

Knights Life



www.kofc8157.org Holy Spirit Catholic Church – Duncanville, Tx,

Knights of the Year 2022-2023



During the past fraternal year (July '22 – June '23) it seemed like every time the Knights had an event or a job to be done, there was Efrain with his happy smile and disposition. Efrain joined the Knights of Columbus in Nov. 2001, and really got “cooking” with the Knights after he retired from the water department for the City of Dallas – he worked there for 37 years, you know. Although he had been active since his retirement, he pushed it up to a new level this past fraternal year. He has helped on countless Knight Hands projects – he has even begun to organize and supervise projects. He is skilled in almost all aspects of carpentry – he even made numerous pieces of furniture for himself. He can always be relied on to help at the concession stand when called upon – he’s quite the burger griller. He helps out at almost all cooking events, including St. Joseph’s Assisted Living Home in Oak Cliff. He is always in attendance at fish fries – making fish tacos

this past fraternal year. That’s well and good, but what really stood out this past fraternal year was his passion to serve others. He seeks to help others. He has found a number of people that needed Knight Hands help; he has started delivering meals on Wheels, he still participate in Boy Scout activities even though his two boy (Nicholas and Carlos) are now gone from home. While he was the Warden this past fraternal year, he always had the room organized and he started serving snacks before each meeting which has now turned into a meal. When you talk with Efrain you can sense the deep commitment to help others; the true embodiment of the first principle of the order – charity. Efrain married Lisa right here at Holy Spirit by Fr. Joe back in 1995 and they have raised Nicholas and Carlos while living in Ovilla. Someone has put the Spirit of giving into the heart of Efrain – probably the Holy Spirit huh?



Congratulation, Efrain, on being selected the Knight of the Year for 2022-2023.

About Your Council

Council Monthly Meetings

General Meeting every 1st Tuesday 7:00pm

Officer's & Directors every 3rd Tuesday 7:00pm

Postal address and meeting location

1111 W Danieldale Rd. Dining Room

Duncanville Tx, 75116 USA

972-298-4971

KC District 86 - Assembly 2799

The council Officers listed below were officially elected for their 1st term in office on June 7, 2022. Their term runs through June 2023

Chaplain	OPEN
Grand Knight	Mike Fitzgerald
Deputy Grand Knight	Marc Evans
Chancellor	Paul Ryan
Recording Secretary	Roberto Nieto
Treasurer	James Smith
Warden	Adan Luna
Inside Guard	Gamaliel Hernandez
Outside Guard	Russell LeRoy
Financial Secretary	Peter Perta
Advocate	Russell Gully
Trustees	Jim Russell
	David Dybala
	Dan Schneider

Service Program Directors

Awareness Committee	Jorge Ruiz
Concessions	James Smith
Church Activities	David Ybarra
Family	Jose Montoya
Faith	Charles Ruelas
Life	Mike Moloughney
Youth Activities	Mike Moloughney
Knight Hands	David Dybala
Retention	Paul Ryan

Membership	Jim Kowalski
Council Activities	Open
Disaster Preparedness	Open
Degree Team	Tom Greco
Sacramental Gifts	Keith Archer
Safe Environment	Russell LeRoy
Health Activities	Robert Nieto
Lecturer	Jim Russell

Knights Life Newsletter

Our Newsletter is published quarterly. The Newsletter is delivered electronically to your email address and is posted on our website. If you would like to receive a paper copy, they are available at the general meeting.

Newsletter Editor and Publisher Allen Reitmeier

Newsletter & Website Writers
Allen Reitmeier, Jorge Ruiz, Robby Zablan, Dan Murphy, Jim Russell

Newsletter and Website Photographer
Allen Reitmeier, Jorge Ruiz, Leon Cornute, Arthur Rodriguez.

Council Website

Website address kofc8157.org
Website Editor Jorge Ruiz
Website Admins Jorge Ruiz

Email Communications

Emails are sent to our members on a regular basis. Make sure you add the email address below to your contact list so our emails do not go to you junk/span folder.

