

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

1312 Dallas Street
Waco, Texas 76704

Website: www.stjohnswaco.org
E-mail: saintjohn1312@yahoo.com
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

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 5, 2023

February 12, 2023

Lectors

Martha Stambaugh
Matthew Sheehy

Eucharistic Minister

Stanley Glynn
Vernessa Hall
Darren Sliva

Ministry for the

Sick and Homebound

Mrs. Gwendolyn Stewart and
Mrs. Carolyn Brown

Photographer

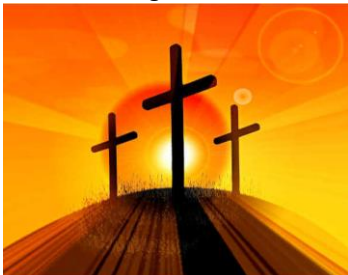
David Haliburton

Bulletin

Celeste Sheehy

Live-Stream and Music

Greg Guerra



Parish Council Members

Chairman: Father Cyril Ejaidu

President: Ms. Faye Stewart

Vice President: Mr. Darren Sliva

Recording Secretary

Mrs. Carolyn Brown

Other members

Mr. Joseph Brown, Mr. Freddy
Duron, Mr. Freeman Hayes, Mr.
Stanley Glynn, Mrs. Sylvia
Glynn, Mr. David Gradel, 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

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.” Matthew 5:14–16

We’ve all experienced a time when the lights went out and we were in darkness. In this case, if you were to light a candle and place it in the center of the room, its light would make quite a difference. One candle in a darkened room transforms that room, making it a more comfortable dwelling place. Using that image, consider the first line in Jesus’ metaphor above. “You are the light of the world.” Try to see yourself as that single candle in the darkness. That is your mission. Just as a single candle can give light to an entire room, so you are capable of being a source of light for many others.

One of the primary missions we have all received in life is to allow the light of God’s grace to “shine before others.” The result of fulfilling this mission is that others will see our good deeds that were inspired by God, and they will, in turn, glorify the Father in Heaven. Thus, your mission of radiating the light of Christ for others results in God being praised and glorified.

This full statement of Jesus is especially helpful to consider when we struggle with pride. Pride is a way of pointing to ourselves. It’s an act of selfishness by which we place ourselves in the spotlight as a way of trying to become the object of others’ praise. But what Jesus tells us is that when we properly fulfill our role of being the light of the world, when we radiate the Light of Christ, others will be inspired not to praise us but rather to glorify God as He acts through us. This is quite a difference.

With that being said, the beautiful thing about God being glorified is that God often wants us to share in that glory. That means that if you were to do an act of charity for another, and they were deeply grateful to you and thanked you, their “thank you” is an act of glorifying God when it is understood that you acted out of a love of God. God is praised when we, His children, give and receive love and honor between each other on account of our faith.

Reflect, today, upon two things. First, think about those upon whom God has called you to shine His light. Who is it in your life who needs an act of love, charity, mercy, forgiveness or compassion? Commit yourself to becoming God’s light for them in their darkness. Second, think about those who have shone the Light of Christ upon you. When this has happened, how did you respond? Hopefully your response was one of a gratitude that not only returns love to the other but also glorifies God through your gratitude. Be the light of the world to a world in need and seek out that light as it shines brightly through others. This is the only way to step out of the darkness that constantly tries to pervade us.

Lord, You are the true Light Who dispels every darkness in life. You are the Light of my life and shine brightly for all to see. Help me to see Your light as it shines on others and to glorify You for that gift. And help me to be an instrument of Your light to those who need it the most. Jesus, I trust in You.

St. John's Offering

January 29, 2023

Offering amounts will be included in next week's bulletin

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

Jessie Hithe

Gary Gradel

Julie Hemstreet

Diocesan News

February 22, 2023, 9:00 am – 2:30 pm – Ash Wednesday Retreat at Cedarbrake Catholic Retreat Center. Begin the Lenten season with a day of reflection and prayer centered around the love of Our Savior. Fr. Harry Dean and Brian Egan will lead this day of prayer with two talks, mass, and the distribution of ashes. The cost is \$45 with lunch included.

Our Mission Statement: To be a faith community bringing the presence of Christ to all by celebrating God's word and the Sacraments.

Our Vision Statement: To build a strong and vibrant community through core values based on love, selflessness, and service.

Announcements

We will have **pastries and coffee available in Sophie Hall after Mass** every Sunday except the fourth Sunday of the month. Please stop by and visit for a few minutes.

In conjunction with Shepherd's Pantry, we provide a **food pantry for the community in Sophie Hall on the second Saturday of every month.** We need volunteers to help with picking up the food at 8 am, organizing and bagging the food, and distributing it from 10 am to noon. If you are interesting in

volunteering your time, **please contact Sylvia Glynn at 254-495-5292** or sign up on the sheet in the foyer.

February 5, 2023 – On this day, we celebrate **the feast of Saint Blase**, who was bishop of Sebaste in Armenia in the fourth century. Before being martyred, he is said to have healed a boy who was choking. Since the eighth century, Saint Blase has been venerated as the patron of those who suffer from diseases of the throat. We pray in a special way today for protection from afflictions of the throat and from other illnesses. The blessing of Saint Blase is a sign of our faith in God's protection and love for us and for the sick.

The candles symbolize the light created by the birth of Jesus. For this reason, at least since the seventh century, candles have been blessed at Mass, coining the term **Candlemas**. Parishioners may receive **blessed candles on February 5 for a donation of \$5** for use at home throughout the year.

February 6, 2023 7:00 pm- 9:00 pm – Guiding Youth to Sexual Integrity and Abundant Life. The program is for parents, grandparents, teachers, and all adults who mentor youth. The seminar leader, Dr. Sandy Hapenny, is a mother and grandmother, and taught for a decade at Reicher High School in Waco. Her teaching included Theology of the Body. The event will be at the St. Louis Church Activity Center and is organized by Pro-Life Waco. There is no charge, but you must register at <https://sexualintegrity.splashthat.com> or contact 254-644-0407 or prolifewaco@gmail.com.

February 18, 2023, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm - The 11th Annual Catholic Men's Conference will be held at San Jose Parish, 2435 Oak Crest Avenue, Austin, TX. Early-bird tickets are available through January 31, 2023. \$50 for 1 ticket; \$90 for 2 tickets. Register online at centexcatholic.com.

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.

Contact Carolyn Brown or Gwendolyn Stewart either while at church or email at saintjohn1312@yahoo.com **if you are aware of a church member who is ill, hospitalized, or homebound.**

If you have **items for the bulletin**, please submit them to Celeste Sheehy at stjohn1312@yahoo.com. Please submit all items **by 5:00 pm on Thursday** to allow time to prepare the bulletin for Sunday Mass.