



Massillon Council 554



Knights of Columbus

September 2025

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

Have you noticed all the noise these days? Political turmoil. A major restaurant in upheaval over their logo. The world's biggest musician getting engaged with social media gloating over it every 7 seconds. It's enough to drive the average person insane. My friends, you can turn off the noise. You can do so by talking with God. Praying the rosary. Go for a long drive. Or even getting lost in a great workout at the gym. Life is more than what is going with "the news", if that's what you call it these days. The less noise that surrounds you, the happier you'll be. Your mind will thank you. As reminded by Romans 12:2 which says: "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is; his good, pleasing and perfect will."

In council business: Our next Charity, Unity, and Fraternity (CUF) degree will be held on Saturday, September 6 following the 4pm Mass at St. Joseph. The degree will begin promptly at 5:15. Families are welcome to attend. If you know someone who wants to put their FAITH IN ACTION, contact Chuck Maier 330-418-8741 or myself 330-605-8840.

Plan to join us for our next council meeting on Tuesday, September 9. Food and fellowship at 6:30 PM, followed by the meeting at 7pm. Our stuffing for the 2026 1000 Club Calendars will be Tuesday, September 16 at 6:30 PM in the Nina Room. This is a major fundraiser for our council, so your help in getting these ready would be truly appreciated. Thank you in advance! Finally, the annual Celebrate Life Dinner will be held at the Parish Life Center at St. Barbara on Saturday, September 20. Details can be found on page 12 in this website edition of the newsletter.

Please pray for our students, teachers, and administrators as they begin another school year. School seems tougher today than when I went through school in the late 80s through the 90s, so let's give these folks all the prayers they can get. And never forget the ones this country lost in the horrific terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. May the Lord continue to heal the families of the fallen. Have a happy and safe Labor Day! God bless you all. Vivat Jesus!

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

Happy Labor Day. God has blessed us with a wonderful summer May fall and winter be the same. Remember to look after all your neighbors and friends as they are all our brothers and sisters.

Honorees of the Month for August 2025

Congratulations to **Ken McLaughlin** for being selected as our Knight of the Month. Kne is our Council Treasurer and organized the recent Divine Mercy Parish picnic. He also organizes the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry.

We also congratulate **John and Pat Dorka** for being selected Family of the Month. John works at our weekly Hot Lunch and Pat works for the Stark County Right to Life.

Congratulations to **Sandy Skirtich** for being selected as Volunteer of the Month. Sandy works at our weekly Bingo.

Massillon Knights Foundation Complex –Business Hours

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

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

Fraternal Report, by Ken Girt PGK

On our Member Sick List: Bill Ringley, 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: 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

School is in session so please be careful when driving. Children have a habit of coming out of nowhere especially when there is a stopped school. Also, don't forget to check in on your family and friends.

I want to let you know that all the air conditioners have been ordered and should arrive next week. They should be installed in the next two weeks. I have a few projects still going.

Browns tailgate will be starting on September 7. Club will open at 12:00 for 1:00 games. Please bring a covered dish to share. Hot dogs will be supplied by MKF. See you there.

Clubroom Report, Julie Harman, Complex Manager

Hope everyone had a great summer!! Fall is around the corner and getting ready for football season!!!

The club room will be closed Monday, September 1, 2025 for the Labor Day Holiday!!

First Browns Tailgate Party is on September 7, 2025 at 1PM doors open at Noon! MKF will provide the hot dogs you can bring in your own snacks/food for your table or the Pot Luck Table to share!! We will be having a 50/50 and door prizes!!

We would like to thank our MKF treasurer, Rick Chapis's grandson, Dylan for his donation to the MKF. We have already purchased a digital sign for the K-Club with events going on in our club. Please stop by have dinner, Drinks and check out the sign.

K8 Event Team will be having two more concerts this year at the pavilion. September 6th, Jimmy & the Parrots 6:30pm-10pm & September 13th Rumours 7pm-10pm. You can get tickets for \$10 each at the k8event.com.