Email address: admin@kofc8157.org

Membership Rosters

A full member ship roster is available in paper form to all Knights in good standing at the general meeting

Knight of the Month Oct. 2023



Jeff Traub

Brother Jeff Traub joined the Knights of Columbus in 2016, after the death of his mother, Burma Wodek. He believes his mom would be proud of his membership and participation in the Order.

Jeff celebrated his 49th birthday on the 12th of October - the same month he was named Knight of the Month. Although now “retired”, Jeff has been a Special Olympian nearly his entire life. Over the years he has participated in bocce ball, bowling, basketball, sailing and kayaking. A most impressive athletic record. Jeff has done a number of jobs, most recently helping out at Holy Spirit parish during the rummage sale and at the Tri-City Animal Center. This last reflects Jeff’s love for animals, including his dog Bozie. Most recently he will tell you that he works for the Knights of Columbus, doing “whatever they ask” for Jesus. When asked about his proudest accomplishments, Jeff says “I love the Knights of Columbus so much, and they always love me”. That by itself seems like the very description of a brother Knight.

Knight of the Month Nov. 2023



Billy Calander

Frito-Lay’s loss is our gain, for sure. Once David retired he gave more and more of his time helping other through the Knights of Columbus. He joined the Knights in July 2013 and is now a 3rd degree Knight.

He, along with his wife Davida, have long been active in teaching adults and children about our faith through Marriage Enrichment classes, Bible Study classes and by serving on the parish Adult and Family

Ministry Commission. Billy can be found at almost any and all Knights of Columbus activities – fish fries, concessions, and cook-outs. Billy never seems to get rattled. He is a steady influence on everyone around him. In spite of all the times he spend helping others – including delivering Meals on Wheels, Billy still has time for his family which includes Davida, daughter Libby and her husband Chris and grandchildren Robert, Lilly and David.

Knight of the Month Dec. 2023

Jesse Radillo



Congratulations, Jesse, on being chosen as the Knight of the Month for December 2023. Jesse attends Holy Spirit Catholic

Church and has done so since 1980 with his wife Teresa. They have one 28 year old daughter, Mia. Jesse was born Catholic in Mexico; but moved to the United States at age two. He was raised in El Paso His family owned a service station and that is how he knows the value of work through his father and the station. He became very familiar with the business owning aspect of the company. Although both of his parents are deceased, he learned many things from his parents. His father was a Knight as well and his mother was a very strong Catholic; they were at mass every Sunday and his mother kept up with religious articles, like medals that he even today wears around his neck which reminds him of his Catholic upbringing. During his upbringing they were confronted with anti-war draft associated sentiment. But Jesse says the vibe remained good and like-minded so there was never any conflict, at least not in their home. Jesse has also lived in Arlington and Dallas and they attend church on hwy 67 and Main St at Crossroads in order to get more Christian teaching.

Busy times for Knight Hands



On Saturday November 18, 2023 Knight Hands were completing projects at two different locations. David Dybala, Director of Knight Hands, was busy at the home of Roy Cormier as he and Mario Luna and Rod Kinard drilled post hole for a privacy fence. Sound pretty simple since Mario has a power auger – but not so simple because they encountered many, many tree roots which made the task extremely difficult. In addition they uncovered a buried electrical wire. Seems that Roy had buried the wire for a back yard well pump a number of years ago. After much discussion the work went forward. In total of 13 holes were drilled and now Roy can set the posts and build the fence



And while the holes were being drilled Efrain Ochoa (project sponsor and project manager), Dan Murphy, David Ybarra and Allen Reitmeier were tearing off rotted and termite eaten wood from 2 columns at the home of Juan Razo – he's the brother of Antonio Razo. You had to be there to see how complicated this job was; but by noon new columns were in place. Juan fed the group a tasty lunch, thanked everyone as well, and we were gone. Efrain Ochoa deserves a lot of the credit for this project since he was originally contacted by Juan and made the first visual inspection of the work site and the feasibility of Knight Hands taking on this project. In addition he was the project manager for this job and made sure the job got done right. Way to go Efrain



