

# Knights Life



*Holy Spirit Catholic Church – Duncanville, Tx,*



David Dybala, and Joel Lopez arrived in the early afternoon to set up the gymnasium, and the fish frying areas and well as unpacking the various material needed for the event. Soon after Robby Zablan, Doug Karpan, Russell LeRoy, Mary Archer, Holly Paterson, Jeff Traub arrived and around 4:30 the rest of the gang showed up to cook and serve the meals. These included: Tony Gonzalez, Ralonda Sobalvarro, Steve Zehnder, Cesar Villarreal, Jose Montoya, Chris Kubin, Efrain Ochoa, Hector Lopez, Mike Fitzgerald, Jim Russell, John Owen, John Espree, Mike Clark, Cappy Wood, Jesse Zuniga, Otto Santiago, Antonio Razo, Russell Gully, Peter Perta and Mario Luna (my apologies to anyone I may have missed). David Dybala, who oversaw the outside frying operation – fish, French fries, hush puppies-commented how everyone “pitched right in” and helped where ever needed. If you have counted the names you can see there were 30 Knights that gave of their time to make this fish fry a success. A special thanks to the ladies who helped (as usual), Holly Paterson, Cappy Wood and Mary Archer. Special

## **Knights Supporting the Parish Community**

Many Knights of Columbus of this Council joined in the Friday afternoon and evening of February 16, 2024 to support our priests and our parish community by preparing a fish dinner at a very reasonable price. For a mere \$8.00 our guests were served 2 pieces of fried catfish, French fries, hush puppies, baked beans, and either a salad or coleslaw, plus lots of extras like pickles, jalapenos, tartar or red sauce, lemonade, or tea and Knights even converted the fish into fish tacos if the client so desired. What a deal! This undertaking required lots of manpower- and the Knights of Columbus responded willingly. Jack Ramsden, Billy Calender, Art Rodriguez, Larry Balagna, Jorge Ruiz, James Smith, Frank Salazar,



thanks also to Efrain Ochoa, Tony Gonzalez, Cappy Wood, and Rolando Sabalvarro for making fish tacos – this stuck it out for two hours. And, of course, thanks to Mike Fitzgerald, our Grand Knight, for preparing and bringing cookies for everyone. It was hard to tell you was in charge of this entire enterprise – everyone worked together so well. The line was long most of the evening and yet everything came off without a hitch; a credit to the experience and willingness of everyone. We served the meals from 5pm until 7pm and served about 280 customers. .

Friday, March 22nd, marked the culmination of Holy Spirit Catholic Church’s annual Lenten fish fry tradition. For the sixth consecutive week, members of



the community and the Knights of Columbus gathered together for an evening of food, fellowship, and community spirit. The atmosphere was buzzing with excitement as volunteers from all walks of life

pitched in to ensure the event’s success. From setting up tables to frying fish to serving guests with a smile, everyone played their part in making the final fish fry of the season a memorable one

This fish fry exemplified the mission and values of the Knights of Columbus, emphasizing community, togetherness, and service to others. Attendees were delighted not only by the delectable food but also by the affordable cost, warm atmosphere, and opportunity for fellowship

As one attendee remarked, “The fish fry was more than just a meal; it was a chance for our community to come together, share a delicious dinner, and strengthen our bonds of friendship and camaraderie.”



In total, Knights served approximately 1,300 guests. Thanks everyone

## **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 109 - Assembly 2799**

The council Officers are officially elected for a one year term each June. Their term in office follows the fraternal year, from July 1 through June the following year

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

### **Service Program Directors**

<b>Awareness Committee</b>	<b>Open</b>
<b>Concessions</b>	<b>James Smith</b>
<b>Church Activities</b>	<b>David Ybarra</b>
<b>Family</b>	<b>Jose Montoya</b>
<b>Faith</b>	<b>Charles Ruelas</b>
<b>Life</b>	<b>Mike Moloughney</b>
<b>Youth Activities</b>	<b>Mike Moloughney</b>
<b>Knight Hands</b>	<b>David Dybala</b>
<b>Retention</b>	<b>Paul Ryan</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>Jim Kowalski</b>

**Council Activities**  
**Community**  
**Degree Team**  
**Sacramental Gifts**  
**Safe Environment**  
**Health Activities**  
**Lecturer**

**Open**  
**Dan Murphy**  
**Tom Greco**  
**Keith Archer**  
**Russell LeRoy**  
**Robert Nieto**  
**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, Leon Cornute, Arthur Rodriguez.

