



Massillon Council 554



Knights of Columbus

March 2026

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

The Lenten season can be viewed two ways: Giving up on something, or gaining something. Yes, we're giving up sweets, alcohol, even social media. Yet, we're gaining ways to grow closer to Jesus. Praying the rosary. Helping a friend in a time of need. Finding a new program within the parish that interests you. Lent is the perfect time to ignite a fire within you to do what God called you to be. Let us aspire to live out His words in acts of humble service that will be brought to fulfillment as we celebrate as a community of faith on Easter Sunday.

We are planning a **Membership Drive** the weekend of March 7 within our churches to spread the word of our mission and who we are. The world always will need Knights! Join us for our next council meeting on Tuesday, March 10. Food and fellowship at 6:30 pm, business at 7pm. We will be nominating delegates for the 127th Annual Ohio State Convention in Columbus Memorial Day Weekend.

Saturday, March 14 will be the **Annual Catholic Men's Fellowship** at St. Thomas Aquinas, please register at cmfdoy.org. Later that day we will hold our next Exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity after the 4pm Mass at St. Joseph. Now is a great time to join us and put your Faith in Action.

Join us for a **Lenten Day of Devotion** on Saturday, March 21 at 2pm at St. Joseph. Details within the newsletter.

And finally, our annual **Past Grand Knights dinner** will be held Tuesday, March 24 beginning at 6pm. We honor those who've led our historic council over the years, and as current Grand Knight, I thank you! Please note, the officer and trustee meeting has been moved to Tuesday, March 31.

Finally, you should be receiving **Super Cash Bonanza (SCB)** tickets in the mail, along with your membership card if you've paid your 2026 dues. If you haven't paid your dues, contact FS Paul Haig as soon as possible. With each \$5 SCB ticket sold, the council retains \$2.40 for local charities. The more tickets we sell, the bigger the rebates! If you need more tickets than you were given, or if you know a non-profit, parish ministry, or community organization that can use some help raising money, contact an officer and we'll point you in the right direction. Thank you for participation in advance in this charitable mission.

May God bless you all in this Lenten journey. Remember in darkness, there will be light. Always. Vivat Jesus!

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

How are your Lenten practices going? We are now starting the second week of lent. Are you keeping your Lenten practices? Are you doing what the scriptures on Ash Wednesday requested? They asked for us to pray to become closer to the Lord Jesus. Also to deny ourselves of things that make us selfish. They also asked us to do charitable things like taking care of our neighbors. We still have five weeks to go so do the best you can.

Honorees of the Month for February 2026

Congratulations to **Tim Altier** for being selected as our Knight of the Month. Tim belongs to Divine Mercy Parish and helps on cleanup projects at church and our complex. He is also the Secretary of the DMP Men's Club.

We also congratulate **Ken & Linda Girt** for being selected Family of the Month. Both work the Hot Lunch Program, Bingo and other projects. Ken is the newsletter editor and Linda is Membership Chairlady for the Columbian Ladies.

Congratulations to **Karen Franz** for being selected as Volunteer of the Month. Karen works every Monday night at Bingo and is President of the Columbian Ladies.

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

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

We hope everyone is doing well. The weather is starting to change and hopefully it will warm up soon and be nice for Easter. Don't forget to check in with your family and friends to make sure everyone is okay or if they need anything.

Our Lenten Fish fries has started, and we have a new cook, Jessie Thorne, who will be starting on Tuesday, March 10. In the meantime, our past cook, Blaine, is helping until the new cook takes over.

We have new improvements coming to the building. The Mansard roof is going to be replaced. We are not sure when they will be starting but please observe the No Parking Sign if they are placed around the building so your vehicle does not get damaged.

We are still looking for Bingo Workers. If you would like to volunteer, please call the office and leave your name and phone number and which Monday you would like to work. (330-837-9101)

Clubroom Report, Julie Harman, Complex Manager

We will be having a Nite at the Races March 21, 2026 co-sponsored by Tuslaw Baseball & Jr Baseball! We have limited tickets available at the office if interested let the bartenders or Julie know or call the office 330-837-9101 to reserve seats! Tickets are \$25 each for a night of food, drink & fun!!!

