



Massillon Council 554



Knights of Columbus

February 2026

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

We began this month with our 125th Anniversary Celebration! It began with a beautiful Mass with our Council Chaplain Fr. Mike Seifert celebrating, along with Fr. Edward Gretchko, our Former State Chaplain Fr. James Lang, and Divine Mercy Parish Pastor Fr. John Sheridan. And yes, yours truly was singing for the Mass if you happened to see me. I want to thank Bishop Massillon Assembly 820 for escorting our clergy and presenting colors for our ceremony at the hall. I want to thank our Massillon Knights Foundation for the use of the hall, and the kitchen staff for the wonderful meal. Our officers and Brother Knights for putting this all together over the past year, especially our Chairman PGK Matt Meyer and PSD Ken Girt for carrying most of the weight on this project! And a giant THANK YOU to State Deputy Mike Felerski for coming all the way from Cincinnati to join us, and to Massillon Mayor Jamie Slutz for your support of our council and the proclamation! Great night for our council, the future looks bright for the next 125 years!

On Monday, February 9, we will host another Fraternal Benefits Night at 7pm at the St. Mary School Education Center. Valuable information will be presented to prepare for the death of a loved one. Details within the newsletter. Join us for our next general council meeting on Tuesday, February 10. A special kitchen menu with \$10 items will be available, please order no later than 6:30. Business begins at 7pm. The Catholic Men's Conference will be held Saturday, March 14 at St. Thomas in Louisville. Elvis Grbac, former NFL quarterback, will be the featured speaker. Visit cmfdoy.org

Finally, I'd like to share a story that is proof prayer and faith work. On February 1, I marked 38 years free of leukemia. In layman's terms, blood cancer. I fought through hard chemotherapy for about 3 ½ years before doctors declared me free of the disease. It took me a minute to realize what had happened that Monday morning after that last spinal tap with everyone with smiles and tears around me, both doctors and parents. God gave me quite a challenge to fight when I was little, and it taught me about strength, courage, the will to fight, and to have faith. Being Catholic going on 10 years now, I've come to understand now God only gives you what you can handle. If I only realized that in that hospital room on that Monday morning. May God bless you and keep you along this journey we call life. Vivat Jesus!

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

As we begin February, we celebrate the feast of our Lord Jesus being presented in the temple. We also bless candles on this day. Then we celebrate the feast of Saint blaze with the blessing of our throats. Further into February begins the season of lent. This is the spring time of the church. We celebrate by remembering our baptism and by repenting of our sins. This is like spring, cleaning our souls. Make sure you receive the sacrament of reconciliation during this time so that we can be prepared to celebrate Easter filled with God's love and joy. May this season of repentance be with each and every one of us.

Honorees of the Month for January 2026

Congratulations to **Jim Kracker** for being selected as our Knight of the Month. Jim works the St. Vincent de Paul Food pantry and volunteered at the Divine Mercy Parish Picnic in August.

We also congratulate **Bob and Mary Kring** for being selected Family of the Month. Mary is the President of the Stark Right to life and Bob has been helping with our printing needs since our printer passed away.

Congratulations to **Rose Hammel** for being selected as Volunteer of the Month. Rose helps at our Hot Lunch program on Wednesday and helped at the recent St Mary School Note at the Races.

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

I want to remind everyone that our Fish Fry dinners will be available during the Fridays of Lent from 4 pm to 9 pm.

And we will have a special Fish Fry on Ash Wednesday, February 18, from 4 pm to 8 pm.

I want to thank everyone who help with all the events this past year, also with the remodeling and any other job that need to be done. Your help was greatly appreciated, and I hope you continue to volunteer.

Clubroom Report, Julie Harman, Complex Manager

We will be having a tailgate party for the Super Bowl on Sunday, February 8, 2026! Doors open at 4PM It will be run just like our regular season Browns Tailgates! MKF will be making the hotdogs and you can bring food for your table or bring food to share!

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!!!

We will be having special Fish Fry on Wednesday, February 18, 2026 4pm-8pm, for the beginning of lent and every Friday from 4pm-9pm during lent.

Dinner special for Saturday, February 14, 2026 will be Steak or Pork chop dinner and shrimp cocktail. Reservations are required by February 10, 2026 call the office or call the bartenders.

Bingo is every Monday 6:30pm doors open at 4pm.

