

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

1312 Dallas Street  
Waco, Texas 76704

Website: [www.stjohnswaco.org](http://www.stjohnswaco.org)  
E-mail: [saintjohn1312@yahoo.com](mailto: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

**Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

***February 19, 2023***

**February 26, 2023**

***Lectors***

KOPC

***Eucharistic Minister***

KOPC

***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 have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust.” Matthew 5:43–45**

Nowhere in the Old Testament does it say that we should hate our enemies. Note that Jesus did not say “It has been written...” Instead, He says, “You have heard that it was said...” So who said this? Some traditions among the scribes and Pharisees held this erroneous belief. Because some held that position, Jesus addressed it. In this passage and in many others, Jesus calls us to a new depth of love that many thought impossible. In fact, even Jesus Himself acknowledged the height of His teaching when, at the conclusion of this passage, He says, “So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.” Too often in life we settle for everything other than perfection. And though we may never achieve that level of holiness in this life, it must be our constant goal. In regard to our “enemies,” perfect love for them must become our daily mission. So who is your “enemy?” Though Jesus does not define this for us, we should consider it to be anyone with whom there is some form of tension or discord. Perhaps there is someone who hates or dislikes you and speaks ill of you or treats you poorly. Or perhaps there is someone whom you dislike and find yourself angry at or even judgmental toward. So begin by trying to identify anyone with whom you have a lack of perfect affection. In truth, there might be many more people on that list than on the list of those you “love.”

Once you identify those who fall into the category of enemy to one extent or another, consider whether you love them. One Church Father says that we love our enemy “when we are not sorrowful at his success, or rejoice in his fall.”

This is a very helpful definition to consider. Ultimately, this is the definition of envy. If someone whom you dislike succeeds in something praiseworthy, how do you react interiorly? If there is an immediate visceral reaction or if you find yourself trying to figure out why they should be congratulated, then you might struggle with this sin. Or consider what you think, say or feel if you hear that someone you dislike has some problem, gets into some trouble, or encounters some misfortune. The ideal response is empathy and a desire for their well-being. If this is not the response within you, then pay attention to that.

Jesus concludes His teaching by saying that His Father “makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust.” In other words, God bestows His perfect love and mercy upon everyone equally. The only difference is that some people choose to accept that mercy and others reject it. As for ourselves, just like our loving God, we must offer love and mercy to everyone equally and as completely as we can. And though some may reject that love, just as they reject the love of God, it must always be offered and never rescinded. This is love of neighbor and also love of our enemies. Reflect, today, upon those with whom you struggle to love to perfection. Perhaps that list is long. Start with those you encounter most often or those to whom you have a strong negative reaction. As you call them to

mind, pray for them, for their good and for God's blessings upon them. Try to see some goodness in them. Try to thank God for them, and try to remove any disordered feelings or thoughts you might have about them. This is the first step in your mission to fulfill Jesus' new command of love.

*My loving Lord, You love and bestow Your unlimited mercy upon all people, the good and bad alike. I pray that I may always be open to that love and receive it deeply into my own life. I pray also that Your love may shine through me into the lives of those who need it the most. Jesus, I trust in You.*

### **St. John's Offering**

**February 12, 2023**

Regular Offering: **\$4,225** Building Fund: **\$725**

*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.

### ***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 24 – March 31, 2023, 5:00 pm – the fish runs out!** St. Philip Catholic Mission of China Spring KofC will be hosting their **Annual Lenten Fish Fry** every Friday. 13095 Old China Spring Highway. Drive through or dine-in.

**February 26, 2023, 3:00 pm** – St. Mary of the Assumption in Taylor, TX will host **Austin Polyphony in Concert: A Musical Journey through the Church Year**. Tickets are \$15 through February 24, \$20 at the door. For more information, see the flyers on the church doors, call 512-352-2175, or email [luciano-laurentiu@stmarystaylor.org](mailto:luciano-laurentiu@stmarystaylor.org)

**February 27, 28, 29, 2023, 7:00 pm each evening** – Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Cornhill, TX is hosting **Healing Mission with Paul Rymniak**. Please see the flyers on the church doors for more information.

**February 28, 2023, 2:00 pm – 7:00 pm** – The Dioceses of Austin will host the **relics of Blessed Carlo Acutis and St. Manuel Gonzalez Garcia** at St. Peter Catholic Center on the Baylor campus in Waco.

**March 4, 2023, 9:00 am** – CDA #739 in Taylor, TX invites all women to join us for **Reflections on the Gospels from Ash Wednesday to Easter**. Meet in St. Mary's School Cafeteria followed by a salad luncheon. Please rsvp to [jackievrana@gmail.com](mailto:jackievrana@gmail.com) or call 512-352-2175.

**March 25, 2023, 8:00 am – 2:30 pm - CDA DAY OF REFLECTION**, KC Hall in West. Cheryl Maxwell, the former Director of Worship for the Austin Diocese, will speak. 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 [saintjohn1312yahoo.com](mailto:saintjohn1312yahoo.com) **if you are aware of a church member who is ill, hospitalized, or homebound.**