



Massillon Council 554



Knights of Columbus

January 2026

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

Happy New Year! 2026 can be a fresh start in a lot of ways. One of those ways can be a change in our toxic society. I'm certain you've noticed it, and in his Christmas message, so did Pope Leo XIV. He stated: "If all of us, at every level, would stop accusing others and instead acknowledge our own faults, asking God for forgiveness, and if we would truly enter into the suffering of others and stand in solidarity with the weak and oppressed, then the world would change." It is our duty as Knights, and as Catholics, to help those in need. Help those going through a rough patch. Never look down or talk down to someone. Let this be the year of changing lives and coming together. We are better together than torn apart.

2026 also marks some history, as January 27 will mark 125 years of Massillon being granted a charter from Supreme Council with a charter membership of 48 members. A great write up of our council's history can be found on our website. We will mark this historic event with our 125th Anniversary Dinner on Sunday, February 1 beginning with a 4pm Mass at St. Mary. Full details within this newsletter. I am hoping you will join us in this momentous occasion.

Our next council meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 13 with food and fellowship at 6:30 with meeting at 7pm.

We will be holding a degree of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity on Saturday, January 24 following the 4pm Mass at St. Joseph. Make 2026 the year you bring in a new Knight! Our future depends on the bringing Catholic Men into the Order.

And finally, I am proud to recognize our 2025 Honorees of the Year: Knight of the Year: RICK CHAPIS, Family of the Year: MATT AND IVY MEYER, Volunteer of the Year: ANN ZIEGELHOFFER, Chaplain/Religious of the Year: FATHER RAYMOND PAUL. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to our Order! These folks will be recognized in our year end awards dinner later this year. I wish you all peace, prosperity, and good health in 2026. May the Holy Spirit inspire you to live with purpose, leaving the old behind and embracing the new that God has in store, always with faith and courage. Vivat Jesus!

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

I hope you all had a blessed Christmas. As we begin the new year, we celebrate the Epiphany. This is when God revealed himself to the entire world. As we follow the blessed star, we need to gather all people together in God's love. Happy new year.

Honorees of the Month for December 2025

Congratulations to **Bob Pittinger** for being selected as our Knight of the Month. Bob is a Trustee for the council and a trustee for the Knights Foundation. He works Bingo and Hot Lunch, as well as St Mary-St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry.

We also congratulate **Jeff and Cathi Heitger** for being selected Family of the Month. Jeff is the Secretary for the Knights Foundation and Cathi helps with Bingo food concessions.

Congratulations to **Melissa Tournio** for being selected as Volunteer of the Month. Melissa answered the call for assistance at our Monday Bingo and is now a caller. She also works the K-Club as a bartender.

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 Friday. 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, Terry Philips, Brian Jones and Larry Alexander.

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@ssnet.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

Here it is January, the weather hasn't been the greatest this past month and hope everyone had a nice Christmas. I also want to wish you a very Blessed and Happy New Year. Don't forget to check in with your family and friends to make sure they are doing okay.

I want to thank everyone who help with all the events this past year, also with the remodeling and any other job that need to be done. I won't name everyone for fear of leaving someone out. Your help was greatly appreciated, and I hope you continue to volunteer.

We will be closing the kitchen starting in January. The closing dates will be posted at the club.

I want to thank Tom Ferrero, Rob Lautenschleger, and Terry Phillips for their years of service to the Hot Lunch Program. They have retired the middle of December. I hope they find time to come out and visit with us. We are still looking for someone to take over the Hot Lunch Program. If interested, please call me at 330-833-3329.

Clubroom Report, Julie Harman, Complex Manager

Please do not forget to renew your social memberships! Dues for 2026 are \$20.

The Nite at the Races will be January 17, 2026 sponsored by the Massillon Knights Foundation. Call for tickets 330-837-9101 or stop by after 4pm and talk to the bartender.

As of January 1, 2026 the Kitchen hours are: Tuesday thru Friday 4pm-8pm, Saturday the kitchen will be closed.

We will be having a Super Bowl party on February 8th, game time TBA. More details to come in the February newsletter.