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

Columbian Ladies Guild, by Karen Franz, President

Columbian Ladies..... hope you are all safe and warm. Remember to check on your family and friends. REMINDER ; Our next meeting will be February 24th at 6:30 p.m. at the KofC. We have a lot on our agenda so we are looking for you at that meeting. We will be reviewing the bylaws and voting on the changes that were made at our last meeting in October. The changes include information about dues and our membership.as well as the elimination of officers that no longer pertain to the group.

We also will be presenting a slate of officers for the new year. We will not be voting at this meeting as the slate must be presented and the voting done at our next meeting. If you are asked to take an office please consider this commitment to the Columbian Ladies. We would like to keep this group an active part of the KofC.

We had good attendance at the Memorial Mass, and our Christmas party (thanks Austin for the entertainment), Thank you to all of you who were in attendance at these events,

Thank you to Mary Ann for the bingo lottery basket and to Mary Ann and Annie for the Nite at the Races lottery basket.

May the Lord watch over you and yours until we are together again.

Columbian Ladies Guild Dues, by Linda Girt, Membership Director

Columbian Ladies Guild dues are being accepted for 2026. Dues are \$10 per year, except for members with 20 years of service, who pay \$5. If you are 90 years old, dues are free. You can drop off your dues to the bartender at the K-Club and I will then 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 Francis and Patty Carmola (daughters of Al), Kathleen Fealko (wife of Ed), Cristen Farris (daughter of Ed), Nancy Eberhart (wife of Ron),

If you want your name or a member's name added to our list, please email girtken@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

I hope everyone's new year started out well. Our next Bishop Massillon Assembly meeting is Tuesday, February 3rd. This is a Ladies Night. The meeting will start at 6:30 PM and the Ladies Night dinner will start at 7:00 PM. The theme for Ladies Night will be Happy Valentine's Day.

Our next Ladies Night will be April 7th at 7:00PM. This will be a very special Ladies Night. We are going to honor our immediate past Faithful Friar, Fr. Raymond Paul. Fr. Paul has been a blessing to Bishop Massillon Assembly for many years. There will be more information on this event in the March newsletter.

The Patriotic Rosary will be prayed on Saturday, February 7th 12:00PM at Divine Mercy Parish, St. Barbara Church. All are invited to come and pray for our country through the intercession of our blessed Lady.

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...

.....February, 2026

- 1 5:00 PM Council 554 125th Anniversary
- 3 7:00 PM 4th Degree Meeting (Ladies Night)
- 8 5:00 PM Super Bowl Party
- 9 7:00 PM Estate Planning Seminar St Mary
- 10 7:00 PM Reg. Council Meeting
- 12 7:00 PM Stark County Chapter Meeting
- 14 **Valentine Day**
- 18 **Ash Wednesday**
- 24 6:30 PM Officer and Trustee Meeting
- 7:00 PM Columbian Ladies Meeting

Bingo: Monday Night 6:30 pm **Hot Lunch:** Wednesday 10:45-Noon **Massillon Knights Foundation Mtg:** 3rd Tues of month 6pm
Massillon Squires Circle Meeting: 1st and 3rd Wednesday, 7pm at St Joseph School

.....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
- 19 5:00 PM MKF Clubroom Dinner
- 21 2:00 PM Day of Devotion St. Joseph
- 6:00 PM "Nite at the Races"
- 24 6:30 PM Officer and Trustee Meeting
- 7:00 PM Columbian Ladies Meeting
- 31 6:30 PM Past Grand Knights Meeting/Dinner

In Memoriam: Michael Ziegler

Michael R. Ziegler, 85, formerly of Massillon, passed away Sunday, January 4, 2026. He was born in Alliance and retired from Superior Meats and St. Mary's Church and School. He was a member of Divine Mercy Parish/St. Mary's, Massillon K of C Council #554 3rd Degree and Bishop Massillon Assembly 4th Degree. He was also a member of St. Mary's Choir and was Council 554 Newsletter Editor for years.

Michael is survived by son Michael J. and daughter Lorie. He was preceded in death by wife Kay. May he Rest in Peace.

In Memoriam: Paul Sander

Paul N. Sander, 92, of Massillon, passed away on January 21, 2026. He was born in Massillon and was a graduate of Washington High School. Paul was a veteran of the United States Army. He retired as a local IBEW 540 electrician after 45 years. Paul was a member of Divine Mercy Parish, St. Barbara and The Knights of Columbus. He volunteered with Faith in Action and the Food Pantry at St. Barbara's Catholic Church for 33 years.

