



Massillon Council 554



Knights of Columbus

August 2025

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

A few weeks ago, I attended the K of C State Council Diocesan meeting, led by new State Deputy Mike Felerski. His theme is "We Are Called". We are called to bring men into our order. We are called to help the needy and the outcast. And we are called to BE the strong right arm of the church. With that being said... have you thought about why YOU are called? What are you truly called to be? We are all called to be something, to someone, in some way. Share your talents and gifts the Good Lord gave you! His call is multifaceted. Answer it in your daily journey, and be fulfilled. Then, you may truly know why "We Are Called".

The Feast of the Transfiguration is August 6, and the Feast of the Assumption is August 15. Remember Mary and Her model of faith: "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your will." (Luke 1:38). May the Lord Bless you and keep you my Brother Knights. Vivat Jesus!

Remember to attend the Divine Mercy Parish Picnic on Sunday, August 10 at 1pm at the council pavilion. Support our parish, and Fr Sheridan and Fr Travis in this family friendly event. Also, our next council meeting will be Tuesday, August 12 beginning with the Knights Foundation presenting their biannual report at 6:45 PM, with our council meeting to follow. Our final vote on the 2025-2026 budget will also take place, so be sure to attend for this important step in the fraternal year.

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

August is dedicated to the sacred heart of Jesus. His sacred heart indicates God's unconditional love for each and every one of us. God's love is for everyone. This love is to be shared with all our loved ones our neighbors and the entire world may this love spread eternally.

Honorees of the Month for July 2025

Congratulations to **Chris Newstetter** for being selected as our Knight of the Month. Chris joined our council earlier this year and was recently elected Outside Guard.

We also congratulate **Matt and Ivy Meyer** for being selected Family of the Month. Matt is chairman of our 1000 Calendar Club and is a trustee for the council. Both volunteer for special projects for the council.

Congratulations to **Mary Lou Stenger** for being selected as Volunteer of the Month. Mary Lou is the sacristan for St. Joseph Church and prepares all Masses for liturgy. She also sings in the choir.

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, Bill Hamit, John Scheetz, Sam Meyer, Joe Vilhosky, Jim Sieber, Paul Thayer, Dr. Larry Bucher, Ron Kurpieski and Ron Sinay.

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:** Dan Skirtich, 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*

Summer is almost over, and I will be glad when fall arrives. The heat has slowed a lot of us down and I hope you are staying well hydrated. Heat stroke can hit you quick and hard, so please be very careful in this weather. Please don't forget to check in on your family, neighbors and friends to make sure they are doing okay. Heat stroke can happen quickly.

Like I said the heat has slowed us down doing things at the K, especially outside. We are still waiting for the insurance company to let us know what they will cover for the air conditioner. We have been getting bids for the new one. All of our air conditioners will need to be replaced in the future and the cost is approximately around \$30,000.00 each. Like we did for the black top, I would like to take donation to be put aside in an account just for the air conditioners. If we can get enough money saved, maybe we can replace more than one at a time and we won't have to spend the extra money to rent a crane each time. The donation will be taxed deductible and if you need a receive, we will send you one. Make checks out to the MASSILLON KNIGHTS FOUNDATION (MKF) and mail to 988 Cherry Road N.W., Massillon, OH 44647 or you can leave it at the bar. It doesn't matter how big or small your donation is, every bit helps.

I just want to thank everyone for supporting our K Club

Clubroom Report, *Julie Harman, Complex Manager*

Browns yearly board is available at the Bar \$25 a square!

Next concert at the pavilion is scheduled for Saturday, August 23, 2025! Out of Eden a Tribute to the Eagles! Tickets are \$10 each. You can purchase at k8event.com or at the gate. Our kitchen is selling food & drink at the pavilion. There will also be other food trucks and a beer truck.

We are hiring part time line cook & part time bartender-Call if interested 330-837-9101.

Bingo is every Monday 6:30pm and Doors open at 4pm. We still need volunteers as well if interested call 330-837-9101.

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

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

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	<u>Program Activity Chairmen:</u>		
Recorder	Tom Seesan	234-650-4021	Gen Program Dir	Graham Zeneri	844-7712
Treasurer	Ken McLaughlin, PGK	571 1203	FAITH	Ken McLaughlin, PGK	571 1203
Financial Sec	Paul Haig, PGK	837-1411	FAMILY	Bob Pittinger, PGK	571-5150
Advocate	John Ferrero, Jr.	265-9584	COMMUNITY	Matt Meyer, PGK	284-9365
Warden	Eric Fichter		LIFE	Joe Vilhosky	
Inside Guard	Ken Smith		Squires	Nathan Courter	
Outside Guard	Chris Newstetter		Membership	Chuck Maier	418-8741
1-Year Trustee	Bob Pittinger, PGK	571-5150	EFF Director		
2-Year Trustee	Matt Meyer, PGK	284-9365	Youth Chairman	Chris Campbell	
3-Year Trustee	Chuck Maier PGK	418-8741	Degree Team Capt	Bryan Stewart	605-8840
Field Agent	Larry Suter	280-2626	Complex Mgr	Julie Harman	837-9101
Bulletin Editor	Ken Girt, PGK	608-1729	Bingo Mgr	Ron Kurpieski	936-8058
Webmaster	Kyle Shane		Bereavement Chr	Graham Zeneri	844-7712

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

Columbian Ladies Guild, by Karen Franz, President

The Columbian Ladies are on a summer hiatus. We will not be meeting until September 23.