### **Council Website**

**Website address** kofc8157.org  
**Website Editor** Open  
**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** sglmreid@swbell.net

### **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 Jan. 2024**



**Adan Luna**

Congratulations, Adan Luna, on being selected Knight of the Month for January 2024. Adan is from Durango, Mexico and is 48 years old. He was born Catholic and moved to the United States in

1998. He and his wife, Norma, have been married for 12 years and live in Cedar Hill, TX. They have five children of their own. Adan is the tenth child himself of thirteen total. His family is scattered around from Chicago, Mexico, Dallas, and Harlingen, TX. His parents have passed away. Adan works sales as he sells solar panels and has been doing so for three years. He also has a college degree. He says he still talks to his friends back home and the name of his previous parish in Mexico is Santa Maria Catholic Church. The only church he attends now is Holy Spirit Catholic here in Duncanville, TX. He is a lector, hospitality minister, a member of the Guadalupano group, the men's ACTS team, and of course is a member of the Knights. As part of the Knights he has recruited 15 new candidates and is dedicated to the Knights understanding of service including volunteering with Knight Hands. Adan and his family just recently went on vacations taking them to Chicago, Galveston, Orlando, Denver, and Branson, MO which they enjoyed very much. His goals for himself as a Knight is to meet with Jorge Ruiz on new recruits especially within the Spanish sector of the church, help the warden and keep helping the most he can. Thank you Adan for all of the help you have completed thus far!

## **Knight of the Month Feb. 2024**



**Mike Fitzgerald**

## **Knight of the Month Mar. 2024**



**Steve Fordan**

## **Knight Hands on the job**

Knight Hands are never short of responding to those who ask for help. When Jessica Huckabe asked the Knights for help with repairing their water heater, refrigerator and washing machine, three Knight jumped into action and scheduled a visit to Jessica and Steve's home.



It didn't take long to figure out that the water heater was beyond repair and it was decided right there to replace the 50 gallon electric water heater. While Jorge Ruiz and Allen Reitmeier bought a new water heater and various accessory parts at Home Depot, Jose Montoya figured out that the refrigerator need a new evaporation fan motor. We were prepared to give Jessica and Steve a refrigerator we had taken from Dot Thomas Park in Cedar Hill; but that was not needed.

Shortly after, Jose Luis Ramirez (a professional plumber) arrived and hooked up the new water heater. The job he did was very professional – so professional that he sent Jorge and Allen back to Home Depot to get new connecting pipes. In the end after about 13 man hours of labor, the refrigerator was producing ice cubes and the water heater was producing hot water. Jessica and Steve were

delighted. Another example of the professional acumen of Knight Hands.



## **Knights and Meals on Wheels**



How can you be the hands and feet of your faith in our parish community? One way is to be a driver for the Meals on Wheels program in either Duncanville, Cedar Hill, or DeSoto. These meals contribute to the overall health and well-being of participating seniors, including those with chronic illnesses that are affected by diet, such as heart disease and diabetes, and frail seniors who are homebound. Without Meals on Wheels these seniors would go hungry. Five days

a week, year around, clients hear that daily knock and the “Meals on Wheels” greeting. You may be the only person they see that day. In Dallas County. There are many seniors waiting to get on the list of recipients of Meals on Wheels; but alas there are not enough delivery drivers.



Typically, a Meals on Wheels driver arrives as the meals drop-off point around 10am each day. Each driver is assigned a route number which includes a list and location of each client they are scheduled to deliver that day. All this information is available on an easy to use app. Once the driver has picked up his/her meals for the day, they set about delivering them and that’s it. A driver might deliver once a week or several times a week – the schedule is very flexible.



The Knights of Columbus of this Council are doing their very best to support the seniors in our local communities. Currently 10 Knights are delivering meals on a regular basis. Dan and Pat Murphy, Steve and Linda Reid, Mike Rumsey, Jack and Juanita Ramsden, Fred Ciarochi, Jim Kowalski, Billy Callender, Jeff and Frances Miller, Efrain Ochoa and myself have delivered approximately 9,150 meals this past year. Seems like a lot and yet some days there are not enough drivers and so some needy seniors go without a meal. Three other Knights have retired from delivering because of life’s circumstances; yet they deserve credit as well. Thank you Ray Rivera, Roy and Frances Cormier and Ed and Betty O’Brien. Being a volunteer delivery driver means you give what time you have available and a bit of gas money as well. Fred Ciarochi says” I get just as much out of delivering as my clients”.



