

Knights Life



Lots Going On

Knights of Council 8157 have been “busy beavers” the first three months of 2026. The most memorable and most encompassing event was the Lenten fish fry where Knights cooked, prepared and served about 1,400 guests a delicious meals of catfish (2 pcs), French fries, hush puppies, beans coleslaw/salad, various condiments, and water, tea or lemonade. Three or four Knights even converted the fish pieces into fish taco, if the guest so chose.

1,400 guests. Add the estimated 84 hours that our lady friends helped and the total hours spent would be in excess of 800 – ya!, that’s pretty busy. You can read the particulars about each fish fry by logging onto our website at www.kofc8157.org for more details.



Of course, there were many other events the first three month of 2026, like: the little league baseball

Yes siree, Bob, it was a busy time every Friday with work starting as early as 2pm and wrapping up around 7:30pm. And that doesn’t even count the hours spend to buy and unload the good needed for the fish fry. This is unofficial; but the average number of Knights who worked at the 6 fish fries was 30. If each Knight worked 4 hours at one of these Friday events, that would mean that Knights spent 720 man hours cooking, preparing and serving the



season at Valley Ridge Park began on February 28th and as of this writing, Knights have already served food and drink at 62 games and generated income in excess of \$9,700.00. Read the stories about all the Knights that have worked the various shifts on our website. Again if we calculate the total number of hours Knights worked at these 62 games we'd find the total to be about 104 hours – and that doesn't include all the shopping and cleaning hours – again a pretty busy time.



And then there's Knight Hands. During the first three months of 2026 Knight Hands completed 17 projects. All these projects were completed to the recipients' satisfaction. For these 17 projects, various Knights contributed to the 160 total labor hours for these projects. So, more busy times.



My understanding is that 12 Knights recently helped award medals at the basketball Special Olympics event in DeSoto. And that's the second Special Olympics event of 2026 attended by our Council. I have no clue how many hours these Knight worked at these events - but I'm quite sure they were busy too.



Some of might want to add other events to this writing like: the Saturday morning Bible study sessions or the many meetings you might have attended, or moving chairs to the Narthex for the Easter Mass or exemplification ceremonies. Let's not forget the Knights that help at our parish food pantry or those that assist when the North Texas Food Bank ruck arrives. And what about all the time the Knights spend as Hospitality Ministers or those Knights that assist at funerals or daily Mass. How many hours do Knights spend teaching our youth about the Catholic religion? For sure, all these events add up to busy times for this Council.

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

Chaplain	Fr. Uche
Grand Knight	Marc Evans
Deputy Grand Knight	Paul Ryan
Chancellor	Efrain Ochoa
Recording Secretary	Roberto Nieto
Treasurer	James Smith
Warden	Jesse Radillo
Inside Guard	Russell LeRoy
Outside Guard	Joel Lopez
Financial Secretary	Peter Perta
Advocate	Russell Gully
Trustees	Jim Russell
	Mike Fitzgerald
	Dan Murphy

Service Program Directors

Concessions	James Smith
Church Activities	Open
Family	Jeff Miller
Faith	Charles Ruelas
Life	Mike Moloughney
Youth Activities	Mike Moloughney
Knight Hands	Allen Reitmeier
Retention	Paul Ryan
Membership	Jim Kowalski
Community	Dan Murphy

Degree Team	Adan Luna & Gamaliel Hernandez
Sacramental Gifts	Open
Safe Environment	Russell LeRoy
Health Activities	Robert Nieto
Lecturer	Joel Lopez

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, Efrain Ochoa, Joel Lopez, Paul Ryan

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

Council Website

Website address	kofc8157.org
Website Editor	Allen Reitmeier
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.

Membership Rosters

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

Knight of the Month Jan 2026

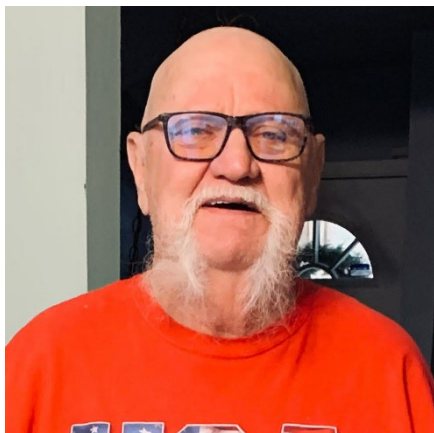


**Mario
Ramos**

Mario Ramos has been a Knight for about five years now; you may know him because of the

work he does with the ACTS team. He and his wife Gloria have been married for 25 years this July. They also cooperate and teach 4th grade Sunday school as well. They have three boys – Abel (34yrs), Corban (25yrs), and Mathew (23yrs). Mario and Gloria grew up in Big Spring, TX where they attended the same high school. They were married at St. Thomas Catholic Church in Big Spring as well. They moved to the Duncanville area 20 years ago. They have both participated in ACTS and Mario is Men's Retreat Support and Gloria has been on retreat once and has served on team once. As far as goals, Mario says that he has completed his purpose thus far as a Catholic as he has remained in the church, raised his kids, and has survived all of the major changes in society. Kudos to Mario for the outstanding job of coordinating the stripping of the parking lots at the church.

Knight of the Month Feb. 2026



James Smith

Congratulations to James Smith on being selected Knight of the Month for February, 2026 by the Retention Committee. He is from Decatur,

TX. James wasn't always Catholic, though, as he became one when he married Judy in 1981. James is also a member of the ACTS team and has 2 daughters, one lives in Italy, TX and the other in Rowlett, TX. He also has 3 stepsons. James wears many hats with this council. He watches over the concession business, he buys the supplies for parish breakfasts and fish fries, he is the current Treasurer of the Council and is a past Faithful Navigator. He enjoys fishing, building things, and gardening. His goal one day is to get to heaven and become a saint. James is also a hospitality minister and attends the 5pm Saturday evening mass.