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

Sir Knights, our next Bishop Massillon Assembly business meeting will be Tuesday August 5th at 6:30 PM This will be a Ladies Night, with a picnic at the pavilion starting at 7:00 PM. Some of our officers and ladies will be setting up and cooking. Great food and beverages will be provided. Please plan to join us for a fun evening.

Please note our Assembly business meetings will be at 7:00 PM this year with a light meal at 6:30 PM. If we are having a special event or Ladies Night our meetings will start at 6:30 PM with the event following.

Saturday, August 23. We have the installation of officers for the Bishop Massillon Assembly. This will take place at Saint Joseph Church, Divine Mercy Parish in Massillon. There will be a Mass at 4:00PM with our installation to follow immediately after at 5:10PM. This is an open ceremony and everyone is welcome to watch. Immediately after installation we will gather at the Irish Pub 8009 Hills and Dales Rd NW Massillon Ohio. We will use the private room.

We have several events coming up for the remainder of our fiscal year. Divine Mercy Parish is having a Patriotic Rosary prayed on Saturday, August 9th at 12 noon at Saint Barbara Church. All are invited to come and pray for our country through the intercession of our Lady. October 4th and 5th is the Gun Show food and drink service. October 7th Ladies night German themed food fest at the pavilion. December 6th at 6:00PM Tom & Jerry Ladies Night dinner. Details need to be finalized on upcoming events.

Contact me with any suggestions or questions. I am looking forward to seeing you at our picnic.

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.

In Memoriam; James Halter

Jim Halter, 81, of Jackson Township passed away on July 9, 2025. He was a 1962 graduate of Jackson High School and began farming as a young boy. Alongside his farming life, he spent 32 years with East Ohio Gas Company, retiring in 2000. Jim was a proud member of the Ohio Farm Bureau for over 50 years, serving two terms as president. He was also actively involved with the Stark Soil and Water Conservation District for more than four decades, including 20 years as a respected member of the board. He was a member of Divine Mercy Parish and the KofC Council 554.

Jim is survived by his loving wife of 60 years Mary Ellen and daughters, Kathryn, Karen and Kristina

In Memoriam; Jerome Kemp Sr.

Jerome (Jerry) Kemp Sr., age 88, of Massillon, passed away Tuesday, July 29, 2025. He was born August 25, 1936, in Massillon, and 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 St. Mary's Catholic Church, K of C Council #554, 3rd Degree. He is survived by sons Jerome Jr., Joseph and daughter Anne M. He was preceded in death by his wife Carolanne (Eberhardt) Kemp.

ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR: Monday, September 29 at 7pm at St Barbara. This program will feature: Cathi Heitger, Rick Chapis, Larry Suter and Maria the DMP Sexton

Recruitment Drawing Winners

Each year, Massillon Council 554 has a recruitment drawing for the new members and their proposer. On July 8, we held our drawing for the 14 new members from the past year, and we are proud to announce the three winners and their proposer, who will each receive a KofC 554 polo shirt. The winners were: **Tommy McCarthy**, proposed by Jack Fichter, **Will Hoffer**, proposed by Mark Hoffer, and **Frank Thristino**, proposed by Bob Pittinger. Congratulation!

Upcoming Calendar of Events...**.....August, 2025**

- 5 7:00 PM 4th Degree Meeting – Picnic Ladies Night
Supreme Convention Washington DC
12 7:00 PM Reg. Council Meeting, Budget Vote
14 7:00 PM Stark County Chapter Meeting
15 **Feast of the Assumption**
26 6:30 PM Officers and Trustees Meeting

.....September, 2025

- 1 **Labor Day**
2 7:00 PM 4th Degree Meeting
9 7:00 PM Reg. Council Meeting
11 12:10 PM 9-11 Memorial; Mass St. Joseph
7:00 PM Stark County Chapter at Co 554
14 9:00:AM KofC Breakfast St Mary (Seminarian Support)
17 1:00 PM Bloodmobile
23 6:30 PM Officers and Trustees Meeting
7:00 PM Columbian Ladies Meeting
29 7:00 PM Estate Planning Seminar St. Barbara
30 6:30 PM BUNCO

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

K Club Weekly Specials

Happy Hour



Mon. - Fri. 4:00 - 6:00 pm

Happy Apps Wednesdays

\$1.00 off all Appetizers

Thirsty Thursdays

50 cents off all Beers & Seltzers

4:00 - 9:00 pm



The K-Club Dining Summer Menu Specials



- Beginnings:** Fried Cauliflower - \$6, Mac-n-Cheese Bites - \$6, Chicken Nuggets - \$6,
Pepperoni Bites - \$7, Broccoli Bites - \$7.
- Salads:** Ceaser Salad - \$10.
- Handhelds:** Turkey club - \$10, Italian - \$10, Meat Ball - \$10, Chicken
Bacon Ranch - \$10, Coney Dogs - \$7, Chicken Parmesan
Sandwich - \$12, Francisco Burger - \$10, Gyro - \$10
- Dessert:** Funnel Cake Fries w/Ice Cream - \$6