If the spirit moves you to help needy seniors in our community log, onto [www.vnatexas.org](http://www.vnatexas.org) for information on how to become a volunteer delivery driver. You can also contact me (Allen Reitmeier) at 214-850-3602 and I will fill you in on more details. Perhaps you could even accompany me on a delivery day.

## Family Fun Day



On Sunday February 4, 2024, Deborah Pearson, Children's Faith Formation Coordinator for Holy Spirit Catholic Church, proclaimed this day Family Fun Day. And so all the youth in children's faith formation gathered in the gym instead of their classrooms and were joined by their catechists and for Family Fun Day were also joined by their families – moms, dads and siblings. There was some arts and crafts stuff for the very young; but this gathering was also a learning event for the entire family. The topic for Family Fun Day was a review of the parts of the Mass and the meaning of Lent. The first session of Family Fun Day was from 8:30am until 10:30 and had about 240 participants and the second session was from 11:00am until about 1pm and had 330 in attendance. The Knights of Columbus participated in



this event by cooking breakfast, at no charge to all those attending Family Fun Day.



So around 6am Knights began arriving and cooking breakfast consisting of pancakes, hash browns, bacon, biscuits with gravy, bacon and various drinks. John Espree and Jesse were the main pancake grillers. Mike Fitzgerald, Russell LeRoy and Jorge Caraveo prepared the bacon and the biscuits. Allen Reitmeier grilled the hash browns and Mark Evans prepared the gravy. Jorge Ruiz manned the recruiting table and signed up a new Knights. Jose Montoya, Mary Archer and Eduardo Florentes took care of supplying and re-supplying the drinks. Dan Murphy and Russell Gully were on the serving line. James Smith saw to it that everyone had something to do and gave direction when necessary. It was an all-around happy Sunday morning for the catechists, children, parents and the Knights.



## New Members



### Eduardo Conde

Eduardo Conde and his lovely wife, Maria, reside in DeSoto. They have two teenaged daughters – Julieta and Emma. The family have been parishioners at

Holy Spirit since Eduardo and Maria were married in 2011. Eduardo works in Human Relations for the Lancaster ISD and enjoys golf when he can sneak out. Maria is a 5th grade teacher in Mansfield. The family spends and prioritizes a lot of Christian time together. Eduardo and the family are active in the parish and the Council will be a new facet of ministry and service for our new brother.



### Javier Hernandez

We welcomed new Brother Knight Javier Hernandez on Sunday Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> 2023. Javier and his wife, Araceli, have been

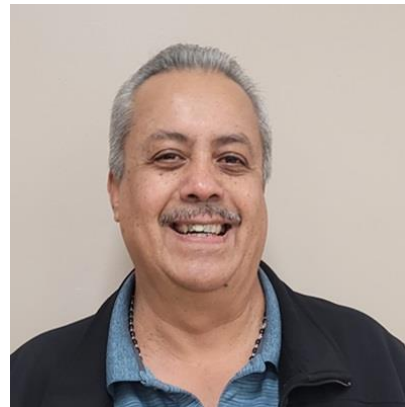
members of Holy Spirit for 20 years. They have resided at their current address for 20 years as well. They have been married for 28 years and have three sons and one daughter. Javier is originally from Toluca, Mexico and is employed as a commercial plumber. Javier joined the Knights to learn more about our service organization and wants to participate and get involved in our Church and Knights of Columbus activities.



### Joel Lopez

Joel Lopez joined our fraternal order on December 10, 2023 because he “wanted to give back and become closer to the Lord”. For sure, he has come to the right place. While Joel was born in Houston, he has been in Duncanville since 1988. He

recently joined the Holy Spirit community; he previously was a member of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe where, for 7 years, he was as an alter server. He was educated here in Duncanville including graduating from Duncanville High school in 1999. While he loves football – he played for Duncanville High – his first love in the sports arena is boxing. He is still involved in boxing today- but now as a coach. Joel and his wife, Anna, share 5 children – Joel Jr. (25), Jocelyn (21), Gisselle (17), Alexa (11) and Ariel (7). Joel has spent nearly all of his working life with STATON Corporate & Casual – a t-shirt wholesale warehouse. They have lots of stuff besides t-shirt, I’m told. Joel has worked there going on 26 years and has worked his way up to manager – he watches over 60+ people. Joel wants to help wherever he can; but he is already helping in the church community as a Lector at the Spanish Mass and is assisting Lindee Greer in translating for some of Lindee’ students.