Knight of the Month Mar. 2026

Jeff Traub



Jeff says he has been a member of the Knights for a pretty long time now. He has always been Catholic and is from the city of Chicago. You can always see Jeff at Mass on the weekends as well as events during the week especially the Lenten Fish Fry. Jeff has a kind and generous heart. If you are a Knight and want to see him, come to any of the monthly membership meetings that the Knights have on the first Tuesday of each month. He has received Knight of the Month honors more than once because of being so hard working and generous with his time. Sometimes you can see him walking to and from church as he lives very close by in Greenbriar estates. Congratulations Jeff, you are loved and special to the Knights of Columbus 8157!

Family of the Month Jan. 2026

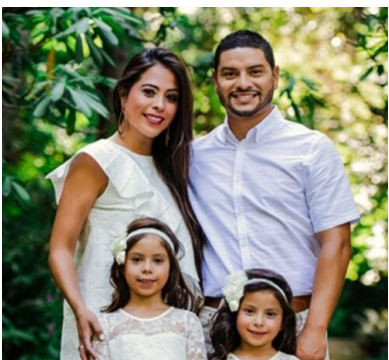


Phil and Hazel Holifield

Phil Holifield has been a member of the Knights of Columbus since April 2025. He was born into a

catholic family and has been a church going catholic his whole life. His father was in the Army, therefore he has lived in multiple countries as well. He has lived in Germany and Japan. He went to High school in Japan at Kubasaki High. Phil and Hazel have been married going on 39 years now; they were married in Haverford West, Wales and then officially married into the church in Moore, Oklahoma. They has 4 children, and 8 grandchildren. He was in the Department of Defense (AAFES) for 31 years; worked in numerous places in the states and internationally, including Germany, Italy, Greece, Belgium, Iraq, Kuwait, Kosovo and Serbia. He has been retired for 19 years. His hobbies are travel and golf as well as strategy games. He is presently the HOA president of Cresthaven Village in Cedar Hill and loves to travel and together, he and Hazel have traveled to over 100 countries to this date. He serves the church in various capacities as an usher, altar server on Friday morning, Adoration of the Cross, and occasionally on Holy days of obligation. Phil is also a member of the Legion of Mary. Hazel is equally involved in church activities – she is ever present at the rummage sale, for sure.

Family of the Month Feb. 2026



Eduardo and Maria Conde

Eduardo Conde is married to his wife, Maria Vasquez, and they live in Desoto. They have 2 kids who are altar servers while

Maria is a lecturer and hospitality minister. Their names are Julieta-14 yrs and Emma-12 yrs. Julieta received the

honor of altar server of the year. Eduardo works at Cedar Hill ISD as an administrator, Director of Family and Community Engagement. He has been working in education for 11 years. His wife, Maria, was a teacher and is now retired as she did so for 15 years. He says he joined the Knights of Columbus because he believes strongly in serving both Church and community alongside other Catholic men who are committed to faith, family, and fraternity. As a Catholic, his goal is to continue growing spiritually, to lead family by example, and to serve wherever needed. He wants his daughters to see their father actively involved in the Church and living out faith in action, not just in words. He and his wife were married at Immaculate Conception Church. She serves as a catechist in youth ministry. Eduardo serves as a teacher assistant, and both of their daughters attend youth ministry at Holy Spirit Catholic Church. Their faith is truly at the center of family life. Outside of work and church, Eduardo enjoys exercising, playing golf, and working around the house. He finds that staying active and productive helps him maintain balance and be present for family and responsibilities.

Family of the Month Mar. 2026



Larry and Sheila Balagna

Please pray for Sheila Balagna, Larry's wife, who is undergoing a biopsy on her

lung.. Thanks to the Knights for doing so. Larry has been lately taking her back and forth to doctor's appointments. He and Sheila attend the 7:30am mass on Sunday where he is a hospitality minister. Sheila also attends mass at St Joseph's residence with Father Jonathan. They have been married for 53 years and have lived in Farmington, IL. In 1995, they moved to Dallas. They have 3 boys: Kirk, Matthew, Greg. All of them are brought up Catholic. Larry joined the Knights in 1996 and his Knights of influence are Mike Fitzgerald, Jim Russell, Allen Reitmeier, and Jim Kowalski. He has been retired for 13 years from Neumann International University. He has 9 brothers and 4 sisters. He has lost a total of 6 of them. Larry's goals are to follow whatever the church needs of him as long as he is able to do it. Thank you Larry for all of your dedicated service.

In Memoriam



Linden Thompson

We remember Linden Thompson as he passes from this life. He died peacefully on March 5, 2026 surrounded by his wife, Sylvie, his daughter Casey, and son-in-law, Michael. Linden was born on February 12, 1944 in Gorman Texas. From those who knew him, he was a devoted son, a loving husband, a proud father, and a cherished friend to many. Throughout his life, Linden found joy in the simple pleasures – his love for dogs, baseball, learning about wine, and sharing good food with those he cared about. He was also known for his remarkable sense of direction and his ability to find his way anywhere without the aid of a map. Linden proudly served in the United States Navy, where he formed a lifelong friendship with his best friend Wayne. Linden and Sylvie moved to Duncanville from Round Rock in 2016. Linden joined the Knights of Columbus in 2001 at Council 12148 in Round Rock serving St. John's Vianney Church. Linden served as Grand Knight there, and according to Sylvie "was always busy with something". She went on to say his favorite activities as Grand Knight were "the many service projects and the fish fries". Sylvie also expressed her appreciation to the Honor Guard who were present at Linden's funeral. Rest in Peace, Linden