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



Congratulations to Jerry Luckner who advanced to the Third Degree of the Order on Sunday, July 20, at the degree ceremony held at St. Mary Church after the 8 AM Mass. Pictured, eft to right, front row, Joe Vilhosky, Jerry Luckner, and Gary Lamielle. Back row: Lary Studer - Insurance Agent, Ken McLaughlin, Brian Stewart – Grand Knight, Paul Haig and Chuck Maier.

ST. MICHAEL PARISH

5K

Run Walk

GOD, FAMILY, & COMMUNITY
Canton, Ohio 2025

KofC

Knights of Columbus 5K

Adult 5k Run/Walk • Student 5k Run/Walk • Family Fitness Fun Walk

Saturday, September 6th | 8:30 am

SIGN UP HERE

OR AT WWW.STMICHAELCANTON.ORG

PATRICK REAGAN (330) 853-0492

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: 07/08/2025 Present: 15

Opening Prayer The meeting was opened at 7:00 pm with a prayer lead by Chaplin Fr. Seifert followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: A motion was made by Bob Pittinger to accept the minutes of the June 10, 202 as presented. Seconded by Chuck Maier.

Motion carried.

Chaplain's Message: Fr. Seifert talked about his recent visit to Rome and the Vatican.

Grand Knight's Report Grand Knight Bryan Stewart thanked the Knights present for the opportunity to serve as the 77th Grand Knight of Council 554. We've had 4 successive years as being a Star Council and we will go for our 5th this year. We currently have 441 members in the council. He stressed that we need more council members to get involved with our activities and challenged the members to encourage those members they sponsored to get involved. Bryan listed upcoming dates and programs as approved by Fr. Sheridan. They are: Silver Rose, July 9 at St. Joseph; Installation of Officers July 10 in Massillon; Membership Drive at all three churches July 12 and 13; First Degree, July 20 at St. Mary's; Officers and Trustees Meeting, July 22; Next regular meeting, August 12; Blue Mass, September 11 at 12:10 pm at St. Joseph; K of C Breakfast, September 14 following the 8:00 am Mass at St. Mary's; Fall Estate Planning Seminar, September 29 at 7:00 pm at St. Barbara; Knights to lead the rosary at all Masses every weekend in October and May; Collection of baby items entire month of October: Measure Up Collection November 2; Council 554 Memorial Mass, November 18 at 6:00 pm at St. Barbara; Spring Estate Planning Seminar, February 9, 2026 at St. Mary's; Lenten Day of Devotion, March 21, 2026 at 2:00 pm at St. Joseph.

Financial Report: Treasurer Ken McLaughlin reported the following current amounts: Checking account \$3,419.50; Savings Account \$75,854.72; Bingo Account \$22,288.02; Charities Account \$20,628.54; Calendar Account \$20,628.54. He also reported that for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, \$24,308 was transferred from the Bingo Account to the Charity Fund and \$144,580.71 was donated to the Foundation.

Council 554 Donations: Council donated \$25 for Masses for each deceased members F. Minnoch and J Houman, \$2000 for Ultra Sound Project for Stark Chapter KofC, \$200 for fundraiser for R Schmidt. \$16,943 donated to Massillon Knights Foundation from machines.

Membership: There are two pending members, Sam Arnold and Robert Meek.

Program Director's Report: Almost four officers that need to be certified through Supreme safe environment program.

District Deputy Report: No report

Fourth Degree Report: Bob Pittinger reported the following: The 4th Degree picnic will be August 5th; there will be a fall out for the Silver Rose program; there was a fall out for Ed Hill's funeral.

Unfinished Business: Some of the officers had a meeting with Fr. Sheridan to discuss the some of the program plans for the upcoming year and to get his approval for them. All are covered in the Grand Knight's Report.

New Business: The members spent a lengthy amount of time with Treasurer Ken McLaughlin reviewing the proposed council budget for fiscal year 2025-2026. The second reading and vote will be at the August meeting. Grand Knight Bryan Stewart announced the following for June: Knight of the Month, Ron Kurpieski Family of the Month, Tom and Chiquita Seesan; Volunteer of the Month, Bob McCauley.

Financial Secretary: Paul Haig reported that currently 40 members have not paid their dues for this year. Football tickets for the fundraiser will be mailed out in August.

The Good of the Order:

Closing Prayer: The meeting adjourned at 9:13 pm with a prayer for the canonization of Blessed 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

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

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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.

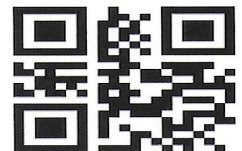
A compassionate priest in a culture strongly prejudiced against Catholics, Father McGivney recognized the spiritual and economic struggles of his parish's families.

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