### Jorge Echeveste

Jorge and his lovely wife Flora have been married for 28 years and they have three beautiful daughters Alejandra 26, Gabby 23, Sandra 21. Flora is a stay-at-home

Mom and a former occupational baker. Now, she does all her baking at home. The couple have lived in Cedar Hill for about three years and been parishioners at Holy Spirit for one year. Jorge is planning to retire this year from working 40+ years of work at Paper Tubes & Sales manufacturing. He spends his free time mostly with the family and working around the house. He is looking forward to helping out at the council and has already starting working with the Knight Hands on recent projects.



## Don Watson

Don is one of our most recently inducted Council members. He converted to Catholicism back in 1985 and resides in Tyler, TX. He is 77 years old and retired from the federal government 13 years ago where he served in the Congressional office while at US Government Accountability. Don's work included policy analysis and review. He has been a widower since 2002, and has three daughters, four grandsons, and one great grand-daughter.

The most important part is "my faith" says Don regarding his journey as a Christian. The most important part is growing as a Catholic, the Catholic Church is the church of Christ. His goals are to serve God in as many ways as he can. Thus, being a good Christian is to grow as fully as you can, and basically, it is continual Catechesis and serving is part of growth and not having a closed mind always learning something.



## Jose Hernandez

Joe is a single young man in his senior year of High School. He resides on the south side of Dallas with his

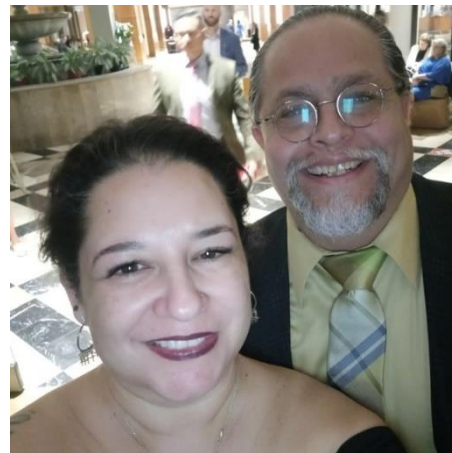
parents, sisters and their pooch. He and his family have lived in the area and been parishioners of Holy Spirit for over six years. In addition to supporting ministries at the parish, Joe does volunteer work at his school. When he's not doing his school or charitable works, he likes to read and watch Futbol. Joe looks forward to increasing his support of our Council now that he's a Knight. It's going to be great having this fine young Gentleman in our ranks, so please welcome him. .

## Families of the Month



**January  
2024**

**David  
and  
Veronica  
Ybarra**



**February  
2024**

**Mario and  
Gloria  
Ramos**



**March  
2024**

**Adan and  
Norma  
Luna**

## Little League Baseball

Little league baseball is up and running this spring in Cedar Hill and so the Knights of Columbus have the opportunity to supplement our income by operating the concession stands. The Knight of Columbus have been the exclusive concessionaire of the Cedar Hill Baseball Association since 2008 and have an agreement to continue that arrangement through 2008. Those of you who have worked a shift or several shift know the fun and satisfaction of cooking and serving the baseball families at Valley Ridge Park. Working together as a team for 4-5 hours is very rewarding. The atmosphere is cheerful and everyone enjoys our food and are most especially grateful for the reasonable price at our concession stand.



During this spring season, 87 league games have been scheduled; plus, for sure, there will be a number of Saturday/Sunday tournaments as time goes on. For these tournaments, we always have a very short reaction time because we do not get the schedules until late on Wednesday for a weekend tournament. So you see how important it is that you quickly respond to Miguel Hernandez's request for assistance. Most of you know that James is the Director of concession, which means he is responsible for the operation of the concession stand; from shopping for sale items, cleanliness, maintenance and scheduling and accounting. Miguel

Hernandez helps with the scheduling and Greg Warr helps with the accounting; but it's still a huge undertaking for James. Hats off to him. Thank you so much for those who have already worked at the ballpark this spring and here's hoping that more and more Knights will help in the future. As the days gets hotter and hotter it's really paramount that we all pitch in to generate income for the Council. The vast majority of money this Council spend for its' various charitable endeavors comes from the income generated at the concession stands in Cedar Hill.