MKF will be having their club room dinners back for September & October!! See ad in newsletter.

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 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.

Columbian Ladies Guild, by Karen Franz, President

Welcome back Columbian Ladies. Hope you enjoyed our summer break it sure was a hot one. I hope you and your family survived the heat and are ready for some cooler weather. Cooler weather means returning to our fall meeting schedule and new projects.

A very special thank you goes out to Barb Pittinger for researching, ordering and picking up the Columbian Ladies polo shirts, The ladies decided to have shirts that have our Columbian Ladies name on them, We help out with a number of activities that the Knights do and the ladies thought this would be a good way to let everyone know that we are Columbian Ladies. If you are a Columbian Lady and would like a shirt please see Karen, Mary Ann, Annie or Barb (she will be doing the ordering).

I hope you have been looking around to see what possible projects we might become involved with this year. Don't forget there are areas where the KC is looking for volunteers. Hot lunch (we have a number of people who are retiring at the end of the year). helping with the foundation dinners (no experience they will train you), working Night at the Races (various jobs), Bingo (we are going to lose our caller in another month) someone to call back bingo winners (once a month or oftener). A special THANK YOU to all of those people who are helping out with bingo. REMINDER; Our first meeting of the fall is September 23, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

MKF Clubroom Dinner – Thursday, September 18, 2025

“City Chicken”

The price of the dinner is \$12 for one-piece; \$15 for two-piece. Meal includes: mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, dessert and home-made bread.

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

Reservations are required by noon on Wednesday, September 17. Call 330-837-9101. Please leave your Name, Phone Number, Number of 1-pc or 2-pc Dinners, Dine-In or Take-Out and what time you will dine-in or pick-up (at front Canape.)

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, September 2nd at 7 PM. There will be food available at 6:30 PM.

We had our installation of officers for the Bishop Massillon Assembly on Saturday, August 23rd.

October 4th and 5th is the Stark County gun collectors gun show. As in the past we will be providing food and drink service. If you would like to help, please contact Brian Stewart, Faithful Captain.

On Saturday October 18th, there will be a Fourth Degree Exemplification at the Holiday Inn Boardman. This is an excellent opportunity to invite men of your Council to become a Sir Knight and become a member of the Assembly.

The Massillon Knights of Columbus Council 554 has rescheduled their Blue Mass. It will be held on the Memorial Day of the Guardian Angels, Thursday, October 2nd, 2025 at 12:10 PM at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church, Massillon. They have requested a Fall Out for that Mass.

Mark your calendar! On Tuesday, October 7th, we will have our annual German food fest and that is a Ladies Night. The assembly meeting will be at 6:30PM and the Oktoberfest will be at 7PM in the pavilion.

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. Right to Life Dinner, 40 Days for Life Program.

Upcoming Calendar of Events...

.....September, 2025

- 1 **Labor Day**
- 2 7:00 PM 4th Degree Meeting
- 9 7:00 PM Reg. Council Meeting
- 7:00 PM Stark County Chapter at Co 554
- 17 1:00 PM Bloodmobile
- 18 5:00 PM MKF Clubroom Dinner
- 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

.....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
- 28 6:30 PM Officers and Trustees Meeting
- 7:00 PM Columbian Ladies Meeting

Massillon Council 554 - Estate Planning Seminar

Council 554 will sponsor an Estate Planning Seminar for our members and our guests on Monday, September 29 at 7pm at the St. Barbara Community Room. We will have four speakers who will focus on recommended planning for the event of a death in the family. Attorney **Rick Chapis**, a member of Council 554, will discuss: Power of Attorney, Wills, Living Wills, using an Online Will, and setting up a trust and beneficiary. **Cathi Heitger** of Heitger Funeral Service will discuss Pre-need Planning, average cost of a funeral, cremation, and how to prepay for a funeral. **Larry Suter** K of C Insurance Agent will discuss Whole Life and Term Life policies, Investment and Retirement Opportunities, and Long-Term Care. And **Maria Johnson** Divine Mercy Parish Cemetery Sexton will discuss the process to purchase a cemetery plot and the costs. This hour-long program is open to the public.

