

# Massillon Council 554

*Knights of Columbus* *November 2026*

## Grand Knight's Report, *by Graham Zeneri, Grand Knight*

As you know November is the Month of Remembrance. It is a month filled with acts of charity for deceased family members, friends, and all the faithful departed. Especially if you're like me and lost someone very special recently.

Our next Council meeting will be on November 10th at 7pm with a meal around 6ish before the meeting.

Our Memorial Mass will be held on the 17th at 7pm in St. Barbara. See page 13 for complete list of memorials.

Thoughts on the importance of All Saints and All Souls Day: I will go so far as to say that if there was not purgatory, then we would have to invent it, for who would dare say of himself that he was able to stand directly before God. And yet we don't want to be, to use an image from scripture, 'a pot that turned out wrong', that has to be thrown away; we want to be able to be put right. Purgatory basically means that God can put the pieces back together again. That He can cleanse us in such a way that we are able to be with Him and can stand there in the fullness of life. Purgatory strips off from one person what is unbearable and from another the inability to bear certain things, so that in each of them a pure heart is revealed and we can see that we all belong together in one enormous symphony of being.

And may the souls of the faithfully departed by the mercy of God rest in peace. Thank you for all your prayers and continued support of our Council.

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

As we start November, we celebrate the feast of All Saints Day. This is the day that we celebrate all of our loved ones who have passed away and have not been canonized by the church. Then on the second, we celebrate all souls day. These are the souls that are awaiting entrance into heaven, but have not yet been totally purified in purgatory. We will be celebrating the lives of all our members who have passed away this year on November 17 at St Barbara 's church. Hopefully many of you will be able to attend. And then later on the 26th we celebrate Thanksgiving Day. This is the day we thank God for all the blessings he has given to us in our entire lives. The month is so full of reminders of our loved ones and we need to keep that in mind. Then at the end of the month on the 29th, we celebrate the beginning of advent. This is when we long for the coming of our savior at Christmas. God bless each and every one of you and keep your ancestors and loved ones in prayer

## Honorees of the Month for October 2026

Congratulations to **Paul Seifert** for being selected as our Knight of the Month. Paul painted the statue of Mary at our grotto and used his tractor to help spread mulch for our complex landscaping.

We also congratulate **Matt and Ivy Meyer** being selected Family of the Month. Matt is the chairman of our 1000 Club and both he and Ivy helped prepare the 2027 Calendars campaign.

Congratulations to **Annie Zeigelhofer** for being selected as Volunteer of the Month**.** Annie is the treasurer of the Columbian Ladies and works our Hot Lunch program and the weekly Bingo on Mondays.

## Fraternal Report, *by Ken Girt PGK*

**On our Member Sick List**: Bill Ringley, John Scheetz, Sam Meyer, Joe Vilhosky, Paul Thayer, Dr. Larry Bucher, Chuck Maier, Ken Null, Paul Lambert, Jack Wallace and Larry Alexander.

**On our Member's Family Sick List;** Mary Frances and Patty Carmola (daughters of Al), Kathleen Fealko (wife of Ed), Cristen Farris (daughter of Ed), Evelyn Fichter (mother of Eric), Andrea Peters (wife of Walt) and Marianne Jurkovich (wife of George).

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

## 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,

# The Massillon Knights Foundation

**Foundation Trustees: One Year:** Gary Lamielle, Jeff Heitger (Secretary), Rick Chapis (Treasurer),
**Two-Year:** James Brelish (Vice President), Paul Lambert (President), Bob Pittinger
**Three-Year:** Terry Philips, Dave Harman, Bill Beese

## Massillon Knights Foundation Report, *By Paul Lambert, President*

We have had great weather the last couple of weeks and hope everyone enjoyed it. Thanksgiving is only a few weeks away, please check in on your family and friends to see if they need anything for this holiday.

We would like to thank the Columbian Ladies for the gift of the new carpet in the entrance way and in the hallway. It will be installed shortly. Thank-you again Ladies.

We have most of our large projects done but we still have a few that are forthcoming. We have some small jobs that we will try to tackle this fall and winter. It's like fall cleaning. If you would like to donate a couple of hours, please call me at 330-833-3329. If we don't answer, please leave your name and number and we'll get back to you. We have things like the storage areas, kitchen ceiling and just picking up trash. Any help would be appreciated.