And a few day earlier, on Thursday November 16, 2023 David Dybala and Jorge Ruiz installed ceiling cove trim in two bedrooms at the home of Carlos Mendez, who lives in Oak Cliff. Have you ever cut and installed cove trim on an older home; one that is not particularly square? In the best of circumstances it is a very complicated and difficult job – in an older and not so square a home, it can be frustrating, to say the least. Nevertheless, David and Jorge, by using their ingenuity and grit, were able to complete the job and as always in a most satisfactory manner. Nice going guys.



Knight Hands are ever vigilant of those in need; and they respond quickly and with open hearts and numerous skills. Knight Hands is Charity in motion. Thanks to all who give of their time to make another's life a bit easier and certainly less stressful.

Proud to be a 4th Degree Knight

Who are these guys?



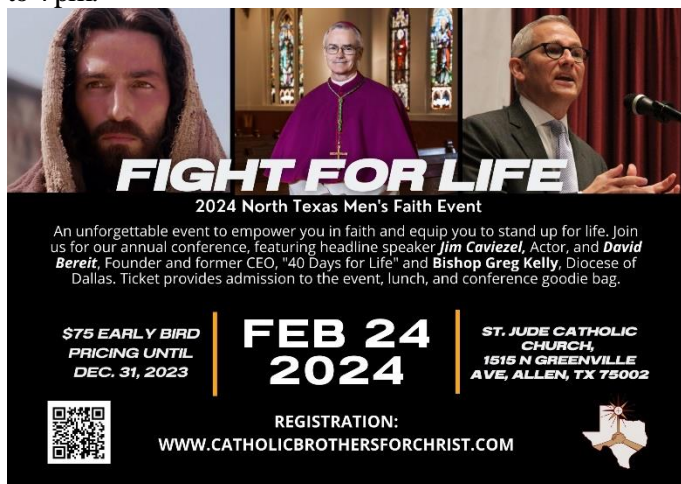
They are Gamaliel Hernandez, Adan Luna, Allen Reitmeier and Jesse Radillo.

These are the latest Knights from Council 8157 to be inducted into the 4th degree of the Order. On Saturday September 16th we four guys spent the majority of the day at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Waxahachie during which time we had the opportunity to mingle with other 3rd degree Knights there to be inducted into the 4th degree. Although not pictured, Fr. Steve – formerly from Holy Spirit was also inducted. We also prayed and paid homage to all the 4th degree Knights who had passed away during the past year from the 3rd District which included the diocese of Dallas, Ft. Worth and Tyler. Of course the highlight was the actual induction ceremony where we learned about the high points of the 4th degree. We learned about patriotism – the principle of the 4th degree. We learned that a man's country is not a certain area of land, mountains, rivers and woods, but it is a principle. Patriotist is loyalty to that principle. The fourth degree is the highest and most prestigious within the Knights of Columbus. Sir Knights are dedicated to serving their Church, Country, and our order; standing on the shoulders of those before us. Sir Knights stand in the Breach to serve, protect, and defend our country. Sir Knight Kenneth D, Franch PFN – Master BJPL Third Texas District bestowed the honor of the 4th degree on sixty

3rd degree Knights this day. He said “Sir Knights are patriotic men who are shining examples of Catholic American citizen that stand in support of our country. You will find Sir Knights at Veteran Administration hospitals serving food to other veterans, performing flag retirement ceremonies, serving as honor guards at cemeteries on Memorial Day and Veterans Day, carrying our nation, state and papal flags at the front of parades, standing guard at Brother Sir Knight’s wake and funeral...” After all the official ceremony we sat down to a yummy dinner. Mayra Hernandez, Norma Luna, Linda Reitmeier, and Teresa Radillo were also in attendance.

Fight for Life

The Leadership Team for the North Texas Catholic Men’s Conference is excited to have Jim Caviezel, star of The Passion of Christ and Sounds of Freedom at St. Jude Catholic Church, Allen, TX as our featured speaker on February 24th from 8 am to 4 pm.



