

***St. John the Baptist Catholic Church***

1312 Dallas Street  
Waco, Texas 76704

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Phone (254) 753-6742

Pastor/Administrator: Father Cyril Ejaidu

Confession: Sunday 10:00-10:25 am

Mass: Sunday 10:30 am

Mass: Wednesday 6:00 pm

**Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time**

October 31, 2021

**November 7, 2021**

***Lectors***

Joe Quinones  
Martha Stambaugh

***Eucharistic Minister***

Vernessa Hall

***Ministry for the  
Sick and Homebound***

Mrs. Gwendolyn Stewart and  
Mrs. Carolyn Brown

***Photographer***

David Haliburton

***Bulletin***

Celeste Sheehy

***Live-Streaming and Music***

Greg Guerra



**Parish Council Members**

**Chairman:** Father Cyril Ejaidu

**President:** Ms. Faye Stewart

**Vice President:** TBD

**Recording Secretary**

Mrs. Carolyn Brown

**Other members**

Mr. Joseph Brown, Mr. Freddy  
Duron, Mr. Stanley Glynn,  
Mrs. Sylvia Glynn, Mr. David  
Gradel, Mr. Freeman Hayes,  
Mr. Fred Ouellette,  
Mrs. Elvira Salinas, and  
Mrs. Yvette Guardiola

**Finance Committee:**

Mrs. Bobbie Sharkey  
Mrs. Carolyn Brown  
Ms. Jessica Breda  
Mrs. Joyce Fonteneaux  
Mr. Matthew Sheehy

**Knights of Peter Claver Council**

**and Court Council #385**

**Grand Knight**

Mr. Joseph Quinones

**Court #385 Grand Lady**

Mrs. Teaberta Black

**“The second is this: *You shall love your neighbor as yourself.* There is no other commandment greater than these.” Mark 12:31**

The first and greatest Commandment is to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. But Jesus goes on to give us the second most important Commandment. “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

First of all, it’s important to point out that loving God with all your might is the greatest Commandment, in part, because unless you do so, you cannot also love your neighbor. Love of neighbor hinges on whether you love God with your whole being. Only when you love God can that love overflow into other relationships.

When you look at the love of neighbor as an effect of the overflow of your love of God, this second Commandment takes on a clearer meaning. Jesus doesn’t only say to love your neighbor, He says to do so “as yourself.” So how do you love yourself? You do so primarily by fulfilling the First Commandment of the love of God.

Loving God with your whole self is, in fact, the best way to also love yourself. Why? Because we were made for love and communion with God. Loving God is not some extra favor we do for God; rather, it’s a way of fulfilling the deepest meaning of who we are. We are made for love and we are made for God. Therefore, loving God is the best way to love yourself. From this starting point, we then move to a better understanding of how we are called to love our neighbor. If the fulfillment of loving yourself is found by loving God and being in an intimate relationship of love with God, then you love your neighbor as yourself by drawing your neighbor into a relationship of love with God also. There is nothing you could do that is more loving for others than to act as a bridge between them and God. And the more directly you act as that bridge, the greater your love for them and the more completely you fulfill this Commandment.

Reflect, today, upon the ways that you act as a bridge of love between God and others. Recognize this as your absolute duty, privilege and honor. Commit yourself to a wholehearted love of God and allow that love to overflow and be poured out upon all those with whom you encounter every day. Love is contagious, and it must consume everything you are and everything you do.

*Lord, I desire to love You with my whole being. Increase my love for You and allow that love to overflow into every relationship I have in life. May love be the one and only mission of my life. Jesus, I trust in You.*

**St. John’s Offering**  
**October 24, 2021**  
Regular Offering: **\$972**

*Please add names of church members and their family members to the sick list in the foyer of the church so that we may pray for you. We will update the list weekly and remove names from the list monthly. If a name should remain on the list indefinitely, please notify Celeste Sheehy.*

**Sick List**

Father God, we pray for all those who are facing sickness in their bodies.

We ask that you restore their health, soothe their pain, and ease their worries. Give them your peace and comfort.

In Jesus name, Amen!