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

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

Web: <http://www.massillonkofc554.org>**Round Table Coordinators**

St. Mary	Ken McLaughlin PGK	571 1203
St Joseph	Tom Ferrero	844-0469
St Barbara	Joel Fichter	830-9301

Program Activity Chairmen:

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



Council 554 Bunco Night will be September 30 with light meal at 6:30, consisting of a Taco Bar. Bunco to follow at 7:00. Everyone is invited.

Charity, Unity and Fraternity Third Degree Ceremony

Council 554 will sponsor a Degree Ceremony on Saturday September 6 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.

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)

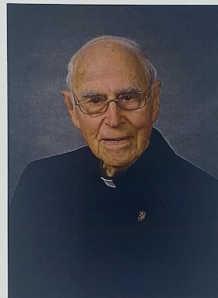
Ala Carte Sides \$5 each: Side Salad, Cole Slaw, Cottage Cheese, Applesauce, Mac -n-
Cheese, Fresh Cut Fries, Baked Potato (add \$1), Sweet Potato Fries (add \$1.50)

Massillon KofC SNAPSOTS



Bishop Massillon Assembly held it's Installation of Officers on Saturday, August 23 at St. Joseph Church. Pictured left to right, front row: Jim Caughlin, Bob Pittinger, Chuck Maier and Paul Haig. Back row: Ed Custer, Ray Badzik, Bryan Stewart, Matt Meyer and Graham Zeneri.

IN MEMORIAM REVEREND MONSIGNOR JAMES KOLP ORDAINED APRIL 29, 1950



JUNE 11, 1925 - FEBRUARY 6, 2025

Our Fair Booth is being dedicated to Reverend Monsignor James Ralph Kolp, a Pro-Life Advocate who devoted 75 years to Right to Life of Stark County participating in the annual "Right to Life March" in Washington, DC into his 90's and attending our "Celebrate Life Dinner" each year. Monsignor was born in Canton, Ohio and graduated from St. John's High School in Canton, Ohio. He served for many years with the Knights of Columbus on the local, state, and national level and also was an Eagle Scout and remained very active in Scouting for 90 years. Monsignor loved to play the piano never reading music. He loved the parishioners he served in all the parishes he was assigned to. Monsignor Kolp was laid to rest in St. Peter Cemetery in Canton, Ohio.

Stark County Right to Life dedicated their 2025 Stark County Fair booth in honor of Msgr Kolp, former chaplain for Council 554 who passed away on February 6 of this year. The plaque shown above hung in the booth during the fair.

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: 08/12/2025 Present: 15

Opening Prayer Prior to the meeting, Rick Chapis and Paul Lambert from the Knight's Foundation gave an update on the status of the Foundation. The meeting was opened at 7:00 by Chaplain Fr. Michael Seifert with a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Seventeen members were present.

Minutes: A motion was made by Chuck Maier to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2025 meeting as presented. Seconded by Bob Pittinger. Motion carried.

Chaplain's Message: Fr. Mike Seifert informed the members that August 17 is the feast of St. Euphilius. He gave a short history of the saint and his importance in the church

Grand Knight's Report Grand Knight Bryan Stewart reported that stuffing envelopes for the annual Ohio Knight's football fund raiser will be August 19 at the K of C. September 11th is the First Responder's Mass at St. Joseph at 12:10 pm. Also on September 11th, the Stark Chapter will meet at the K of C at 7:00 pm with a meal at 6:60. The next Officer's and Trustee's meeting is scheduled for August 26. The next regular meeting for the council is September 9th. He will give a short summary of the state meeting that he and Graham Zeneri attended.

