



# Massillon Council 554



## Knights of Columbus

October 2025

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

Well, fall is in full swing! Cooler days, changing leaves, football, and yes, pumpkin spice everything. In a world where society is impatient in what's next, stop for a moment to enjoy all this season has to offer. Please welcome our newest Brother Knight Brian Popovich! We are ecstatic to have you and your family join our K of C family.

October is quite busy in our little corner of the world! Brother Knights will participate in leading the Rosary before weekend masses in all Massillon Divine Mercy Parish churches, as well as the 40 Days for Life program, which is going on now through November 2. Be sure to join us for our annual Hi-Way Cleanup along Route 21 on Saturday, October 11. Meet up at the St. Mary 1st St. parking lot at 8:30 AM for instructions, should wrap up by noon. Contact PGK Matt Meyer at 330-284-9365 if you'd like to help. Also on the 11th is the Divine Mercy Parish Oktoberfest from 1-4pm at the Parish Life Center at St. Barbara. Watch the bulletin for more information. Our next exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity will be held Sunday, October 26 following the 11am Mass at St. Barbara. If you know of a man that wants to put his "FAITH IN ACTION", please contact me at 330-605-8840.

And a final thought.... We as a country have been through so much in the past month. Let us try a little more kindness, unity, love, and respect for one another. We can disagree without the need to be violent. St. Paul addressed comparisons in 2 Corinthians 10:12: "Not that we dare to class or compare ourselves with some of those who recommend themselves. But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding." We all play on the same team friends. Pray for one another and our country. May the love of Christ enrich all of you. Vivat Jesus! GO TIGERS BEAT MCKINLEY!

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

October is dedicated to Mary and the rosary. This prayer gains many graces from God. We need to pray for our world, our country, our community, our friends, and our families. Hate seems to be everywhere. Pray for peace and harmony everywhere.

### Honorees of the Month for September 2025

Congratulations to **Brian Jones** for being selected as our Knight of the Month. Brian has volunteered grilling meats for our parish picnic and 4<sup>th</sup> Degree picnic.

We also congratulate **Paul and Elaine Lambert** for being selected Family of the Month. Paul volunteers around our facility and currently remodeling our Nina Room. Elaine works our Monday Bingo and Clubroom Dinners.

Congratulations to **Vickie Hartman** for being selected as Volunteer of the Month. Vickie works at our weekly Bingo and our Wednesday Hot Lunch program.

### 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, Dr. Larry Bucher, and Ron Kurpieski.

**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), Carol Vilhosky (wife of Joe). Karen Franz (President of the Columban Ladies).

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**

Well, here it is, a couple of weeks into fall and the weather has been beautiful for us. I know we need rain, and we had some but hopefully we will not have a lot of rain all at once, just a nice steady rainfall when it comes. Please check in on your family and friends just to say HI or to see if they need anything.

I would like to talk to you about our hot lunch program. Our program has been in existence since the early 1980's. The Massillon Knights Foundation, the Massillon Council 554, Columbian Ladies, and Social Members have volunteers who are helping with the program. But now I need someone to take over running the program. We have 3 people retiring this December., one of them that is in charge, I will need someone at least on Mondays and of course Wednesday and maybe one other morning, when we make spaghetti sauce. My wife and I will continue to do what we do. We will explain everything we do to whoever decides to take over. If we can't find anyone, we may have to close our program, and we are serving around 125 or more each week.

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

Fall is here!! Browns Tailgating is Every Sunday. Doors open at Noon! There will be NO Tailgate October 5th due to the 9:30am start!! The next date for Tailgate is October 12th against the Steelers at 1pm. Hope to see everyone here!! We have door prizes every quarter, 50/50 and hot dogs, provided by MKF!

NEO Pro Wrestling will be here on Saturday, October 18th 5-9pm!!! You can get tickets by calling 330-353-9115 or online [www.neoprowrestling.net](http://www.neoprowrestling.net)! Should be a good time.

The Club will be open on October 25th for the Massillon/McKinley game at 2pm. Doors open at 1:30pm! Come out and enjoy food, drinks & watch the game!

Bingo is every Monday at 6:30pm, doors open at 4pm. We are still in need of volunteers, please call 330-837-9101 if interested.

**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 met for the first time in September. Reminder our meetings are the fourth Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

Muffy passed on the membership chairmen to Linda Girt. Muffy is unable to continue in this position due to opening her own business. We wish her well in this endeavor.

