every Thursday following the 9:00 am Mass. At St Joseph Church: at 3:30 pm on Saturday, prior to the 4:00 pm Saturday Mass. At St. Mary Church: every Wednesday at 3:30 pm before the close of the Holy Eucharist Adoration.
2. **Cemetery Cleanup** Look for announcements in Sunday bulletin.
3. **Rosary and Novena for Life.** Council 554 round table members sponsors a Rosary and Novena for Life throughout the year. Look for announcements in Sunday bulletin.
4. **Landscaping parish grounds.** Council 554 members volunteer landscaping on the grounds of each of the three churches of the Divine Mercy Parish. This includes maintaining the St. Joseph Memorial Garden. Look for announcements in Sunday bulletin.
5. **Soup Kitchen** Council 554 members volunteer at the "Soup Kitchen" held every Monday at St. Joseph Church Hall
6. **Support St Vincent de Paul Society and Community Outreach Serves.** Various Council 554 Round Table members help each week at the St Mary – St. Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry for distributing food for the less fortunate in the Massillon community. Also, members help to unload the weekly delivery of 4,000 pounds-plus of food from the Akron-Canton Food Bank each Thursday at 9:30 am. If you are interested in helping, please call St Vincent de Paul Society at 330-837-0084. Round Table members also serve the needy at St. Joseph Church Hall with groceries and clothing each Monday. Parishioners at St. Barbara serve the needy with groceries one Saturday of the month.
7. **Sanctuary Decorations for Christmas and Easter** Council 554 Round Table members help to erect and take down the Christmas and Easter decorations for the sanctuary and church each year at all three churches of Divine Mercy Parish. Look for announcements in Sunday bulletin.
8. **Parish Social Dinners** Members of the Round Table Committee help with the quarterly social meals following weekend Masses.

### **Divine Mercy Parish – Council 554 Round Table Committee.**

<b><u>St. Joseph Church</u></b>	Coordinator: Tom Ferrero, 330-844-0469 - <a href="mailto:tferrero@sssnet.com">tferrero@sssnet.com</a> ,
<b><u>St Barbara Church</u></b>	Coordinator: Joel Fichter, 330-830-9301 - <a href="mailto:fichterlaw@sssnet.com">fichterlaw@sssnet.com</a>
<b><u>St Mary Church</u></b>	Coordinator: Ken McLaughlin, 330-571 1203 <a href="mailto:kmac.neo@gmail.com">kmac.neo@gmail.com</a>

If you belong to Divine Mercy Parish and have not been getting our notices of round table projects, please send your email address to [girtken@sssnet.com](mailto:girtken@sssnet.com). We will include you on future projects that help our pastor, Fr. Sheridan, our parish and our three churches. Thanks.

# **COUNCIL 554 MEETING MINUTES: Date: 11/11/2025 Present: 14**

**Opening Prayer:** The meeting was opened by Grand Knight Bryan Stewart with a prayer at 7:01 pm.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Matt Meyer to approve the minutes of the October 14 meeting as presented. Seconded by Gary Lamielle. Motion carried.

**Chaplain's Message:** No report.

**Grand Knight's Report:** A degree will be held on Sunday November 16, 2025 after the 8:00 am Mass at St. Mary's. A memorial Mass will be held at St. Barbara's at 6:00 pm at St. Barbara's on Tuesday November 18, 2025. The next Officer's and Trustees meeting will be Tuesday November 25, 2025. The next regular Council meeting will be Tuesday December 9, 2025. Help will be needed on December 19, 2025 to set up for the St. Vincent De Paul food give away. The clean up of the Financial Secretary's office will be Saturday December 27, 2025. Fr. Sheridan will be officially assigned to Sts. Philip and James on November 23, 2025 at the 9:30 am Mass by Bishop Bonnar.

**Financial Report:** Treasurer Ken McLaughlin reported the following financial information ending the month of October 2025; Checking account balance \$8,088.77; Calendar account balance \$13,003.27; Savings Account balance \$62,429.94; Bingo account balance \$22,007.23; Total all accounts (Bingo and Calendar accounts included) \$105,529.21. Donations made to charity amounted to \$12,755.51. He added that the \$11,755.51 was donated to the Foundation and \$2,137.37 was netted by the Council.