This weekend we will be installing the outside enclosure on the patio. We want to thank everyone who helped with this procedure. It really does help to keep the cold from coming in the door.

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

Club room will be closed on November 26, 2026 for the Thanksgiving Holiday!!

Come out on Saturday, November 28th for the Ohio State vs Michigan game. Doors open at 11am game starts at Noon. The kitchen will open at 1pm with a special menu. We will be having Door prized every quarter. The $5 monthly drawing and the monthly 50/50 drawing will be at 8pm along with the 25 cent & $1 drawings.

Don't forget the tailgate on November 29th at 1pm doors open at Noon.

Bingo is every Monday at 6:30pm doors open at 4pm. If you would like to volunteer call 330-837-9101.

Blood mobile is November 25, 2026.

**See K-Club flyers on the revised clubroom menu, specials, parties and live music performances on the web version of the newsletter (pages 5 & 6) http://www.massillonkofc554.org**

# Columbian Ladies Guild, *Elaine Lambert, President*

Our Christmas Dinner will be on Tuesday, December 15. Doors open at 5pm with dinner served at 6pm. Choice of meal is either Stuffed Pork Chops or Baked Scrod. A RESERVATION IS A MUST. LAST DATE FOR RESERVATIONS IS DECEMBER 4. If you do NOT turn in a RESERVATION – NO DINNER but you can come for the entertainment. NON-MEMBERS DINNER IS $20.00. For Reservation call Ann Ziegelhoffer at 330-844-2051. If she doesn't answer leave a message and she will get back to you.

November 17 at 7 pm is the Memorial Mass for Council 554 and Columbian Ladies. There are four deceased members of the guild that will be remembered at this Mass: Barbara Piper, Nancy Eberhardt, Rose Bracken, and Donna Cerreta.

## Columbian Ladies Membership Report*...by Linda Girt, Membership Chairperson*

Membership is due by the end of December 2026. You can pay your dues anytime now. I will be collecting dues at the Christmas Party. You can also pay for your membership at the bar/office in an envelope with your name, address, e-mail, and phone number. You can also mail your dues to me at: Linda Girt, 6433 Lutz Ave. NW, Massillon, OH 44646.

Thank you.

## 2027 "1000 Club" Calendars, *Matt Meyer, PGK, 1000 Club Chairman.*

Our new calendars for the year 2027 are now available from our council office or you can reach out to Matt Meyer at 330-284-9365 for information. The calendars are once again only $30 each and make great gifts for Christmas for the person who has everything. Christmas envelopes are available as well which makes gifting the calendars more fun. Each calendar has over 300 chances to win throughout the entire calendar year so make sure to get one or two or many of them before they are sold out! Each month has a bonus day where you can win more than the normal $50. We sell 1000 calendars so when they are gone, they are gone until the next year.

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

# BISHOP MASSILLON ASSEMBLY FOURTH DEGREE

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Faithful Friar | Fr. Ed Gretchko 844-4144 | Faithful Navigator | Ken Girt PFN 608-1729 |
| Faithful Purser | Edward Shuman 854-3691 | Faithful Inner Sentinel | Ray Badzik |
| Faithful Captain | Bob Pittinger 571-5150 | Faithful Outer Sentinel | Jim Coughlin, PFN 704-0048 |
| Faithful Admiral | Chuck Maier 418-8741 | Faithful 1-year Trustee | Matthew Meyer, PFN 284-9365 |
| Faithful Comptroller | Ken McLaughlin 571 1203 | Faithful 2-year Trustee | Roger Piper, PFN 936-0974 |
| Faithful Pilot | Edward Custer 806-6967 | Faithful 3-year Trustee | Mike Huryn |
| Faithful Scribe | Graham Zeneri 844-7712 | Commanders | Graham Zeneri 844-7712 |

## Faithful Navigator Report, *by Ken Girt, PSD, Faithful Navigator*

Ohio District 1 will hold a 4th Degree exemplification on January16, 2027, at St. Hilary Market Street in Fairlawn. Candidate Reg: 9-10am. 10:30 Exemp in Church, followed by photo. Luncheon at 1pm with Mass at 4pm. The Candidate Fee is $75. All Guests luncheon Fee: $25. Please register at Ohio KofC Ohio District 1. Contact me at 330-608-1729 with questions or candidate registration.