Thank you's going out to Annie and Miss Vickie for taking on the task of providing pop, chips for the bingo players (for a fee)

## **MKF Clubroom Dinner – Thursday, October 16, 2025**

### **“Meatloaf”**

**Price of a dinner is \$12. Dinner includes: mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, desert and home-made bread.**

**Dine-In Served in Clubroom 5:30-6:30 PM. Take-out Served 5 to 5:45 PM.**

**Reservations are required by noon on Wednesday, October 15. Call 330-837-9101.**

**Please leave your Name, Phone Number, Number of Dinners, Dine-In or Take-Out and what time you will dine-in or pick-up (at front Canape.)**

## **Massillon Knights Foundation Complex; Nina Room Remodeling**

MKF President Paul Lambert and his group of volunteers have been remodeling our complex on Cherry Road for several years now and have recently begun working on the Nina room. The ceiling tiles and grids have been painted and work will soon begin on the walls and replacing the paneling. If you are able to lend a hand in this remodeling effort, please contact Paul at 843-214-6508.

We also need help with the Hot Lunch program. As Paul mentioned in his article, several team members are retiring and additional help is needed. Call Paul at 843-214-6508.

## 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

There will be a Blue Mass on Thursday, October 2, 2025 at 12:10pm for the Massillon First Responders. October 2 is the Memorial Day of the Guardian Angels. It will be at Saint Joseph Catholic Church. They are asking for a fallout at this special service. Anyone wishing to take part in the fall out please be there at 11: 50 a.m. All are welcome.

The Stark County Gun Club is having their fall gun show at the Massillon Knights Foundation on Saturday, October 4 and Sunday, October 5. The Assembly will be working the concession stand for our annual fundraiser. Volunteers to work at the concession stands are welcome. We can also use donated baked goods, especially pies. If you can help with either one of these, you're welcome to call me at 330-418-8741. Thank you in advance.

Tuesday, October 7 is Ladies Night with our annual Oktoberfest. The assembly meeting will start at 6:30 PM and the Oktoberfest will start at 7:00pm at the pavilion. Come on out and enjoy good food, good friends, and good music.

There will be a 4th Degree Exemplification on Saturday, October 18 in Boardman at the Holiday Inn. As far as I know, we do not have anyone going for their Fourth Degree from our Assembly. It would be nice to have some new Sir Knights from our Assembly. If you know of anyone interested in the Fourth Degree or you know somebody that would be a good candidate for the Fourth Degree, please contact them and support them for that honor. Together, we can make this happen.

### 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, 40 Days for Life Program.

## Upcoming Calendar of Events...

### .....October, 2025

- 2 12:10 PM Blue Mass St. Joseph Church
- 3 12:00 PM March for Life Columbus
- 7 6:30 PM 4th Degree Meeting Ladies Night Pavilion
- 9 7:00 PM Stark County Chapter
- 11 8:30 AM Highway Cleanup
- 12 9:00 AM Council 554 Breakfast St Mary Church
- 14 7:00 PM Reg. Council Meeting
- Columbus Day**
- 16 5:00 PM MKF Clubroom Dinner
- 26 12:15 PM Degree Ceremony St Barbara Church
- 28 6:30 PM Officers and Trustees 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

### .....November, 2025

- 1 **All Saints Day**
- 2 Measure Up Collection all Masses
- 4 7:00 PM 4th Degree Meeting
- 11 **Veterans Day**
- 7:00 PM Reg. Council Meeting
- 13 7:00 PM Stark County Chapter Meeting
- 18 6:00 PM Council Memorial Mass w/Col Ladies St. Barb
- 19 1:00 PM Bloodmobile
- 25 6:30 PM Officers and Trustees Meeting
- 27 **Thanksgiving**

## In Memoriam: Ron Sinay

Ronald J. Sinay, passed away peacefully on September 4, 2025, at the age of 89. He was born in Canton Ohio and graduated from Timken High School in 1954. He then proudly served in the United States Air Force for four years. Ron and his wife Gloria celebrated 63 years of marriage this past July. Ron was well known in Massillon as the owner of the Venice Spaghetti House for many years and in management for Buckeye Trophy before retiring to fully enjoy the company of his loved ones.

A devoted member of Divine Mercy Parish and Council 554, Ron was deeply engaged in his faith and community. He is survived by his loving wife Gloria, his children Amy, Nicholas, Michael, and Stefanie. May he Rest in Peace.