Remember our Fish Frys every Friday from 4pm-9pm during Lent. Blain is back helping our new chef, Jesse Thorne.

Bingo is every Monday 6:30pm doors open at 4pm. Call us if you can help work. 3340-837-9101.

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

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF MARCH MEETING DATE----- Ladies we will be meeting a week later in March due to a conflict with a Knights Dinner. We will meet on MARCH 31 at 6:30 pm. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THIS DATE CHANGE. Please plan on attending this meeting as we will be voting on the bylaws changes that we made in September. We must have a quorum for this vote, so your vote will count! Plan on attending.

At this meeting we will also be presenting officer nominations. If you have someone to propose for an office, we will accept nominations at this meeting. Please check with the person that you would like to nominate is willing to make that commitment.

Do not forget to pay your dues. Dues can be left at the bar. Linda Girt is our membership person so all inquiries concerning membership should be addressed to Linda. She can be reached at 330-933-5518.

I hope that all of you have been safe and checked on your friends and family during this cold weather. I think due to Phils prediction we are not done with the cold or snow so take care of yourselves until we see the crocus's start to poke their heads out of the ground.

REMEMBER; MARCH 31 at 6:30 at the KofC. Until we are together again, may the Lord bless you and watch over you and your family and friends. God Bless You;

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 have your membership card at the bar on your next visit. If you are unsure of your dues amount, the bartender will have a list. Call me at 330-933-5518 with questions.

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, Terry Philips, and Larry Alexander.

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

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

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

Our next Bishop Massillon Assembly meeting will be Tuesday March 3rd at 7:00PM. There will be a light meal at 6:30PM before the meeting. There is a special ladies night coming up in April. We are going to honor Father Raymond Paul for his years of service to Bishop Massillon Assembly 820. There will be a banquet style dinner buffet. The buffet will cost \$16 per person. If you're planning on attending, I need to get a number of how many are coming. Please contact me or Bryan Stewart by Wednesday March 25th.

There is a District One Exemplification scheduled for April 25. It is going to take place at St. Patrick Church, Leetonia, Ohio. If you know of any Third-Degree Knights that are interested in becoming a Fourth Degree Sir Knight, let them know about this and sponsor them.

Saints Philip and James will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of their school with a mass on Friday, May 1. They're asking for a Fallout for this event. More information will come in the April newsletter. Times will be available then.

There is going to be a Blue Mass on March 17 at Saint Joseph in Canton. The Uniformed members of Bishop Massillon Assembly have been invited to participate in this event. The Mass will start at 12:10 PM and Sir Knights should arrive at the front door by 11:50 AM. For additional Fallout information contact Graham Zeneri, or Chuck Maier.

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...

.....March, 2026

- 3 7:00 PM 4th Degree Meeting
- 10 7:00 PM Reg. Council Meeting;
Nom/Elect delegates State Convention
- 12 7:00 PM Stark County Chapter Meeting
- 17 **St. Patrick's Day**
- 18 1:00 PM Bloodmobile
- 21 2:00 PM Day of Devotion St. Joseph
6:00 PM "Nite at the Races"
- 24 6:30 PM Past Grand Knights Meeting/Dinner
- 31 6:30 PM Officer and Trustee Meeting
6:30 PM Columbian Ladies Meeting

.....April, 2026

- 5 Easter
- 7 7:00 PM 4th Degree Meeting / Ladies Night
- 9 7:30 PM Stark County Chapter
- 14 7:00 PM Reg. Council Meeting
- 28 6:30 PM Officer and Trustee Meeting
6:30 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

Charity, Unity and Fraternity Third Degree Ceremony

Council 554 will sponsor a Degree Ceremony on Saturday March 14, 2026, at 5:15 pm at St. Joseph Church following the 4 pm 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.

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.