Paul is survived by his loving wife of 69 years, Donna and their children, Scott, Vicki, Debbie, and Linda. May he Rest in Peace.

Massillon Council 554 - Estate Planning Seminar

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

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

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

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

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

This hour-long program is open to the public.

1000 Club Calendars, *Matt Meyer, 1000 Club Chairman*

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

MASSILLON COUNCIL 554 2025 - 2026 OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

| | <u>Officers</u> | |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Chaplain | Fr. Mike Seifert | 933-4148 |
| Grand Knight | Bryan Stewart | 605-8840 |
| Dep Grd Knight | Graham Zeneri | 844-7712 |
| Chancellor | Tim Paul | 603-502-4455 |
| Recorder | Tom Seesan | 234-650-4021 |
| Treasurer | Ken McLaughlin, PGK | 571 1203 |
| Financial Sec | Paul Haig, PGK | 837-1411 |
| Advocate | John Ferrero, Jr. | 265-9584 |
| Warden | Eric Fichter | 933-3322 |
| Inside Guard | Ken Smith | 284-7763 |
| Outside Guard | Chris Newstetter | 702-909-9616 |
| 1-Year Trustee | Bob Pittinger, PGK | 571-5150 |
| 2-Year Trustee | Matt Meyer, PGK | 284-9365 |
| 3-Year Trustee | Chuck Maier PGK | 418-8741 |
| Field Agent | Larry Suter | 280-2626 |
| Bulletin Editor | Ken Girt, PGK | 608-1729 |
| Webmaster | Kyle Shane | |

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

| | <u>Round Table Coordinators</u> | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|----------|
| Council Chairman | Ken Girt, PGK | 608-1729 |
| St. Mary | Ken McLaughlin PGK | 571 1203 |
| St Joseph | Tom Ferrero | 844-0469 |
| St Barbara | Joel Fichter | 830-9301 |

| | <u>Program Activity Chairmen:</u> | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Gen Program Dir | Graham Zeneri | 844-7712 |
| FAITH | Ken McLaughlin, PGK | 571 1203 |
| FAMILY | Bob Pittinger, PGK | 571-5150 |
| COMMUNITY | Matt Meyer, PGK | 284-9365 |
| LIFE | Joe Vilhosky | 806-4036 |
| Squires 2645 | Nathan Courter | |
| Membership | Chuck Maier | 418-8741 |
| EFF Director | | |
| Youth Chairman | Chris Campbell | |
| Degree Team Capt | Bryan Stewart | 605-8840 |
| Complex Mgr | Julie Harman | 837-9101 |
| Bingo Mgr | Ron Kurpieski | 936-8058 |
| Bereavement Chr | Graham Zeneri | 844-7712 |



Bishop Massillon Assembly welcomes new member, Jerry Luckner, who took his degree on Saturday, January 17 in Brunswick, Ohio. Pictured left to right are: Graham Zeneri, Faithful Commander, new Sir Knight Jerry Luckner and Bob Pittinger, Faithful Admiral.

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)

HANDHELD

Comes with Chips

Basic Burger - \$9.00

Texas Burger - \$11.00

\$12.00

Grilled Cheese - \$7.00

Brother's Sausage Sandwich - \$10.00

\$10.00

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

Mushroom Burger - \$11.00

BLT - \$8.00

Chicken Sandwich - \$11.00

Bacon Burger - \$11.00

Chicken Parmesan

Chicken Bacon Wrap -

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

125 Anniversary SNAP-SHOTS



Frs. John Sheridan, Mike Seifert and Ed Gretchko at the Anniversary Mass.



Historical Display at the banquet



Paul Lambert, MKF President, discusses building history.



Mayor of Massillon Jamie Slutz reads Proclamation from City of Massillon.



125th Anniversary Cake.



Nearly 90 attendees at the 125th Anniversary Banquet.

(More pictures next month)

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 | |
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| 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: 1/13/2025 Present: 12

Opening Prayer: The meeting was opened with a prayer led by Chaplain Fr. Michael Seifert followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: A motion was made by Ken Smith to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2025 meeting. Seconded by Eric Fichter. Motion carried.