The Hennepin Province held a meeting in Monroe, Michigan on Saturday, October 24. Graham Zeneri and I attended the training sessions on assembly officer duties and Color and Honor Guard Training. I have videos which we can use to train those members with new uniform.

There will be a Fundraiser for the Honor House in Canton, (shelter for homeless veterans) at St Philip and James Council 11037 Breakfast on Sunday, November 15, 8:00 to 12pm. Need volunteers from Assembly to help. Call me.

Tom and Jerry Christmas Party Saturday, December 5 Door Open 5, eat at 6. Buffet Meal includes: Chicken and Scrod, Redskin Potatoes. Penne Pasta, Salad, Rolls and Butter, Coffee and Tea, and dessert. Cost: $25 per person. One free drink ticket included for all attendees. We need reservations by November 28. Call Ken at 330-608-1729 or Bob at 330-571-5150.

## Upcoming Calendar of Events…

### ……November, 2026

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | | ***All Saints Day*** |
| 3 | 7:00 PM | 4th Degree Meeting - 6:30 Food |
| 7 | 9:00 AM | Hiway Cleanup |
| 10 | 7:00 PM | Reg. Council Meeting |
| 11 | | ***Veterans Day*** |
| 12 | 7:00 PM | Stark County Chapter Meeting |
| 17 | 7:00 PM | Council Memorial Mass w/Col Ladies |
| 18 | 6:30 PM | Officers and Trustees Meeting (Special Night) |
| 25 | 1:00 PM | Bloodmobile |
| 26 | | ***Thanksgiving*** |

### …….December, 2026

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 7:00 PM | 4th Degree Meeting - 6:30 Food |
| 5 | 6:00 PM | 4th Degree Tom & Jerry Party |
| 8 | | ***Feast of the Immaculate Conception*** |
| | 7:00 PM | Reg. Council Meeting |
| 15 | 6:00 PM | Columbian Ladies Christmas Party |
| 16 | 6:30 PM | Special Officer & Trustee Meeting |
| 25 | | ***Christmas*** |
| 31 | | ***New Years Eve*** |

**Bingo**: Monday Night 6:30 pm **Hot Lunch**: Wednesday 10:45-Noon **Massillon Knights Foundation Mtg**: 3rd Tues of month 6pm

## In Memoriam: James F. Sieber, PGK, PFN

Sir Knight James F. Sieber, age 87 of Canton, passed away on October 9, 2026. Born in Canton, he was a Central Catholic High School graduate, and then served in the United States Air Force. He later retired from the Timken Company in 2000, after working as an electrician for thirty-five years.

James was an active member of Guardian Angels Parish at St. Joan of Arc Church, where he spent time as Eucharistic minister, a reader, as well as server. He was also a member of the Eagle Scouts Troupe #16. He was a Past Grand Knight of Knght of Columbus Council 554, Past Faithful Navigator of Bishop Massillon Assembly 4th Degree, a Former District Deputy for the Ohio State Council KofC and Captiain of the Ohio District 1 Fourth Degree Team.

Jim was preceded in death by his daughter Maria Orcutt. He is survived by his loving wife of sixty-one years, Florence (Chiaramonti) Sieber; children Bryan (Jerri) Sieber and Kathleen Sieber. May he Rest in Peace.

# Adopt-A-Highway

Massillon Council 554 will conduct our bi-annual highway cleanup of a 2-mile stretch of State Round 21 north of Massillon, on Saturday, November 7, 2026, starting at 9 am. We will meet in the St. Mary Church parking lot at 8:30 to coordinate travel to the project area. Volunteers needed. Call Matt at 330-284-9365. Help beautify the Massillon community!

# Annual Council 554 Memorial Mass

Council 554's Annual Memorial Mass will be held on Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at **7:00 pm** at St Barbara's Church.