**Council 554 Donations:** Council donated \$1000 to St. Mary School Booster Club.

**Membership:** No Report.

**Program Director's Report:** No Report.

**District Deputy Report:** No report

**Fourth Degree Report:** The annual Tom and Jerry Ladies Night and Christmas party will be held on December 6, 2025 in the Pinta Room. Tickets are \$25 each for a 4th degree knight and ladies and \$35 for all others. Monsignor Graham council has asked us to team up with them to purchase a chalice for Fr. Seagraves. It has been purchased and the presentation is to be announced. We have been asked to provide a Fallout Honor Guard at the confirmation Masses at St. Paul in North Canton on December 13, 2025. The Masses are at 11:00 am and 2:00 pm.

**Unfinished Business:** Matt Meyer reported that the pens for the 125 year anniversary celebration are in. Ken Smith suggested that the Catholic Echo be contacted to see if the 125 year anniversary could be covered in the publication. Contacting the local papers was also suggested. It was stated that the Squires program is now 100% compliant with all mandatory training and state requirements. We received \$795 in donations to the seminarians at the November 9 breakfast.

**New Business:** We received a thank you from the St. Mary Booster club for our \$1,000 donation. We also received a request from St. Mary's for help at their Night at the Races. This will be discussed at the next Officer's and Trustees meeting.

**The Good of the Order:** Family of the month—Dale and Barb Piper; Knight of the Month—Ken Smith; Volunteer of the Month—Pat Bolyard

**Closing Prayer:** The meeting was closed by Grand Knight Bray Steward at 7:30 pm with the prayer for the canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney

**Respectfully submitted:** Thomas Seesan, Council Recorder

<b>2025 Family, Knight and Volunteer of the Month</b>			
	<b>Family of Month</b>	<b>Knight of Month</b>	<b>Volunteer of Month</b>
January	John & Judy Birman	Terry Philips	Gary Myers & Sandy Skirtich
February	Mike & Sue Zeigelhofer	Rick Chapis	Karen Franz
March	Bryan & Muffy Stewart	Jerry Luckner	John Blackstone
April	Chuck & Ruthanne Maier	Fr. Mike Seifert	Susie Schertzer
May	Joe & Carol Vilhosky	Matt Meyer	Sue Hall
June	Tom & Chiquita Seesan	Ron Kurpieski	Bob McCauley
July	Matt & Ivy Meyer	Chris Newstetter	Mary Joe Stenger
August	John ad Pat Dorka	Ken McLaughlin	Sandy Skirtich
September	Paul & Elaine Lambert	Brian Jones	Vickie Hartman
October	Dale & Barb Piper	Ken Smith	Pat Bolyard
November	Joe & Mary Jane Perrotti	Paul Biedenbach	Annie Ziegelhofer

**Friday Fish Fry's Every Friday 4pm to 8pm.**





**Larry Suter**

Assistant General Agent

Larry.Suter 330 280 2626



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- A death benefit of **\$5,000** for stillborn or infant children
- A guaranteed issue life insurance policy of **\$10,000** for any minor child
- A monthly stipend up to **\$500** and college scholarships up to **\$20,000** for orphans to age 19

Widows of insured members also have full access to purchase financial products.

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provide all this?  
Because of our  
Founder!**



**Turn over to learn more about  
Blessed Michael McGivney.**

*All of the eligibility provisions of the Order's programs of fraternal benefits are not included. Terms and conditions apply.*

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## Who is Blessed Michael McGivney?

Defender of widows and orphans.

Apostle of Christian family life.

Founder of the Knights of Columbus.

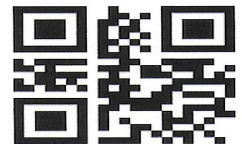
A compassionate priest in a culture strongly prejudiced against Catholics, Father McGivney recognized the spiritual and economic struggles of his parish's families.

In response, he founded the Knights of Columbus in 1882, uniting Catholic men and providing mutual financial aid to members.

Today, there are over 2.1 million Knights around the globe. We continue our Founder's mission by providing Catholic men and their families with opportunities to deepen their faith, enhanced fraternal benefits, quality financial products and services, and chances to serve their parishes and communities.

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