FIGHT FOR LIFE
2024 North Texas Men's Faith Event

An unforgettable event to empower you in faith and equip you to stand up for life. Join us for our annual conference, featuring headline speaker *Jim Caviezel*, Actor, and *David Bereit*, Founder and former CEO, "40 Days for Life" and *Bishop Greg Kelly*, Diocese of Dallas. Ticket provides admission to the event, lunch, and conference goodie bag.

\$75 EARLY BIRD PRICING UNTIL DEC. 31, 2023 | **FEB 24 2024** | **ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH, 1515 N GREENVILLE AVE, ALLEN, TX 75002**

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December Christmas Lecture

By Jim Russell

Tis the season to be jolly as it is often said. It is a time for Christmas trees and holly, a time for eggnog, hot cider, and hot chocolate; a time for gift giving and receiving, good cheer and great joy. Christians celebrate the birth of the Savior. In the northern hemisphere it is generally cold and the days grow shorter. People talk and even sing of a “white Christmas. Our friends in the Southern Hemisphere are experiencing the heat of summer and the days are getting longer. So why do we celebrate Christmas in December?

The story of the birth of Christ is told in the Gospel of St. Luke. He gives us the most detailed story including the Annunciation when the angel appeared to Mary. He writes about the visit of Mary to Elizabeth. He also writes about the journey to Bethlehem, the birth in the manger and the flight to Egypt. Luke writes about an angel appearing to shepherds tending the flocks of sheep at night in the fields. Luke answers the “Who”, “What”, “Where”, and “Why.” What Luke does not tell us is the “When.” His only clue about “When” is the shepherds. It is highly unlikely that they would be in the fields at night in December. It would be cold and there would be very limited forage for the sheep.

Our celebration of Christmas can be traced back to at least 753 BC and possibly much earlier. The year 753 BC marks the beginning of the Roman kingdom. Among other gods the Romans worshipped the sun which they called Sol. The Romans identified the winter solstice as the day of the year with the least hours of daylight. The winter solstice was identified and celebrated as the “Birth of the Invincible Sun.” We know the solstice occurs about December 21st. In Roman times the days of the year were a bit flexible. The solstice could have occurred on any of several days of their calendar. In any case the day was known as the day the sun was reborn. The Romans marked the day with feasting and gift giving.

The early Christian church recognized the value of incorporating pagan celebrations and customs as a means of evangelism. It is a simple step to substitute “son” for “sun” in English. Latin is not so easy, but the story is the birth or rebirth of a god.

There is irrefutable evidence that the winter solstice was observed with ceremonies of various forms throughout Europe for thousands of years. The term “Yule” is derived from several Celtic words in many dialects, many of which mean “turning.” It was used to recognize the “turning” from shortening days to lengthening days. A Yule Log was a special log to be burned on the solstice. People living along

the seacoast know that the tide ‘turns. Therefore, the term ‘Yule Tide’ refers to when the days turn.

Just as the solstice was celebrated in different ways across Europe under the Romans, we observe the Christmas season with various forms of celebration. Some leave a lit candle in a window to guide the Holy Family to a welcoming home. In Scandinavia a daughter is tasked with rising early baking sweet rolls and serving the rest of the family breakfast in bed with the rolls and hot chocolate. She might wear a crown of evergreens with lighted candles in honor of St. Lucia who brought food to those Christians hiding in the catacombs during the persecutions in Rome. Many of us look forward to a visit by Santa Claus, the name is a corruption of the Dutch name for St. Nicholas, an early church bishop who was rumored to reward good children with gifts of money and the bad with shoes full of coal. We hang stockings by the fireplace because no one wants to put shoes outside where they might freeze or end up buried in a Christmas snowfall. Fir trees, holly and mistletoe are signs of the holiday because they maintain their green needles and leaves all winter long.