There are five council members who will be remembered**: Micheal Ziegler, Paul Sander, Deacon Don Molinari, Thomas Lewis, and James Sieber.**

There are four Columbian Ladies who passed away since the last Memorial Mass: **Barbara Piper, Nancy Eberhardt, Rose Bracken and Donna Cerreta.**

**If you are a family member of any of our deceased members and would like to attend the Mass, please contact Bob Pittinger at 330-571-5150 so we can plan the refreshments afterwards. All are welcome to attend.**

## MASSILLON COUNCIL 554 2025 - 2026 OFFICERS &TRUSTEES

**Officers**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Chaplain | Fr. Mike Seifert | 933-4148 |
| Grand Knight | Graham Zeneri | 844-7712 |
| Dep Grd Knight | Ken Smith | 284-7763 |
| Chancellor | Matthew Meyer, | 495-0823 |
| 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 | Carson Shover | 605-9296 |
| Inside Guard | Eric Fichter | 933-3322 |
| Outside Guard | Chris Newstetter | 702-909-9616 |
| 1-Year Trustee | Matt Meyer, PGK | 284-9365 |
| 2-Year Trustee | Chuck Maier PGK | 418-8741 |
| 3-Year Trustee | Bob Pittinger, PGK | 571-5150 |
| Field Agent | Larry Suter | 280-2626 |
| Bulletin Editor | Ken Girt, PGK | 608-1729 |
| Webmaster | Kyle Shane | |

Web: http://www.massillonkofc554.org

**Round Table Coordinators**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 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 |

**Program Activity Chairmen:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Gen Program Dir | Ken Girt, PGK | 608-1729 |
| FAITH | Ken McLaughlin, PGK | 571 1203 |
| FAMILY | Matt Meyer, | 495-0823 |
| COMMUNITY | Matt Meyer, PGK | 284-9365 |
| LIFE | John Dorka | |
| Membership | Bryan Stewart. PGK | 605-8840 |
| EFF Director | | |
| Youth Chairman | | |
| Degree Team Capt | Bryan Stewart. PGK | 605-8840 |
| Complex Mgr | Julie Harman | 837-9101 |
| Bingo Mgr | Ron Kurpieski | 936-8058 |
| Bereavement Chr | Graham Zeneri | 844-7712 |

## 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 6 & 7 of website newsletter for latest K-Club menu**

## Friday Fish Fry's 4pm to 8pm

# Massillon KofC SNAP-SHOTS






Massillon Council 554 inducted three new member into the Order on Sunday, October 18 after the 8 am Mass at St. Mary. Pictured left to right, front row: James M Petryszak, Jim Petryszak (James's father) and John Kisner. Second row: Degree Team Larry Suter, Bryan Stewart and Graham Zeneri.



The new sign noting the "Msgr James Kolp ProLife Grotto" was installed by Paul Lambert (pictured left) and Bob Pittinger on Wednesday, October 28. We are honored to have such a strong supporter for the unborn as chaplain of our council.



Our MKF-Council 554 Hot Lunch workers posed for a recent photo. Pictured seated, left to right: Sue Hall, Paul Lambert, Elaine Lambert and Dale Piper. Standing: Ken Girt, Linda Girt, Vicky Hartman, Bob Pittinger, Annie Zeigelhofer, John Blackstone, Dave Kovach, John Dorka, Jerry Luckner and John Birman.

# The K-Club Dining

## Massillon Knights Foundation

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

## APPETIZERS

**Pizza Bites (8) $7**
**Fried Mushrooms (6) $7**
**Cheese Sticks (6) $8**
**Corn Dog Bites (8) $6**
**Onion Rings (6) $4**
**Tater Kegs $6**
**Cheddar Poppers (8) $6**
**Hot Pepper Cheese Stuffed Pretzel $6**

## SIDES

**French Fries $4**
**Sweet Potato Fries $6**
**Toter Tots $6**
**Applesauce $4**
**Cottage Cheese $4**

**Sauces** Available: Ranch, Honey Mustard, Cheese Sauce

## SALADS

**Side Salad $4** **Grilled Chicken Salad $12** **Grilled Steak Salad $14**

**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** **Grilled Cheese & Fries $6**

**Kid-sized Burger with Cheese & Fries $8**

***Consuming raw or undercooked meats, poultry etc may increase your risk of food illness***
(Food may contain allergens)

## HANDHELDS:

w/Fresh Cut Fries

**BLT $10**
**Grilled Cheese $7**
**Brother's Sausage Sandwich $10**
**Basic Burger $10 (bacon, cheese add $1)**
**Philly Cheese steak (Chicken or Steak) $11**
**Chicken Bacon Ranch Wrap $10**