Blood mobile will be January 21, 2026.

Bingo is 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 as 2025 comes to a close we wish you and yours a blessed new year. may 2026 bring you all good health, love and friends. We will NOT be meeting in January, our first meeting will be February 24, we are looking for a good turnout for this first meeting of 2026. At this first meeting, we will be reviewing the changes that were suggested at the fall meeting. If these changes are accepted, they will become the new set of bylaws for the Columbian ladies. So please let us know your input by attending the meeting.

We will also be looking for nominations for officers for the Columbian ladies .NO voting at the February meeting. Voting for officers will take place at our March meeting.

Both of these issues are important issues as we continue to move forward as members of the Columbian ladies. So please try to make these meetings as you are an important part of this organization.

Don't forget to pay your dues. If you are a new member dues are \$10.00 or you have been a member for less than 20 years. If you have been a member for 20 plus years your dues are \$5.00. Dues can be paid to Linda Girt 330-933-5518 or left at the bar with your name, address, phone and your dues. If you are 90 or older you are considered a lifetime member and your dues is free.

Thanks to all the ladies who volunteered in 2025; Mary Ann, Annie, Barb, Linda, Jane, Sue, Muffy, Cathy. I apologize if I missed anyone your time and talent was greatly appreciated.

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

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. 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

Happy New Year, I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas. Our next Bishop Massillon Assembly meeting is Tuesday, January 6. There will be a meal available, at 6:30 PM. and the meeting will start at 7 PM. Our next Exemplification of the Patriotic Degree will be, Saturday, January 17, 2026. The location is Saint Ambrose Catholic Parish, 929 Pearl Rd., Brunswick, OH 44212. The Degree will start at 11 AM. There is a luncheon that will start at 1:30 PM and there is a Mass that will be at 4:30 PM. All 3rd degree Knights in good standing in the Order are invited to join the Patriotic Degree of the K of C. Registration details can be found at WWW.KofCohiodist1.org, or you can contact a Bishop Massillon Assembly Officer.

Massillon Knights of Columbus 554 will be Celebrating their 125th Anniversary on February 1, 2026. There will be a Mass at St Mary starting at 4:00PM and we were asked to provide a Fallout for this special day. After Mass the Knights of Columbus building will be open at 5:00PM followed by a full buffet at 6:00PM. The cost of the buffet is \$20.00 per person. Please let me know if you will be able to help with the Fallout. (Chuck Maier 330-418-8741).

I would like to thank everyone for their help with our Tom and Jerry banquet. Fr. Ed blessed, the Nativity Scene in front of the KofC. Everyone enjoyed the program. We were able to help out the Sam Center this year for Christmas. They gave us a family of a military veteran that needed help for Christmas. We provided gifts for their two children ages 5 and 13 so they could have a Christmas. May Jesus walk with you and your family this year in 2026.

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...

.....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

.....February, 2026

- 1 5:00 PM Council 554 125th Anniversary
- 3 7:00 PM 4th Degree Meeting (Ladies Night)
- 8 5:00 PM Super Bowl Party
- 9 7:00 PM Estate Planning Seminar St Mary
- 10 7:00 PM Reg. Council Meeting
- 12 7:00 PM Stark County Chapter Meeting
- 14 *Valentine Day*
- 18 *Ash Wednesday*
- 24 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:** 3rd Tues of month 6pm
Massillon Squires Circle Meeting: 1st and 3rd Wednesday, 7pm at St Joseph School

Massillon Council 554's 125th Anniversary

Come celebrate Massillon Council 554's 125th Anniversary on February 1, 2026 at the Knights Foundation Hall. Doors open at 5 pm with a cash bar and historical display and the buffet dinner served at 6 pm. The meal includes Roast Beef, Chicken and Fish, Roasted Potatoes, Penne Marinara, and Green Beans, with Salad, Rolls/Butter and Dessert. **The cost of the meal is \$20** and you can purchase tickets from Paul Haig, FS (330-837-1411) or any council officer before January 26.