Financial Report: Treasurer Ken McLaughlin reported the current amounts: \$683.80 in checking; \$19,128.54 in the charities fund; \$74,984.69 in the savings account; \$19,128.54 in the calendar account; \$114,360.97 in all accounts including the bingo account. Ken also reported that since the inception of the bingo games in 2023, we have given the Knight's Foundation \$269,274.67.

Council 554 Donations: Council donated \$50 for Masses for each deceased members E Hill and J Halter,, \$6,200 donated to Massillon Knights Foundation from machines.

Membership: The next membership drive will be on September 6th at St. Joseph after the 4:00 pm Mass. There is one proposed new member, Brian Popovich. A motion was made by Chuck Maier to accept the membership of Brian Popovich. Seconded by Joe Vilhosky. Motion carried. There are a possible two more new members.

Program Director's Report: Graham Zeneri reported on the following: He reminded the members of the upcoming membership drive; Safe Space has been completed; Fraternal Benefit presentation will be September 29th; Right to Life Dinner to be held on September 20 at St. Barbara's at 6:00 pm. Registration deadline is September 7th

District Deputy Report: No report

Fourth Degree Report: Bob Pittinger reported that the officer installation for fourth degree is August 23rd at St. Joseph after the 4:00 pm Mass.

Unfinished Business: Matt Meyer updated the members on the 125th Anniversary Celebration. Ken McLaughlin presented the 2025-2026 budget for the third reading. After a few more revisions, Matt Meyer made a motion to approve the budget as presented and revised. Seconded by Bob Pittinger. Motion carried.

New Business: Pau; Crowley asked the members for volunteers to man the Right to Life booth at the Stark County Fair. A sign-up sheet was passed around. Bob Pittinger suggested that when we have meals for our meetings and Knight activities, we use the Knight's Foundation for the food instead of bringing food in from the outside. This will help generate more business for the foundation and take the burden off of one or two knights to provide food. The K of C breakfast will be held Sunday October 12 after the 8:00 am Mass at St Mary's.

The Good of the Order: Family of the Month--Matt and Ivey Meyer; Knight of the Month--Chris Newstetter;

Volunteer of the Month: Mary Lou Stenger

Closing Prayer: Fr. Michael Seifert closed the meeting at 8:10 pm with the 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
August	John ad Pat Dorka	Ken McLaughlin	Sandy Skirtich

***Right to Life
Of Stark County
“Celebrate Life Dinner”***

Featured Speaker



Tracie Shellhouse

***Tracie is Vice President of Ministry Services for Heartbeat International
Tracie will speak on Abortion Pill Reversal. Statistics show more than 7,000 lives have been saved
through APRN, the most effective response to chemical abortion. Reversing the effects
of the first abortion pill has given a second chance for mothers to choose life.***

Saturday, September 20, 2025

Doors Open at 5:00 p.m.

Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m.

***Divine Mercy Parish Life Center
Saint Barbara Catholic Church
2813 Lincoln Way N.W., Massillon, Ohio
Admission: \$30.00***

***Tickets must be ordered and payable in advance to
Right to Life of Stark County - P.O. Box 8834 - Canton, Ohio 44711***

Reservation Deadline - September 12, 2025

**Your \$30.00 Admission will also give you a chance to win a one week's
Stay at the beautiful Patty's Paradise in St. Augustine, Florida**

“Unborn Babies Feel Pain”

BLUE MASS

Honoring the Work of our Local
First Responders



Join the Massillon Knights of Columbus Council 554
Memorial Day of the Guardian Angels

Thursday, October 2, 2025 at 12:10pm

Celebrant, Very Reverend John Sheridan
St. Joseph Catholic Church
322 3rd Street SE, Massillon, OH 44646

All are welcome



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

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



**Knights of
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.

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.

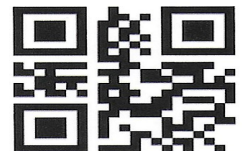
A compassionate priest in a culture strongly prejudiced against Catholics, Father McGivney recognized the spiritual and economic struggles of his parish's families.

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!**

Visit kofc.org/Join
to get started today.



**Knights of
Columbus®**