Our Hispanic brothers as well as our Eastern Orthodox brother Christians may delay their celebrations until January 6th commemorating the arrival of the Magi. The Gospel of St. Luke does not mention the coming of the Magi. Their story is found in the Gospel of St. Matthew. He tells us that they came from the East and brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. St. Matthew does not tell us when the Magi arrived or even how many were in their party, nor does he name them.

I remember when I was very young that our tree went up two weekends before the 25th and came down around New Years Eve. The tree was beginning to dry out and becoming a fire hazard. My wife’s family put up their tree Christmas Eve and left it up until January 6th. We compromised. Since my daughter was allergic to pines, we used an artificial tree. Limited fire hazard. The tree went up the weekend after December 11th and stayed up until January 6th. December 11th is one of my son’s birthday and it took him a year or two to learn that there was a difference between birthday presents and Christmas presents.

We wish you and all your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. And for my Spanish-speaking brothers

Family of the Month Oct. 2023



Gamaliel and Mayra Hernandez

Gamaliel Hernandez Enriquez is from Hobbs, New Mexico and has been married for over 15 years and is the father of one

boy and two girls. He is a truck driver and has been since 2001. He is also certified in air conditioning, has his license in life insurance and can sell life insurance, he likes to keep his options open. His hobby is to work out and teach his eldest son about life. He spends most of his free time with family, turning on the grill and chilling outside and eating. Gamaliel is a baptized Catholic and has an elder brother as well as a younger sister and his favorite saint is St. Michael the Archangel. There are two people that have had a heavy influence on him as a Catholic, Rolando Solbavarro and Marc Evans of Holy Spirit Catholic Parish. He says they are very much an inspiration to him. He also says that he loves to help people in any way he can, learn from them and hear their stories, especially older people as they like to share their wisdom.

Family of the Month Nov. 2023



Mike and Karen Moloughney

Michael Moloughney has been a member at Holy Spirit Catholic Church for 26 years. He is married

to his wife, Karen who he has four children with. He is from just outside of New York City in New Jersey. He became a knight in 2006 and was 4th degree in a very short amount of time. He says Catholic men become charitable, his Father was a Knight, and that it is very important to understand that and follow God’s calling. He feels he was always led by God to do things including becoming a youth minister at Holy Spirit where he can evangelize the Catholic faith to who better than the Catholic youth at our parish. Karen teaches Sunday school at the pre-k level as well. Michael is the pro-life coordinator for the church as well as the Knights of

Columbus. He is a very active pro-life member of the church. On top of being a Knight and outreach committee member, Sunday school teacher, pro-life coordinator, Michael is also an ACTS core team member as well as being an active prison ministry member. He compares the ACTS team retreat to the prison retreat and says that they really reach a lot of people doing the COLBY prison ministry retreat at Hutchins state prison here in Ellis County. "It is heavy encouragement to them who know nothing of the faith and love growing up as children," says Michael. Michael wants his own children to all be a part of the Washington DC march for life; his son hasn't gotten the opportunity, but that his three daughters have. Michael went to a Catholic High School and went to a Catholic Jesuit ministry for college, similar to the Pope. His occupation is a DC manager, he had managed a distribution center in Carrollton, TX,

Family of the Month Dec. 2023



Jorge and Katie Ruiz

Kathie and Jorge were married in New York City, 1978, and they have three sons, Jorge (lives in Crowley, TX), Javier (lives in Los Angeles, CA), and Rafael (lives in Ellicott City,

MD). Father Jorge is a semi-retired web marketing specialist as he was educated at the New York School of Printing after having migrated to the United States from Ecuador in South America. Both of his parents are still alive, but were divorced in 1971 and his Father raised the kids (5 sisters and 1 brother) as Jorge lived in New York for ten years. Kathie is a Psychotherapist and has been since 1984 and is also a cradle Catholic. Jorge's work also included promotion and advertising taking the business through the year 2000 active in political printing, campaigns (senatorial, presidential) as well as supporting the US Congress. The two of them have lived in Dallas, TX since 1980-81. Jorge says he is very satisfied with his Catholic way of life and is in fact, very proud of it. He has developed many opinions of things in the world and hopefully he feels that he leads his grandchildren in the right direction towards a fulfilling way of life which is a big responsibility. He uses the Knights to make that impact as well as maintaining a consistent leading attitude in life, something that he feels like he needs to be. Jorge has two grandchildren, one 4yr old girl and a 2 yr old boy.