There will be a Celebratory Mass at 4 pm at St. Mary Church prior to the dinner.

Everyone is welcome to join us as we celebrate this momentous occasion!

MASSILLON COUNCIL 554 2025 - 2026 OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

<u>Officers</u>		
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	933-3322
Inside Guard	Ken Smith	284-7763
Outside Guard	Chris Newstetter	702-909-9616
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>

<u>Round Table Coordinators</u>		
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

<u>Program Activity Chairmen:</u>		
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	806-4036
Squires 2645	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 21 Round Table members (and squires) who helped with the St Mary – St. Vincent de Paul Food Give-away on Dec 19 and 20. And thanks to everyone helped decorate the three Divine Mercy Parish churches for Christmas. We will be taking the decorations down as follows: St. Mary on Sunday, January 11 following the 8 am Mass. St. Barbara on Sunday, January 11 after the 11 am Mass. St. Joseph has not been scheduled. Look for day and time in the church bulletin.

Massillon Council 554 - Estate Planning Seminar

Council 554 will sponsor an Estate Planning Seminar for our members and our guests on Monday, February 9 at 7pm at the St. Mary School Education Center. We will have four speakers who will focus on recommended planning for the event of a death in the family:

Attorney **Rick Chapis**, will discuss: Power of Attorney, Wills, Living Wills, using an Online Will, and setting up a trust and beneficiary.

Cathi Heitger of Heitger Funeral Service will discuss Pre-need Planning, average cost of a funeral, cremation, and how to prepay for a funeral.

Larry Suter K of C Insurance Agent will discuss Whole Life and Term Life policies, Investment and Retirement Opportunities, and Long-Term Care.

Maria Johnson Divine Mercy Parish Cemetery Sexton will discuss the process to purchase a cemetery plot and the costs.

This hour-long program is open to the public.

1000 Club Calendars, Matt Meyer, 1000 Club Chairman

The 2026 Calendars are selling well and we appreciate those who sell and purchase them. This fundraiser has been going strong for many years and it helps the council with its yearly functions. It is important to return any unsold calendars ASAP as we have a waiting list for people who would like to purchase calendars yet. Please contact Matt Meyer 330-284-9365 or return calendars to the office. Seller bonuses will be sent when everything is accounted for.

The K-Club Dining

Massillon Knights Foundation

Dining available Tuesday thru Friday, 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



We welcome Melissa Tournio as a K-Club bartender and volunteer at Bingo. Melissa has been working at the K-Club for since June, usually on Saturday nights. She heard we needed volunteers at our weekly Bingo and has been calling Bingo every Monday night.



Bishop Massillon Assembly held their annual Tom and Jerry Christmas Party on Saturday, December 5. Around 40 members and their wives enjoyed the buffet and holiday festivities with the Meyer family's Tom and Jerry cocktails. Pictured left is Fr Ed Gretchko as he blessed the Nativity display on our complex grounds before the dinner.



Members of the Massillon Columbian Squires Circle 2645 assisted in the St. Mary – St. Vincent de Paul Food Give-A-Way on Saturday, December 20 in the St. Mary School gym. 150 families in the Massillon community received six bags of groceries and most were recipients of gifts from the St. Mary Church Giving Tree.



Rob Lautenschleger (pictured on left) and Tom Ferrero have retired from our Hot Lunch program. Tom was the coordinator of meal preparation. Also retiring is Terry Phillips who absent due to health issues. If you are interested in serving on the Hot Lunch Team, please contact Paul Lambert.

MEMBERSHIP & DEGREES: There are three ways that a Catholic man or existing 1st or 2nd 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. 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 1st and 3rd 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 1st Degree and 2nd Degree members wishing to advance to the full 3rd degree of the Order. It is a 35-minute video. Please contact Ken Girt to register. 330-608-1729 or 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 1st and 2nd Degree members to advance to the 3rd Degree. If you wish to attend the "live" degree, please Contact Ken Girt at 330-608-1729 or email at 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 1st or 2nd degree member desiring advancement to the 3rd 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.



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.