MASSILLON COUNCIL 554 2025 - 2026 OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

<u>Officers</u>			<u>Round Table Coordinators</u>		
Chaplain	Fr. Mike Seifert	933-4148	Council Chairman	Ken Girt, PGK	608-1729
Grand Knight	Bryan Stewart	605-8840	St. Mary	Ken McLaughlin PGK	571 1203
Dep Grd Knight	Graham Zeneri	844-7712	St Joseph	Tom Ferrero	844-0469
Chancellor	Tim Paul	603-502-4455	St Barbara	Joel Fichter	830-9301
Recorder	Tom Seesan	234-650-4021			
Treasurer	Ken McLaughlin, PGK	571 1203	<u>Program Activity Chairmen:</u>		
Financial Sec	Paul Haig, PGK	837-1411	Gen Program Dir	Graham Zeneri	844-7712
Advocate	John Ferrero, Jr.	265-9584	FAITH	Ken McLaughlin, PGK	571 1203
Warden	Eric Fichter	933-3322	FAMILY	Bob Pittinger, PGK	571-5150
Inside Guard	Ken Smith	284-7763	COMMUNITY	Matt Meyer, PGK	284-9365
Outside Guard	Chris Newstetter	702-909-9616	LIFE	Joe Vilhosky	806-4036
1-Year Trustee	Bob Pittinger, PGK	571-5150	Squires 2645	Nathan Courter	
2-Year Trustee	Matt Meyer, PGK	284-9365	Membership	Chuck Maier	418-8741
3-Year Trustee	Chuck Maier PGK	418-8741	EFF Director		
Field Agent	Larry Suter	280-2626	Youth Chairman	Chris Campbell	
Bulletin Editor	Ken Girt, PGK	608-1729	Degree Team Capt	Bryan Stewart	605-8840
Webmaster	Kyle Shane		Complex Mgr	Julie Harman	837-9101
			Bingo Mgr	Ron Kurpieski	936-8058
			Bereavement Chr	Graham Zeneri	844-7712

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

Lenten Day of Devotion

Join us at St. Joseph Church for a Lenten Afternoon of Prayer and Devotion hosted by Council 554. Taking place on Saturday, March 21, 2025, starting at 2:00 pm, the event will begin with a prayer and reflection led by Fr. John Sheridan. We will then recite in the Holy Rosary, Stations of the Cross, and the Divine Mercy Chaplet & Novena. Our Lenten Day of Devotion concludes with the Mass of the Third Sunday of Lent.

Fr. Sheridan will also be available to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the devotions and before the 4:00 pm Mass. Come and immerse yourself in a time of spiritual renewal and reflection as we journey through the Lenten season together. All are welcome to attend.

Attention all Past Grand Knights of Council 554.

Council 554 will be conducting our annual Past Grand Knight meeting and dinner on Tuesday, March 24. We will meet at 6:30 to discuss the state of the council with our current Grand Knight, then enjoy a meal at 7:00 PM. All Past Grand Knights are invited to attend with your wives at no charge. Other attendees are welcome at a charge of \$10 each. Please contact Paul Haig 330-37-1411 for reservations. Also, the council will be voting at our March 10 council meeting on delegates for the May 22-24, 2026 Ohio State Council Convention in Columbus. Any PGK can be nominated.

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

Mushroom Burger - \$11.00

Bacon Burger - \$11.00

Texas Burger - \$11.00

BLT - \$8.00

Chicken Parmesan

\$12.00

Grilled Cheese - \$7.00

Chicken Sandwich - \$11.00

Brother's Sausage Sandwich - \$10.00

Chicken Bacon Wrap -

\$10.00

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

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 you 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

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.

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	
Recruitment	
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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: 2/10/2026 Present: 14

Opening Prayer: Chaplain Fr. Michael Seifert opened the meeting with a prayer at 7:03 pm, followed by Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: A motion was made by Chuck Maier to accept the minutes of the January 13, 2026 meeting as presented. Seconded by Eric Fichter. Motion carried.