# WINGS Bone in or Boneless

**Jumbo Naked 6 for $8 12 for $15 Boneless 6 for $8 12 for $15**

**Wing Dings 6 for $9 12 for $17 3 Tenders w/Fries $10 6 Tenders w/Fries $15**

**Sauces:** Honey BBQ, Kansas City BBQ, Hot Spicy BBQ, Carolina Gold, Garlic Parm, Xtra Hot, Buffalo, Hot Honey, Stinkin Hot Garlic, Thai Sweet Chili, Teriyaki, General Tso's, Bourbon, Jamaican Jerk

## TACO TUESDAY MENU (Tuesday Only)

**3 Beef Tacos $8**
**6 Beef Tacos $12**
**3 Chicken Tacos $6**
**6 Chicken Tacos $10**
**Super Burrito w/Rice $10**
**Loaded Nachos $12**
**3 Chicken Fajita Tacos (Soft Only) $10**
**3 Beef Fajita Tacos (Soft Only) $12**
**Beef Quesadilla $12**
**Chicken Quesadilla $10**
**Taco Salad $12**
**Taco Logs w/Rice $10**

**Sides**

**Salsa & Chips $4** **Queso & Chips $7** **Rice $4**
**Refried Beans $4** **Jalapenos $1** **Oreo Churros (6) $6**

## FRIDAY FISH-FRY MENU (Fridays Only)

**Battered or Floured Cod 1-, 2- & 3-piece Dinner with 2 sides $12/$14/$16**
**Breaded Catfish 1- or 2-piece Dinner w/2sides $10/$14**
**9oz Boiled Scrod w/2 sides $17**
**Breaded Shrimp Basket w/Fries $14**
**Breaded Clam Strip Basket w/Fries $14**
**Fish Sandwich w/Fries $13**
**Fish Hog Sandwich (bacon and American cheese) w/Fries $17**

**Xtra Sides for Friday**

**Baked potato $4** **Mac-n-Cheese $4** **Veggie of night $4**

*** Consuming raw or undercooked meats, poultry etc. may increase you risk of food illness. ***
(Food may contain allergens)

*Revised: June 1, 2026*

# MEMBERSHIP & DEGREES: There are two methods 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.

# Membership CUF Degree

Remember the Ohio State Council sponsors - LIVE - Online Exemplification of **C**harity, **U**nity and **F**raternity 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 tl 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:

Bryan Stewart, Membership Chair: thebryanstewart@icloud.com
Paul Haig, Financial Secretary: haig@sssnet.com
Ken Girt: girtken@sssnet.com

| Council 554 Recruitment | |
|---|---|
| 20 | |
| 19 | |
| 18 | |
| 17 | |
| 16 | |
| 15 | |
| 14 | |
| 13 | |
| 12 | |
| 11 | |
| 10 | |
| 9 | |
| 8 | |
| 7 | |
| 6 | |
| 5 | |
| 4 | |
| 3 | |
| 2 | |
| 1 | |

# Method 2. "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.

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.

**"One of the main reasons Blessed Michael McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus was to strengthen the men of his parish in the faith of the Church, to ensure that the core of their existence was touched and transformed by the powerful presence of Christ.**

*Archbishop William Lori, Supreme Chaplain Knights of Columbus*

# Membership Enrollment Form 11881

Print this page of the Form 11881 below to recruit a family member, co-worker, neighbor or friend to Knights of Columbus. The man must be a practical Catholic man, 18 years and older. Make sure you add your Membership Number in the [Member Referral Number] line. Return the completed form to the Council for processing.

## Membership Enrollment Form

☐ **Yes!** I am a baptized Catholic man over the age of 18 and a practicing Catholic. Please sign me up for e-membership in the Knights of Columbus at no cost for the first year (a $30 value)!

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Email: _____ Cell Phone: (_____) _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State/Prov.: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Parish: _____ Parish City, State: _____

Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / _____ Former Member? ____ Yes ____ No

Preferred Language: ____ English ____ Français ____ Español ____ Other: _____

Member Referral Number: _____ Council #: 554

By signing below, I attest to the accuracy of all the information provided above.

