

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

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 12, 2023

February 19, 2023

Lectors

Vernessa Hall
Alicia Pesena

Eucharistic Minister

Emily Stambaugh
Faye Stewart
Fred Ouellette

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

Jesus said to his disciples: “I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:20–22

The scribes and Pharisees were masters of the Old Law. Now that the Messiah had arrived, they were unwilling to go deeper and move beyond the Old Testament teachings that they often misrepresented. They preferred a black-and-white approach to morality that had been with them for centuries and did not want to change when presented with Jesus’ new and higher calling.

Today’s Gospel continues Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, which began with the Beatitudes. In today’s portion of Jesus’ sermon, we are taught about anger, adultery and oaths. In every case, Jesus refers to the Law as it was taught in the Old Testament but then elevates it to an entirely new level. The line quoted above makes it clear that the only way to accept these new teachings of Jesus was to surpass the “righteousness” of the scribes and Pharisees. And the dire result of not surpassing their righteousness was the loss of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Jesus begins by recalling the Old Testament commandment, “You shall not kill.” But then He takes that commandment further by saying that “whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment.” Of course, killing remains a grave sin. But now Jesus explains that the interior attitude of anger, even if not acted upon, is a sin. He goes on to teach a similar lesson about adultery and swearing oaths.

It is helpful to understand these new teachings in the context of the approach that the scribes and Pharisees took in regard to the Old Testament. About that, Jesus says, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.” Thus, the primary problem with the scribes and Pharisees is not that they failed to teach the Old Testament Law properly. The primary problem is that now that the Messiah has arrived and has ushered in a new time of fulfillment and righteousness, they would not go deeper and would not embrace the fulfillment of the Law of God. They are not willing to grow in holiness and embrace the fulfillment of all that had been taught before.

Reflect, today, upon the calling given to you by our Lord’s new and glorious teachings. If you are to truly embrace the Gospel of our Lord and live in His New Law of grace, then you must be willing to go deep, become truly radical in your faith, and allow God to transform every part of your life. The New Law is one of the fullness of love, mercy, surrender, zeal, conversion and transformation. Commit yourself to surpassing the old and limited righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, and God will do glorious things in your life.

Lord of all grace, You came and not only taught us about the heights of holiness, but You also lived it and have bestowed upon us all we need to imitate Your every virtue. Please fill me with Your mercy and strength so that I may live a new righteousness of the fullness of love. Jesus, I trust in You.

St. John's Offering

January 29, 2023

Regular Offering: \$771 Building Fund: \$25

February 5, 2023

Regular Offering: **\$1,323** Building Fund: **\$25**

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

Gloria Johnson

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 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.

February 19, 2023, 11:30 – sold out – Soul Food Dinner Fundraiser in honor of **Black History Month.** Come and support St. John's and enjoy a soulful dinner! All proceeds go to St. John's. The menu includes fried/baked chicken, neck bones, meat loaf, cabbage, greens, pinto beans, sweet potatoes, mac n cheese, mashed potatoes. Adult meal includes 1 meat, 3 vegetables, corn bread and Kool Aid for \$13. Kids meal includes 1 meat, 2 vegetables, cornbread and Kool Aid for \$6. Extra meat \$2. Dessert \$1.

March 25, 2023, 8:00 am – 2:30 pm - CDA DAY OF REFLECTION, KC Hall in West. Program speaker: Cheryl Maxwell, the former Director of Worship for the Austin Diocese. Lite breakfast & lunch provided. Sr. Mary Danielle Peters, member of the Secular Institute of the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary will speak in the afternoon. Submit name, phone number & \$10 registration fee (checks made out to CDA #829), or cash, by FRIDAY, **MARCH 17**, to Ann Vanek, 810 N. Harrison St., West, TX 76691. For additional information, contact Ann Vanek (254-744-6553) or June Danker (214-208-7514). Registration includes the cost of the meal. Be sure to invite a friend. Come and enjoy a day of rest, reflection & spiritual enrichment during Lent.

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.