Chaplain’s Message: Fr. Michael Seifert said that today the church celebrated the feast of St. Scholastica. She was a benedictine nun who died in the year 534. Fr. Seifert also reminded the knights that Lent begins on February 18 and we all should be thinking about what we are going to do to become better persons throughout Lent and after. Fr. stated in past Lents he had written letters to people he had not had contact with for many years to keep in touch with them. He reported that those people always enjoyed getting a personal letter. He said that Lent is a time for the spring cleaning for the church and it should be a time for the spring cleaning of our souls.

Grand Knight’s Report: Grand Knight Bryan Stewart thanked all those who supported the 125th Anniversary Dinner and thanked all those who helped organize the event. Special thanks went to Matt Meyer who headed up the committee and Ken Girt who did much research for the event. Other items reviewed were upcoming dates pertinent to our council. February 17 will be preparing the envelopes for the cash bonanza event. February 24 is the monthly officers and trustees meeting. The weekend of March 7 and 8 will be membership drives after all the Masses. March 10 is the next regular council meeting. March 14 is the annual Diocesan Men’s conference sponsored by the Catholic Men’s Fellowship to be held at St. Thomas High School. March 21 is the Lenten Day of Devotion to be held at St. Joseph’s. Bryan also reported that the Bishop is really pushing the COR program and will be having a diocesan training session on May 16 at Holy Family in Poland. The session is open to all, not just knights.

Financial Report: Ken McLaughlin reported the following numbers as of January 31, 2026: Checking account balance \$5,413.71; Calendar account balance \$35,697.27; Savings account balance \$61,978.00; Bingo account \$21,324.99 Total all accounts (including bingo and calendar accounts) \$124,413.97. Ken also reported that \$7,626.43 was donated to charities. From the bingo machines, \$6,576.43 was donated to the Foundation and \$1,824.63 was kept for the council.

Council 554 Donations: Council gave donations for Masses said for Mike Zeigler and Paul Sander and \$1,000 to St. Mary School for Nite at the Races. Council donated \$6,576 to MFK from Bingo Machines.

Membership: The next degree will be held on March 14 at St. Joseph. We have one potential new member to the council, Donald Demor. There is also the possibility of another new member. Bryan Stewart is working on this.

Program Director’s Report: Fraternal Benefits Report: Only two people showed up at the last session. So far, this fiscal year we have had only eleven total at all the scheduled events. We need to have fourteen to achieve star council. So if there are any members who can attend the next session, please do so.

District Deputy Report: No Report.

Insurance Report: Assistant General Agent Larry Suter discussed events of the insurance of the Knights of Columbus.

Fourth Degree Report: Faithful Navigator Chuck Maier reported that the 4th degree knights provided the fallout and presented the colors at the 125th anniversary dinner. Members of the 4th degree are gearing up for the next gun show. Volunteers are needed to serve food. Fr. Raymond Paul will be honored at the next lady’s night. He is being honored for his many years as serving as the Faithful Friar for the group. The next 4th degree exemplification will be held in Letonia on April 25th.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: Grand Knight Bryan Stewart shared a letter of thanks from the diocese about our participation in the matching funds for the Faith Formation program. March 30 is scheduled for the past Grand Knight’s dinner. Plans are in process. Bryan asked that we pray for all those missing people from the county.

The Good of the Order: Family of the month for December is Bob & Mary Kring, Knight of the Month is Jim Kracker, Volunteer of the Month is Rose Hammel

Massillon Knights Foundation Report: Rick Chapis. Foundation presented an update report on what’s happening with the Foundation. Currently, the search for a new cook is on. This is critical to help keep the Foundation going, especially with Lent and fish fries. For the first six months of the fiscal year (July 1 to December 31) \$54,00 was brought in from the bar; \$32,000 from rental for events. The Foundation realized \$108,000 in income. This is about \$20,00 less than the same time last year. Air conditioning unit repairs cost \$80,000. Some of that expense was covered by insurance as it was determined that the damage to the units was caused by lightning. The building fund currently has \$24,000 and there is \$140,000 in the Edward Jones account. Income from the knight’s bingo is certainly keeping the Foundation going. Many of the fiscal problems of the last year were due to the chef situation. The priority of the Foundation continues to be to keep the club profitable.