Signature: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

To complete your registration as an e-member, we will input the information you provided above into our online membership system. Once that is complete, you will need to confirm your membership by responding to an email that you will receive from the Knights of Columbus at the email address you listed above. If you do not respond to the registration email, a Knights of Columbus representative may reach out to you to help you complete the registration process.

11881 8/25

You can also sign up a Catholic man for the Knights of Columbus by using the E-Membership "Join Us" QR Code below. Be sure to enter "**554**" in the space for "**Preferred Local Council**".

# COUNCIL 554 PROGRAM ACTIVITES:

## 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 Jospeh Church: at 3:30 pm on Saturday, prior to the 4:00 pm Saturday Mas. 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 Roud Table Committee help with the quarterly social meals following weekend Masses.

### Divine Mercy Parish – Council 554 Round Table Committee.

**St. Joseph Church** Coordinator: Tom Ferrero, 330-844-0469 - **tferrero@sssnet.com**,
**St Barbara Church** Coordinator: Joel Fichter, 330-830-9301 - **fichterlaw@sssnet.com**
**St Mary Church** 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: 10/13/2026 Present: 11

**Opening Prayer:** Grand Knight Graham Zeneri opened the meeting at 7:00pm. Chaplain Fr. Michael followed with an opening prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Ken Smith to accept the minutes of the September 8, 2026 meeting as presented. Seconded by Bob Pittinger. Motion carried.

**Chaplain's Message:** Chaplain Fr. Michael Seifert asked that we pray for Pope Leo and his recovery from surgery and his healing from cancer. He said that today was the feast of St. Gerald of Aurillac. St. Gerald's father was a count but Gerald wished to live a life of poverty, prayer, and study. He worked with the poor and died in the year 909. Today is also the anniversary of the Miracle at Fatima.

**Grand Knight's Report:** Grand Knight Graham Zeneri reminded those present of the following dates: The first COR group meeting is October 17 beginning at 7:00 at the rectory at St. Mary. October 18—Degree after the 8:00am Mass at St. Mary. October 18—Octoberfest at St. Barbara. October 27—Next Officers and Trustees meeting at 6:30pm. November 7—highway clean up (weather permitting). November 10— next regular council meeting. November 17—annual memorial Mass at St. Barbara at 7:00pm.

**Financial Report:** Treasurer Ken McLaughlin reported the following numbers ending September 30, 2026: Checking Account $6,878.51; Savings Account $56,534.24; Calendar Account $15,031.72; Total Operating Accounts (Bingo and Calendar Accounts included) $110,641.91. He also reported that July bingo revenue (two months behind) was $32,197.44 of which $11,562.29 went to the Foundation and $2,102.24 went to the Council. Substantial donations were made to the following charities: $5,000 Measure Up; $509 Coats for Kids: $500 Salvation Army. He noted that between 55-60 breakfasts were served at the recent K of C breakfast and $273 was collected for the SOS campaign,

**Council 554 Donations:** . Masses said for T Louiss - $25. OSC Measure Up - $5,000. Coats for Kids (KM) - $589. OSC Matching Funds - $1,000. Salvation Army - $500. MKF - $11,562.

**Membership:** District Deputy Bryan Stewart reminded the group of the Degree scheduled for October 18. Our Council currently has 2 prospective members.

**Program Director's Report:** No Report

**District Deputy Report:** District Deputy Bryan Stewart was able to attend the meeting. He was pleased that this was the 5th year in a row that Council 554 was a Star Council and he presented the plaque to Grand Knight Graham Zeneri. He reported that Council 554 was currently the leader in new members in Youngstown Diocese. He is glad to see that the COR program is getting started in Divine Mercy Parish. Shipment of Coats for Kids distribution to area councils is November 14 at the Foundation parking lot. Football Frenzy tickets are due by October 28. Currently the council is waiting for non-insurance members to have a field agent meeting. However, this is the case throughout all councils.

**Insurance Report:** No Report

**Fourth Degree Report:** October 24 is the Provincial meeting in Monroe, Michigan. November 3—Next meeting; December 5 is the Tom and Jerry dinner. The cost is $25.00 per person. January 16, 2027—next Fourth Degree Exemplification at St. Hilary's in Fairlawn. Cost is $75.00.