## In Memoriam: Ron Manse

Ronald J. Manse, 78, of Jackson Township passed away Sunday, August 31, 2025. He was born in Canton and graduated from Hoover High School. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Accounting from Walsh University. He retired as Tax Partner from Ernst & Young in 1997 after 27 years with the firm. He then joined Bruner-Cox as a Tax Partner, served as Managing Partner from 2003 to 2010, and retired in 2012 after 15 years with the firm. He was a member of Council 554.

Ron was preceded in death by his son, Lt. Jason S. Manse. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Cindy and son, Aaron. May he Rest in Peace.

## In Memoriam: Roger Arthur Christ

Roger A. Christ, 76, passed away on Friday, August 29, 2025. Born in Buffalo, he was a graduate of Bishop Turner High School, Saint Joseph's College of Rensselaer, Indiana, and Ohio Northern University, Claude Pettit School of Law. After earning his B.A. degree in English - Philosophy, he entered the U.S. Army and served two years in the Army Security Agency. Afterwards, he served three years with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Roger worked for the General Adjustment Bureau as an outside adjuster, rising to Branch Manager. He then attended law school and upon graduation joined Nationwide Insurance Company.

Roger was a parishioner at Divine Mercy Parish, St. Barbara's and served on the stewardship and finance committees. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Ohio Association of Civil Trial Attorneys, and the Stark County Bar Association. Roger is survived by his loving wife, Diane; sons, Jeffrey and Douglas. May he Rest in Peace.

## In Memoriam: Bill Hamit

Bill Hassan Hamit, passed away on September 16, 2025, at the age of 83. He graduated from Washington High School in 1959. He drove a delivery truck for RC Cola until he pursued his dream of being a Massillon Police Officer in 1967. After 21 years on the force, he served five years as the city's safety-service director, two years as a deputy Stark County clerk of courts, held a seat on the City Council At-Large, and was elected city treasurer from 1997 until 2003. Then in 2003, Bill was elected to his final job of a four-year term as city auditor for the city of Massillon.

Bill was a member of Divine Mercy Parish at St. Joseph and was a member of Council 554. He is survived by his wife Charlotte, and children Rick, Michelle, and Renee. May he Rest in Peace.

## MASSILLON COUNCIL 554 2025 - 2026 OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

<u>Officers</u>			<u>Round Table Coordinators</u>		
Chaplain	Fr. Mike Seifert	933-4148	St. Mary	Ken McLaughlin PGK	571 1203
Grand Knight	Bryan Stewart	605-8840	St Joseph	Tom Ferrero	844-0469
Dep Grd Knight	Graham Zeneri	844-7712	St Barbara	Joel Fichter	830-9301
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: <a href="http://www.massillonkofc554.org">http://www.massillonkofc554.org</a>					
			<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	
			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

## Charity, Unity and Fraternity Third Degree Ceremony

Council 554 will sponsor a Degree Ceremony on Sunday, October 26 at 12:15 pm at St. Barbara Church following the 11 AM Mass. If you know of a Catholic man who would like to join the Knights of Columbus, please bring him to the ceremony. If you are a First- or Second-Degree member and you would like to receive the honors of the Third Degree, please join us for this 30-minute ceremony. If you have any questions, please contact Chuck Maier or Bryan Stewart.

# The K-Club Dining

Massillon Knights Foundation

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



## APPETIZERS

Fried Pickles - \$7.00	Cheese Sticks - \$8.00	Fried Mushrooms - \$7.00
Pretzel Bites - \$7.00	Onion Rings - \$7.00	Cheddar Poppers - \$5.00
Potato Skins - \$8.00	4 Chicken Tenders - \$9.00	
Sweet Potato Fries or French Fries - \$5.00		Tater Tots - \$5.00
Loaded Nachos (Lettuce, Tomato, Taco Meat) - \$10.00		Sauerkraut Balls - \$7.00
Loaded Fries or Tater Tots (comes with Nacho Cheese & Bacon) - \$8.00		

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	Cheese Quesadilla & Fries - \$7.00

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

(Food may contain allergens)

## HANDHELDS

With Choice of French Fries or Tater Tots

Basic Burger - \$9.00	Mushroom Burger - \$11.00	Bacon Burger - \$11.00
Texas Burger - \$11.00	BLT - \$8.00	
Grilled Cheese - \$7.00	Chicken Sandwich - \$11.00	
Brother's Sausage Sandwich - \$10.00		Chicken Wrap - \$10.00
Philly Cheese steak (Chicken or Steak) - \$11.00		

