

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

1312 Dallas Street
Waco, Texas 76704

Website: www.stjohnswaco.org
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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

Third Sunday of Lent

March 12, 2023

March 19, 2023

Lectors

Gwen Stewart
Heather Weekley

Eucharistic Ministers

Darren Sliva
Emily Stambaugh
Faye Stewart

***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: TBA

Other members

Mr. Joseph Brown, Mr. Freddy
Duron, Mr. Stanley Glynn, Mrs.
Sylvia Glynn, Mr. David Gradel,
Ms. Roseanne Reyes

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 came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well. It was about noon. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." John 4:5-7

Today, throughout the world, Catholic liturgies will celebrate the first of three Scrutinies of those adults who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. The word "scrutiny" comes from the Latin word *scrutari* which means an inquiry, close examination or search of something. It originally referred to rummaging through rubbish so as to find something of value. In a sense, this is what God does with all of us. When we first turn to Him, He sorts through the disorder of our fallen human nature and our sins so as to point to the goodness and beauty of the child He created. As for the liturgical rite that will be celebrated in churches throughout the world today, the *Right of Christian Initiation of Adults* describes it as follows: "The scrutinies are meant to uncover, and then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good" (#141). The Gospel story we read today depicts this action beautifully. It is the long and inspiring story of the woman at the well. This story is filled with symbolism, much of which the casual reader could easily miss. To begin, it is important to prayerfully imagine the scene. Jesus was all alone sitting next to Jacob's Well around noon. Few women would come to the well at that time of day due to the heat. But this woman came at this time because she knew others would not be around. She was a sinner, and many of the other women of the town knew it. Therefore, in an attempt to avoid them and avoid feeling shame, she came at a time when she could avoid the other women. So the first thing to consider is the suffering this woman was enduring because of her shame and embarrassment over her sinful life. As she approached the well, she was surprised to hear Jesus ask her for a drink. She was a Samaritan. Jews generally considered Samaritans as ritually unclean. For that reason, Jews would not drink from their vessels. But Jesus broke this unholy custom and looked at her as a daughter of God with innate dignity and value as He engaged her in conversation. Within the heat of the day, Jesus spoke lovingly to this woman and said, "Give me a drink." Saint Augustine states that, symbolically speaking, Jesus thirsted for her soul, for her salvation. He longed to give her the grace soon to be won through His Cross. Her willing reception of this gift would also bring satiation to the Heart of our Lord. Jesus didn't dwell upon her past; He knew all about it. He could read her soul. All He wanted to do was to rummage through the sin and rubbish that was cluttering her soul so as to discover her dignity within. If she were to allow Jesus to offer her this mercy, not only would she receive true Living Water to quench her spiritual thirst, she would also satiate the spiritual thirst in the soul of our Lord that could only be satiated by the dispensing of His mercy. As we celebrate the Scrutinies this Sunday, reflect upon this woman at the well. First, she is a symbol of every person coming to faith in Christ and preparing for the Living Water of Baptism this Easter. But she is also a symbol of your own soul, to the extent that it has

become cluttered with the rubbish of sin and disorder. Do not let shame, fear or a sense of unworthiness deter you from engaging in this same conversation with our Lord. Hear Him say to you that He thirsts for you and longs to be satiated by the sacred act of the ongoing bestowal of His Divine Mercy, poured forth through the Living Water superabundantly given to you at your baptism. *My thirsting Lord, You see me, peer deeply into my soul, see all the filth of sin and disorder and love me anyway. As You spoke to this woman at the well, so You also speak to me, asking me to satiate Your thirst by being open to Your mercy. I do open myself to You, dear Lord, and pray that Your Living Water will become a spring of water welling up to eternal life. Jesus, I trust in You.*

St. John's Offering

March 5, 2023

Regular Offering: \$2,041.83

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

Gloria Johnson

Diocesan News

March 17 – 19, 2023 – Come and listen to God inviting you into the desert of silence at a **Silent Lenten Retreat**. Fr. Harry Dean and Brian Egan will each give one reflection talk. Mass, Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be part of the retreat. The cost is \$280 for a private room and \$230 for a shared room.

March 18, 2023, 9:00 am – 2:30 pm – Retiro del Cuaresma Dirigido por la Madre Olga Estrella & Hermana Lucero Espitia, DJ. El tiempo de la cuaresma es una oportunidad para encontrarnos con Jesús, que se prepara para realizar el cumplimiento de la Voluntad del Padre, cuyo instrumento más importante será la Cruz. Este retiro será un espacio para encontrar nuestra cruz de cada día y así, caminar hacia el cumplimiento de la Voluntad de Dios. El costo será de \$40 por persona e incluirá el almuerzo.

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.**

March 3 – 31, 2023, 4:30 pm – 7:00 or sold out! St. Joseph's **Annual Lenten Fish Fry** every Friday at the St. Joseph's CCE Center, 9656 Elk Road, Elk, TX. Dine in or to-go plates \$12.

March 3 – 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.

March 12, 2023 – For decades, Audrey Werner researched anti-Christian trends in public schools. Audrey will present for **Pro-Life Waco's Second Sunday Luncheon** under the title of **"You Can Raise Pure Kids in Today's Culture."** This event is at the parish hall of St. Mary's Church in Waco. An Italian buffet will be served throughout the noon hour—adults \$5. Children free. The program hour, beginning at 12:45 PM, brings to you the author of **"Ten Tips on How NOT to Talk to Your Kids About Sex."** Check it out on Amazon. For further questions contact John Pisciotta at prolifewaco@gmail.com or 254-644-0407.

March 25, 2023 – In Fatima, Our Lady said, "My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God." Please join thousands of Faithful throughout our Diocese to collectively make or renew our **"Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary"** at a special Holy Mass on the Annunciation of the Lord. Rosary and Mass will be offered at 11:30am at Saint Mary Cathedral (Austin), at 4:30pm at Ascension Church (Bastrop), at 11:30am at Saint Helen Church (Georgetown), and at 5:30pm at Saint Peter Catholic Student Center (Waco). For more information, please visit www.TexasToJesusThroughMary.org.

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.