Closing Prayer: Chaplain Fr. Michael closed the meeting at 7:50 pm with the prayer for the canonization of Blessed Fr. Micheal McGivney.

Respectfully submitted: Thomas Seesan, Council Recorder

2026 Family, Knight and Volunteer of the Month			
	Family of Month	Knight of Month	Volunteer of Month
January	Bob and Mary Kring	Jim Kracker	Rose Hammel
February	Ken & Linda Girt	Tim Altier	Karn Franz

Friday Fish Fry’s 4pm to 9pm during Lent.



Larry Suter
Assistant General Agent

Larry.Suter 330 280 2626



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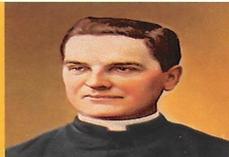
As a member of the Knights, you're eligible for a member/spouse accidental death benefit up to **\$5,000**.

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

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Turn over to learn more about Blessed Michael McGivney.

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

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Who is Blessed Michael McGivney?

Defender of widows and orphans.

Apostle of Christian family life.

Founder of the Knights of Columbus.

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

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

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

Become a Knight and unlock these benefits!

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Knights of Columbus®



Catholic Men's Fellowship of Youngstown

Saturday March 14, 2026

St. Thomas High School

We Present: Elvis Grbac

A Catholic Speaker and Ambassador of Faith



Elvis Grbac is the featured speaker at the annual Catholic Men's Fellowship Conference for 2026. Elvis is from the Cleveland area, growing up in a strong Catholic family, playing football in high school, college, and the NFL. Now retired, he is a motivational Catholic speaker and mentor to many young athletes, giving guidance and support to all, showing how a Man can serve his Church and Community, in the face of today's worldly distractions. Men are invited to join us as we meet as a Catholic community, as we strive to be better husbands, fathers, and sons. Bishop David Bonnar will celebrate the Closing Mass at Noon for all in attendance.

Go to WWWcmfdbj.org to purchase tickets.

Gather and Check-in 8:00-9:00 AM

Program starts 9:00 AM

Mass 12:00 PM

St. Thomas High School 2121 Reno Drive NE Louisville, Ohio 44641

Massillon K of C Council 554 Life Program Spring 2026

The Massillon K of C Life Program opposes abortion, assisted suicide, and euthanasia on moral grounds. We are closely related to the anti-abortion movement, but the difference is that while the anti-abortion focuses on abortion the same as us, we are also focused on euthanasia and assisted suicide. The consistent life ethic, held by Catholicism and the K of C opposes not only abortion, assisted suicide, and euthanasia, but also capital punishment and war.

The right-to-life movement is often associated with Catholicism and the Republican Party, but groups such as Secular Pro-Life and Democrats for Life of America hold anti-abortion and anti-euthanasia views also.

Massillon Council 554 Right for life plans during Spring of 2026 are as follows.

The 40 Days for Life takes place from Wednesday, February 18 to Sunday, March 29, 2026. During the Spring 40 Days for Life, the Massillon K of C Council 554 will do the Rosary on Sunday at the three Massillon Churches followed by the Divine Mercy Chaplet. The Stations of the Cross will be done the last week of the 40 Days at St Mary's.

Schedule

2/22/26 Rosary for Life at St. Barbara	2 pm (Sorrowful Mystery)
3/01/26 Rosery for Life at St. Joseph	2 pm (Joyful Mystery)
3/08/26 Rosary for Life at St. Mary	2 pm (Glorious Mystery)
3/15/26 Rosary for Life at St. Barbara	2 pm (Luminous Mystery)
3/22/26 Rosary for Life at St. Joseph	2 pm (Sorrowful Mystery)
3/28/26 Stations of the Cross for Life at St. Mary's	2 pm

A 9-day Novena for Life will be emailed to a 210+ contact list starting Friday Feb 20, 2026.

Blessings.....Joe



Our NEW 125th Anniversary shirts are NOW AVAILABLE!
 You can purchase one for \$37.52, add \$2 for sizes 2XL and up. Call Liberty Screen Printing and Embroidery, located at 2924 Lincoln Way W, at (234) 249-0290 and order yours today