## **WINGS**      Bone in or Boneless

Jumbo Naked Wings                      6 for \$7.00                      12 for \$14.00

Wing Dings                                  6 for \$8.00                      12 for \$16.00

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

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

Taco Salad:      \$12.00                      Chicken Quesadilla: \$10.00

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.  
\$10.99 / \$12.99 / \$14.99

9oz Broiled Scrod with two sides      \$16.00

Ala-Carte Piece of Fish      \$4.99

Shrimp Basket with Fries      \$12.99

Fish Sandwich with Fries      \$11.99 (Add cheese.. \$.75)

Ala Carte Sides \$5 each: Side Salad, Cole Slaw, Cottage Cheese, Applesauce, Mac -n-  
Cheese, Fresh Cut Fries, Baked Potato (add \$1), Sweet Potato Fries (add \$1.50)



# Massillon KofC SNAPSOTS



Council 5545 welcomes new member Brian Popovich and congratulates David Lane for advancing to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree at a Degree Ceremony on September 6 after the 4 PM Mass at St. Joseph. Pictured, left to right, front row: Dave Lane, Brian Popovich, Chick Maier (Degree Team) and Fr Ed. Gretchko, chaplain for the degree team. Back row: Degree Team Members Joe Vilhosky, Bryam Stewart, Gary Lamielle, Ken McLaughlin and Paul Haig.



The Stark County Light to Life held their annual dinner on Saturday September 20, 2025, at St Barbara Life Center. Attending from Council 554 were, left to right, front row: Fr. Travis Seagraves, Chuck Maier, Bob Kring, Graham Zeneri and Ken McLaughlin. Second Row: Ken Girt, Bob Pittinger, Joe Perrotti, and John Dorka. Also attending but not shown was Joe Vilhosky.

## **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 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](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.



# **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: 08/9/2025 Present: 14**

**Opening Prayer** The meeting was opened at 7:00 pm with a prayer led by Fr. Michael Seifert followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Fourteen members were present.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Gary Lamielle to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2025 meeting as presented. Seconded by Chuck Maier. Motion carried.

**Chaplain's Message:** Fr. Mike Seifert reminded those present that the Birthday of Mary was yesterday. He went on to say that today was the feast of St. Peter Claver. St. Peter Claver worked with the slaves in Columbia, South America. He brought Jesus to the slave ships. Our job as Knights is to reach out and bring Jesus to the fold. He encouraged us to continue to evangelize and bring members into the fold.

**Grand Knight's Report** We will be stuffing 2026 calendars on September 16. The next state chapter will be in Massillon. The next estate planning seminar will be September 29 at St. Barbara's. Bunco will be on September 30 with a Taco Bar Dinner at 6:30 pm and Bunco to begin at 7:00 pm. Forty Days for Life begins on September 28 and ends on November 2. The rosary will be said before each weekend Mass during the month of October. A sign-up sheet is available for anyone wanting to lead the rosary. The Celebrate Life Dinner will be held on September 20 at St. Barbara's. The Blue Mass has been moved to October 2 at St. Joseph. The K of C breakfast has been moved to Sunday November 9 after the 8:00 am Mass at St. Mary. We received Thank you notes from the Kemp and Halter families. The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, October 14

**Financial Report:** Treasurer Ken McLaughlin reported the current financial information ending the month of August 2025: Checking balance \$4,795.61; Calendar Account \$17,703.27; Savings Account \$72,791.01; Bingo Account \$19,597.15; Total all accounts (bingo and calendar included) \$114,887.04. Donations made to charity amounted to \$10,445.98. He added that in August, the council netted \$1,803.82 from the Bingo machines and the council gave \$9,921 to the Foundation.

**Council 554 Donations:** Council donated \$25 for Mass for deceased member Jerome Kemp. Donated \$500 for parish picnic. \$9,920 donated to Massillon Knights Foundation from machines.

**Membership:** We have one new member, Brian Popovich. David Lane has advanced to 3rd Degree.

**Program Director's Report:** Graham Zeneri reported that he is working on the activity matrix and will be emailing committee chairs for their input. He will be working with Joe Vilhosky in regard to faith formation.