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

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. 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: 12/8/2025 Present: 12

Opening Prayer: The meeting was opened at 7:00 pm with a prayer by Chaplain Fr. Michael Seifert.

Minutes: A motion was made by Chuck Maier to approve the minutes of the November 11, 2025 meeting as presented. Seconded by Eric Fichter. Motion carried.

Chaplain's Message: Fr. Seifert told the story about the "Saint of the Day" Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin (or simply Juan Diego) as we approach the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Juan Diego's name means "Talking Eagle."

Grand Knight's Report: Wednesday December 17 is the Officer's and Trustees meeting which was moved because of the Christmas Holiday. December 19-20 is the St. Vincent DePaul food give away at St. Mary's. If anyone wants to help, check with Ken McGlaughlin. Clean-up day for the Financial Secretary's office in the club building is scheduled for Saturday December 27 at 9:00 am. The next regular council meeting is Tuesday January 13, 2026. Night at the races is scheduled for Saturday January 17.

Financial Report: Treasurer Ken Mclaughlin reported the following financial information ending the month of November 2025: Checking Account balance \$2,825.77; Calendar Account balance \$20,438.37; Savings Account balance \$64,211.76; Bingo Account balance \$26,571.90; Total all accounts (Bingo and Calendar Accounts included) \$114,037.70. He also reported that since July 1, 2025, the council has received \$8,345 from the Bingo Machines and the Foundation has received \$45,900. Since July 1, 2025, \$62,945 has been donated to charity.

Council 554 Donations: Council donated \$25 for Masses for H. Blogna. ASAP \$650 to Preg. & Parenting Support in Canton. Council donated \$9,788 to MFK from Bingo Machines.

Membership: We have two prospective members. A Degree will be held on January 24, 2026 after the 4:00 pm Mass at St. Joseph.

Program Director's Report: We are still in Keep Christ in Christmas. Five boxes of coats have been delivered for Coats for Kids.

District Deputy Report: No report

Fourth Degree Report: Chuck Maier reported that the next Fourth Degree Exemplification will be Saturday January 24, 2026 at 11:30 am. at St. Ambrose Church in Brunswick. There is a new candidate, Jimmy Thieret, ready to enter. Chuck spoke with a representative of the SAM Center and the need there right now is for toys for the children of the veterans. Our assembly along with the Msgr. Graham Assembly in Canal Fulton presented Fr. Seagraves with his new chalice. Chuck Maier and Chris Dodson were there to make the presentation. Eleven uniformed Knights were in attendance. Chuck spoke with Fr. Sheridan about the position of Friar for the assembly since Fr. Paul has health issues and can no longer fill that role. Fr. Sheridan said he was too busy to take on that role and suggested that Chuck talk with Fr. Gretchko. Fr. Gretchko will take on the position.

Unfinished Business: Matt Meyer reported that some progress was being made on the 125th anniversary dinner scheduled for February 1, 2026. He spoke with a photographer who is willing to take photos of the event for \$300. Mr. Schneider is willing to donate the \$300 if we feed the photographers. It was suggested that we have a guest book at the dinner for people to sign in so we have a record of those attending.

New Business: None.

The Good of the Order: Family of the month for November is Joe and Mary Jane Perrotti, Knight of the Month is Paul Biedenbach, Volunteer of the Month is Ann Zieglerhoffer.

Closing Prayer: The meeting was closed at 7:54 pm by Fr. Michael Seifert with the Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney.

Respectfully submitted: Thomas Seesan, Council Recorder

2025 Family, Knight and Volunteer of the Month			
	Family of Month	Knight of Month	Volunteer of Month
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 Zieglerhofer
December	Jeff & Cathi Heitger	Bob Pittinger	Melissa Tournio

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



Larry Suter

Assistant General Agent

Larry.Suter 330 280 2626



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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.

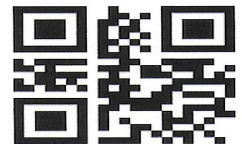
A compassionate priest in a culture strongly prejudiced against Catholics, Father McGivney recognized the spiritual and economic struggles of his parish's families.

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