Don McKelvain	Sonja Hemstreet Gaines
Hilde Ouellette	Mike Wardlaw
Linda Guerra	Jessie Hithe
Robert Gradel	Gloria Johnson
Thomas Relgaldo (RIP)	Delores Brown
Brandon Rosas	Darlene Garcia
George Salinas, Sr.	Analiese Stead-Rodriguez
Aliyah Stead	

***Diocesan News***

**November 6, 2021, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm**, the Diocese of Austin will host **A Day of Reflection concerning the Black Apostolate**. All are welcome to join in this day led by Fr. Oscar Pratt, II from the Archdiocese of Boston. The theme of the day will explore “Faith: Encounter and Transformation,” looking at the ways in which our encounters of faith can change and shape our relationship with God, and how we live out our vocation and ministries as the mystical body of Christ. Throughout Scripture can be seen various ways in which people encounter God and are changed by their experiences in both the Old and New Testaments. It is important that we, too, reflect on the ways in which our own encounters with Christ, as well as the Christ in each other, leads us to transformation.

All parishioners of your community are invited to join us on this day of reflection. It is so important to come together to not only support the Black members of your community, but also to encounter and accompany them on their spiritual journeys. Please encourage everyone in your parish community to join us for this special event. It is sure to be an enriching day for all! In order to register, please go to: <https://www.austindiocese.org/black-ministry-dor>

**November 13, 2021, 9:00 am – 1:30 pm** A retreat day explaining The Holy Mass, led by Fr. Paul-Michael Piega, pastor of St. Patricks in Hutto. Cost is \$40 which includes lunch.

**November 30, 2021** – Join us Tuesday evening for a wine and cheese social, followed by dinner and an Advent reflection by Bishop Joe Vásquez. Cost is \$30 per person.

## *Announcements*

### **Father Cyril requests that we continue to wear masks during Mass.**

On the **first Saturday of every month**, we will have **Adoration** from 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm **followed by Mass** at 4:00 pm.

**October 31, 2021** – Today we come together as a community of faith to generously give to the Catholic Services Appeal, which supports the important mission and ministries of our diocese. Emerging from a year of challenge, this year we remember how Christ brings light out of darkness. With your gift, you are providing the light and hope of Christ to thousands of people. Our annual appeal allows us to care for active and retired priests, help those in need of spiritual and physical compassion, promote a culture of life, encourage vocations, educate our youth and so much more. Our goal is 100% participation. Your gift, no matter how large or small, makes a difference in the lives of those who Christ calls us to love most. Please complete and return your pledge card or make a secure gift online at [austindiocesese.org/csa](http://austindiocesese.org/csa).

**November 2, 2021** – Mass for **All Souls Day** at 6:00 pm

**November 11- 14, 2021** – **St. Louis Men's Spanish ACTS Retreat**. For more information, contact Sergio Lugo at [sergiolugo6@yahoo.com](mailto:sergiolugo6@yahoo.com). An ACTS Retreat is a parish-based event which offers parishioners an opportunity to experience the love of Jesus Christ. This in turn fosters a desire for intentional discipleship. ACTS Retreats are given by parishioners for parishioners, and in this way, serve to build Christian community at a parish. The ACTS Retreat begins Thursday evening and ends with Sunday Mass in the parish. While utilizing prayer, service, and teaching, the ACTS Retreat meets people where they are in their spiritual journey and invites them to experience God in a manner that is both personal and communal.

**St. John's Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxillary Court 385 will be selling raffle tickets after Mass until December 5, 2021. Tickets are \$2 each or 6 for \$10. Prizes are a wine and cheese basket and a bath and body basket.**

If you are interested in **becoming a member of St. John's**, please fill out the membership card located at the back of the church. St. John's would like to welcome our new members and our guests. We are so very glad to have you with us.

If you have **items for the bulletin**, please submit them to Celeste Sheehy at [saintjohn1312@yahoo.com](mailto:saintjohn1312@yahoo.com). Please submit all items by 5:00 pm on Thursday to allow time to prepare the bulletin for Sunday Mass.