Chaplain's Message: Fr. Seifert told the members that this was the feast of St. Hilary who was a bishop and doctor of the church. He was from Poitiers, France and lived in the 4th century. He defended the church against the heresy of Arianism—meaning that Jesus was not divine, only human. He was also a Trinitarian. We also celebrate the baptism of Jesus which was the first time all three persons of the Trinity were together. He emphasized that we are Christians and Trinitarians

Grand Knight's Report: Grand Knight Bryan Stewart reported the following: January 24 is a degree at St. Joseph after the 4:00 Mass. January 27 is the Officers and Trustees meeting. February 1 is the 125th anniversary dinner to be preceded by a Mass at 4:00 pm at St. Mary's. Doors to the dinner open at 5:00 pm with a buffet dinner at 6:00 pm. Tickets are available at the club room. February 7 is the pickup at St. Michael's for the cash bonanza. February 9 is a Fraternal Benefits presentation at St. Mary's starting at 7:00pm. February 10 is the next regular council meeting. Larry Suter will be in attendance. Rick Chapis from the Knight Foundation will also be in attendance. March 14 is the annual Catholic Men's Conference to be held at St. Thomas Aquanis High School starting with 8:00 registration and 9:00 conference beginning. Featured speaker is Elvis Gerback. Mass with the bishop at noon. March 21 is the Lenten Day of Devotion.

Financial Report: Ken McLaughlin reported the following financial information ending the month of December 2025: Checking account balance \$17,058.89; Calendar account balance \$30,548.27; Savings account balance \$61,975.89; Bingo account balance \$11,705.25; Total all accounts (Bingo and Calendar included) \$111,288.30.

Council 554 Donations: Council Gave \$500 to Seminarian Luke Liptak, \$240 to American Legion Boys State, \$500 to Boy & Girls Club, \$1000 to MKF Hot Lunch, \$500 each to St. Barb, St. Joe and St. SVdP Food Pantries, \$500 to Salvation Army food pantry, Council donated \$15,190 to MFK from Bingo Machines.

Membership: No report

Program Director's Report: Program chair Graham Zeneri reported on Grief Share, Coats for Kids, RSVP project, and Keep Christ in Christmas. He also informed the council about his session with Fr. Benson.

District Deputy Report: District Deputy Director Ron Makala attended the meeting. He reported that three of the four councils are on track for Star Council and 554 is one of them. However, meeting the membership criteria remains a problem for all councils. Ron informed the council about Fr. Benson's work in his home country of Nigeria and talked of the LINK (Life Initiatives for Nigerian Kids) program. Ron would like donations to the program from the Knights of Columbus.

Fourth Degree Report: Fourth Degree: We were reminded that there will be a Fourth Degree Exemplification at St. Ambrose in Brunswick. There will be a fallout for the 125th anniversary. Members of the Fourth Degree helped with the SAM Center veterans and their families.

Unfinished Business: Matt Meyer updated the council on the 125th anniversary Mass and dinner. An ad about the event will be run on Living Bread Radio for two weeks. Matt also updated the council on the clean-up of the office. Still some work to be done. Matt also reported that all the calendars are in and this was a good year for sales.

New Business: The free throw contest is scheduled for Sunday January 18 from 1:00pm to 2:00pm and Wednesday January 21 after school. Both sessions will be at St. Mary School. Our council is a \$1,000 sponsor at the Night at the Races at St. Mary and we were allotted four tickets for the evening. A safety committee is being established for Divine Mercy Parish and there will be a meeting for those interested in serving on the committee on Thursday January 22 at 6:30pm at St. Barbara. Help is needed to move the model of St. Mary church from the old convent to St. Barbara's for safe keeping since the fire department will be using the convent for training. Gary Lamielle informed the council that the Men's Group of Divine Mercy Parish can no longer sell the monthly lottery tickets unless we can get a license from the State of Ohio.

The Good of the Order: Family of the month for December is Cathi and Jeff Heither, Knight of the Month is Bob Pittinger, Volunteer of the Month is Melissa Tournio. Our Annual Honorees of the Year were announced: Chaplain/Religious of the Year for 2025--Fr. Raymond Paul; Knight of the Year for 2025--Rick Chapis; Family of the Year for 2025--Matt and Ivey Meyer; Volunteer of the Year for 2025--Ann Zeiglehofer.

Closing Prayer: The meeting was adjourned at 7:51pm with the prayer for the canonization of Fr. Michael McGivney led by Fr. Michael Seifert.

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 |

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



Larry Suter

Assistant General Agent

Larry.Suter 330 280 2626



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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 WWWcmfday.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