**District Deputy Report:** No report

**Fourth Degree Report:** October 4 and 5 is the gun show at the Knights Foundation building. Ladies Night is October 7. A 4th Degree Exemplification will be held on Saturday October 18 in Boardman.

**Unfinished Business:** Matt Meyer is working on the details for the 125th anniversary dinner to be held February 1, 2026. Costs will be \$20 per attendee with the Council picking up the additional \$15 cost. Matt will order pens for souvenirs. The topic of adding Monsignor Kolp's name to the council was again brought up. It was decided that we forgo naming the council after Monsignor but still would like to name the Life Grotto in honor of Monsignor. Since the Columbian Ladies paid for the grotto, we should get their permission to name it in honor of Monsignor Kolp.

**New Business:** We will be giving \$8,700 to the Ultrasound fund for a new Ultrasound. Around \$3,700 of that came from donations from the parishioners with the council matching \$5,000. Knight Chris Newstetter has looked into the possibility of on-line giving for our council for charitable projects. More will be discussed at the next officer's and trustees meeting.

**The Good of the Order:** Knight of the Month for August: Ken McLaughlin; Family of the Month: John and Pat Dorka; Volunteer of the Month: Sandy Skirtich

**Closing Prayer:** The meeting was closed by Fr. Michael Seifert with the prayer for the canonization of Blessed McGivney at 7:40 pm.

**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

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

JOIN YOUR MASSILLON K of C COUNCIL 554

## *Rosary for Life*



(Our Lady giving the Rosary to Saint Dominic of Guzman *left* and Saint Francis of Assisi *right*.)

We know the enormous power attributed to this beautiful Marian devotion comes from the structure of the rosary, in which we meditate on the mysteries of our salvation, the Incarnation, Redemption and eternal life, interlaced with the Lord's prayer and the Hail Mary.

Join us during the 40 Days for Life as your Massillon K of C Council 554 will say the Rosary for Life on Sundays with the Stations of the Cross the last week of the 40 Days.

9/28/25 Rosary for Life at St. Barbs - 2 pm (Sorrowful Mystery)

10/05/25 Rosary for Life at St. Joe's - 2 pm (Joyful Mystery)

10/12/25 We will join the Stark County Right to Life in their yearly Life Chain at Planned Parenthood – 2663 Cleveland Ave N.W. Canton, Oh and recite the Rosary for Life. - 2 pm (Luminous Mystery)

10/19/25 Rosary for Life at St. Mary's - 2 pm (Glorious Mystery)

10/26/25 Rosary for Life at St. Barbs - 2 pm (Joyful Mystery)

11/02/25 Stations of the Cross for Life at St. Mary's – 3 pm

When praying the rosary for life, we are asking for God's protection and blessing on all human life, from conception to natural death. This includes praying for the protection of unborn children, for the well-being of families, for the sick and the elderly, and for an end to violence and suffering. The rosary becomes a powerful tool promoting a culture of life and respect for all human beings.

Please Join Us

Massillon K of C Council 554







**Larry Suter**

Assistant General Agent

Larry.Suter 330 280 2626



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Columbus®**

### Career Opportunity:

The Knights of Columbus is seeking a motivated, professional Catholic man for a career/business opportunity serving the Catholic families in this area. Motivated candidates need no prior experience as we include a complete training program and business development system. A complete benefits package is offered as well with this full-time position. In order to qualify, one must be eligible for membership in the Knights of Columbus. For more information, and/or an initial interview please contact, Larry Suter, Assistant General Agent, by phone or text at 330-280-2626 or via email at [larry.suter@kofc.org](mailto:larry.suter@kofc.org).

## Becoming a Knight of Columbus is now more valuable than ever!

As a member of the Knights, you're eligible for a member/spouse accidental death benefit up to **\$5,000**.

If you take advantage of our insurance program, you're also eligible for:

- 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.

**Why do we  
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.*

Knights of Columbus | One Columbus Plaza | New Haven, CT 06510

## Who is Blessed Michael McGivney?

Defender of widows and orphans.

Apostle of Christian family life.

Founder of the Knights of Columbus.

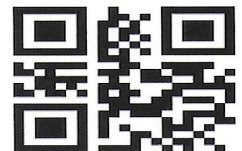
A compassionate priest in a culture strongly prejudiced against Catholics, Father McGivney recognized the spiritual and economic struggles of his parish's families.

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.

**Become a Knight  
and unlock  
these benefits!**

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