**Unfinished Business:** Matt Meyer#1 presented the final plaques to be installed on the Msgr. Kolp Pro Life Grotto.

**New Business:** Treasurer Ken McLaughlin reported that the St. Mary School Booster Club had approached the council with a list of things needed by the group. They have asked for $4,000 toward the purchase of the items. This information will be presented at the next Officers and Trustees meeting.

**The Good of the Order**: Knight of the Month—Jerry Luckner; Family of the Month—Jeff and Cathi Heitger; Volunteer of the Month—Ken McLaughlin.

**Closing Prayer:** The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm with Chaplain Fr. Michael Seifert leading the prayer for the canonization of Blessed Fr. Michael 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 | Karen Franz |
| March | Paul & Mary Ann Haig | John Dorka | James Zeigelhofer |
| April | Jeff & Denise Campbell | Eric Fichter | Sue Hall |
| May | Paul & Elaine Lambert | John Birman | Vickie Hartman |
| June | Bob & Barb Pittinger | Bryan Stewart | John Blackstone |
| July | Dave & Julie Harman | Don Demor | Dee Schroeder |
| August | Paul & Mary Ann Haig | Matthew Meyer | Sandy Skirtich |
| September | Jeff & Cathi Heitger | Jerry Luckner | Ken McLaughlin |
| October | Matt & Ivy Meyer | Paul Seifert | Annie Zeigelhofer |

# Knights of Columbus Memorial Mass - Nov. 19, 2025 to Nov. 17, 2026

## Deceased Members of Massillon Council 554

### In Memoriam: Thomas P Lewis

Thomas Paul Lewis, 72, of Massillon, Ohio, passed away on November 11, 2025. Thomas was the owner and operator of L & M Plumbing for over 30 years.

### In Memoriam: Michael Ziegler

Michael R. Ziegler, 85, formerly of Massillon, passed away Sunday, January 4, 2026. He retired from Superior Meats and St. Mary's Church and School. He was a member of Divine Mercy Parish/St. Mary's, and Bishop Massillon Assembly 4th Degree. He was formerly the Council 554 Newsletter Editor.

### In Memoriam: Paul Sander

Paul N. Sander, 92, of Massillon, passed away on January 21, 2026. 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.

### In Memoriam: Deacon Don Molinari

Deacon Don Molinari, 90, passed away on February 10, 2026. He was born in Rochester, New York and was a Veteran of the U.S. Army and National Guard Medical Corps. He was ordained a Catholic Deacon in 1979, at St Joseph's Cathedral in Wheeling, WV. He served St, James Parish in Clarksburg WV for 22 years. Don also taught at Notre Dame HS in Clarksburg WV for 4 years where his students nominated him to appear in the "Who's Who of America's Teachers" three times. Don trained as a chaplain at St Francis Hospital in Charleston WV. He was Board Certified by the National Association of Catholic Chaplains in 1998. After moving to Massillon, Ohio in 2001, Don served St, Joseph's Catholic Church for another 23 years.

### In Memoriam: James F. Sieber, PGK, PFN

Sir Knight James F. Sieber, age 87 of Canton, passed away on October 9, 2026. Born in Canton, He served in the United States Air Force. He later retired from the Timken Company in 2000, after working as an electrician for thirty-five years. James was an active member of Guardian Angels Parish at St. Joan of Arc Church, where he spent time as Eucharistic minister, a reader, as well as server. Jim was a Past Grand Knight of Knght of Columbus Council 554, Past Faithful Navigator of Bishop Massillon Assembly 4th Degree, a Former District Deputy for the Ohio State Council KofC and Captain of the Ohio District 1 Fourth Degree Team.

## Deceased Members of the Massillon Columbian Ladies Guild

### In Memoriam: Donna Cerreta

Donna Jean Cerreta, 86, passed away on March 5, 2026. She was preceded in death by her husband, Louis Cerreta. Betty joined the Columbian Ladies Guild in 1978, a member for 48 years.

### In Memoriam: Nancy Eberhardt

Nancy Grace Eberhrdt, 84, passed away on March 11, 2026. She was preceded in death by her husband, Ron Eberhardt, former Financial Secretary of Massillon Council 554. Nancy joined the Columbian Ladies Guild in 1979, a member for 47 years.

### In Memoriam: Barbara Piper

Barbara J. Piper, 80, passed away on March 11, 2026. She was the husband of Dale Piper. Barb joined the Columbian Ladies Guild in 2024, a member for 2 years.