New Knights



Alex and Drew Carlson

Alex and Drew Carlson joined our Council as a

team. They've been in the area and parishioners at Holy Spirit since 1998, with Drew hailing from Iowa and Alex from Nebraska. Both now admit to be full Texans. Alex is the only child to Drew and his lovely wife Suzi. Alex has a 9 year old daughter Trinity. Suzi is retired from the Marriott Corporation and Drew has been working in the tire industry from many years. Drew still works full time (and then some) managing and delivering big Commercial tires for T&W tires out of Fort Worth. Alex is an outdoorsman and Jack of many trades. Both are highly motivated Catholic men ready to get to work for the Council.



Efren Perez

We welcomed new Brother Knight Efren Perez, on Tuesday, September 12, 2023. Efren and his wife Carmela have been members of Holy Spirit for 2 years. They previously attended mass at Santa Clara of Assisi Catholic Church, Blessed Sacrament Catholic and Nuestra Senora Del Pilar

Catholic in Dallas. They have resided in their current address in Duncanville for 20 years. Efren & Carmela have been married for 25 yrs. and they have two daughters ages 24 and 12 years old. Efren is originally from Veracruz, Mexico and is self employed as a painter for the past eight years. Efren and his family spend the majority of their spare time taking care of their younger daughter. Efren would like to participate and assist in as many Knight events whenever his work schedule allows

Knights in Action

On November 5th, 2023, a group of our Knights under the guidance of our Community Director Dan Murphy cooked and served lunch for the residences of St Joseph's Home. This wonderful outreach program has been ongoing for the past 20 years with our Knights providing lunch for the residents twice a year. This year a total of 22 Knights and family members participated. Most gathered at Holy Spirit Church at 9am to load equipment under the guidance of Jack Ramsey and Billy Callender. The group then



headed over to St. Joseph's home where all divided into various work parties to prepare for the event.

David Ybarra, Billy Calendar, Jeremiah Navarro, and Jack Ramsden set up the BBQ grill and began the



long process of cooking 80 hotdogs and 90 hamburgers.

The kitchen crew of Efrain Ochoa, Jeff and Frances Miller, Mary Russell, Frank Salazar, Jesse Radillo, Ed O'Brien, Ed and Cindy Florentes, Jim Ouimet, and John Espree then began the task of preparing all the fixings that go with the meal.



Meanwhile the inside crew of Larry Belagna, Russell Leroy, first timers Manuel Urias JR and son Manuel, and Jim Russell set up the serving area. Grand Knight Mike Fitzgerald once again provided and served his award-winning baked beans and cookies for the event – a house favorite. At 11:45 after prayers the meal was served to 85 very grateful residences and staff members. After providing meals for everyone the Knights and family members also got to enjoy the fruits of their labors.



Help with Food Distribution

During the regular Knights' business meeting on January 2nd 2024, our Family Director Jose Montoya, said they would use some additions help on the following morning to help distribute food from the North Texas Food Bank. Each month the Food Bank truck arrives at the Holy Spirit Church parking loaded with food for those in need. So on the following morning, Jose Montoya, Allen Reitmeier, James Smith, Jack Ramsden, Adan Luna, Steve Reid, and Larry Balagna arrived to unload the truck, assemble the bulk food items into bags for delivery to the waiting clients. Of course there were also a number of parish members who participated as well. The North Texas Food Bank distributed meals to 144 million folk in FY '23 – that's about 38 million pounds of food. Good thing the Knights of your council jumped in to help when called huh?

On this day the food distributed included: potatoes, oranges, rice, chicken, sausage, and eggs. In total Knights worked about 21 man hours helping distribute food – thanks guys.