### In Memoriam: Rose Bracken

Rose M/ Bracken. 65, passed away on May 1, 2026. She was the daughter of the late Cletus "Barney" Barnhart. Rose joined the Columbian Ladies Guild in 2016, a member for 10 years.

*May they Rest in Peace!*



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®

11730 8/24

Knights of Columbus®

# Member Benefits

**Aside from the numerous personal rewards that come from being a Knight, here is a list of the many substantial rewards for you and your family.**

***Columbia Magazine*** — Free subscription to the Order's award-winning magazine examining issues of concern to Knights, Catholics and families

***Knights of Columbus rosary*** — Blessed by the supreme chaplain, presented during the Exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity to each new member

***Mass of Remembrance Each Weekday*** — Celebrated for deceased members and their wives at St. Mary's Church, the birthplace of the Order

***Insurance*** — Access to a portfolio of top-quality life insurance, long-term care insurance, disability income insurance and annuity products exclusive for members, their spouses and their dependent children

***Family Fraternal Benefit**** — Benefits for children of insured members that include guaranteed-issue insurability under age 18 and automatic death benefits for children dying before age 61 days

***Orphan Fraternal Benefit**** — Provides monthly benefits and college scholarships to each eligible orphan of insured members

***Member/Spouse Fraternal Benefit*** — Accidental death benefit for member in good standing and spouse at no additional cost

***Widow Benefits*** — a) continues to be covered under the Member/Spouse Fraternal Benefit; b) the surviving spouse of a Knights of Columbus insured may purchase life insurance, long-term care insurance or annuities after insured member's death; c) receives a free lifetime subscription to *Columbia*; d) eligible with her children for scholarships

***Scholarships*** — Scholarship programs for higher education available to members, their spouses and children

***Leadership Development*** — Opportunity to build personal leadership skills, public speaking ability, organizational skills, etc.

***Fourth Degree*** — Eligibility to join the Patriotic Degree

***Honorary Life Membership*** — At age 70 with 25 years of membership

***Membership Card*** — Entitles participation in all Catholic, fraternal and social activities in member's council and also in over 15,000 councils throughout the world

***Activities*** — Participation in a variety of programs and activities conducted by your council

**Subject to eligibility requirements, conditions and restrictions.*

# MASSILLON COUNCIL 554 2025 - 2026 OFFICERS &TRUSTEES

**Officers**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Chaplain | Fr. Mike Seifert | 933-4148 |
| Grand Knight | Graham Zeneri | 844-7712 |
| Dep Grd Knight | Ken Smith | 284-7763 |
| Chancellor | Matthew Meyer, | 495-0823 |
| 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 | Carson Shover | 605-9296 |
| Inside Guard | Eric Fichter | 933-3322 |
| Outside Guard | Chris Newstetter | 702-909-9616 |
| 1-Year Trustee | Matt Meyer, PGK | 284-9365 |
| 2-Year Trustee | Chuck Maier PGK | 418-8741 |
| 3-Year Trustee | Bob Pittinger, PGK | 571-5150 |
| Field Agent | Larry Suter | 280-2626 |
| Bulletin Editor | Ken Girt, PGK | 608-1729 |
| Webmaster | Kyle Shane | |

Web: http://www.massillonkofc554.org

**Round Table Coordinators**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 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 |

**Program Activity Chairmen:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Gen Program Dir | Ken Girt, PGK | 608-1729 |
| FAITH | Ken McLaughlin, PGK | 571 1203 |
| FAMILY | Matt Meyer, | 495-0823 |
| COMMUNITY | Matt Meyer, PGK | 284-9365 |
| LIFE | John Dorka | |
| Membership | Bryan Stewart. PGK | 605-8840 |
| EFF Director | | |
| Youth Chairman | | |
| Degree Team Capt | Bryan Stewart. PGK | 605-8840 |
| Complex Mgr | Julie Harman | 837-9101 |
| Bingo Mgr | Ron Kurpieski | 936-8058 |
| Bereavement Chr | Graham Zeneri | 844-7712 |




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

## 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 6 & 7 of website newsletter for latest K-Club menu**

## Friday Fish Fry's 4pm to 8pm