

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

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 19, 2023

March 26, 2023

Lectors

KOPC

Eucharistic Ministers

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: 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

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered and said, “Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “I do believe, Lord,” and he worshiped him. John 9:35–38

This is the conclusion to the story of the healing of the man born blind. It is the fifth of seven signs (miracles) in John’s Gospel that point to the divinity of our Lord. This healing especially confirmed Jesus’ teaching from the previous chapter: “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12). Jesus was the Light Who came to dispel all darkness, and now He illustrates this fact by opening the eyes of the blind man. This story is quite long and detailed. The details it includes makes it much more than a miracle. It is also a dramatic story revealing both the consequences of rejecting Jesus, as well as the blessings received by one who turns to Jesus in faith. We begin with the detail that this man has been blind since birth. It was a common misconception at that time that such a birth defect might have been caused by the sins of the parents. In part, this came from a misreading of Exodus 20:5–6 in which God said that He inflicts punishment “on the children of those who hate me, down to the third and fourth generation.” Jesus makes it clear that this was not the case; this man’s blindness was a result of the natural disorder experienced by humanity as a result of original sin. If humanity had never been cast out of the Garden of Eden, disease and natural disorders would have never existed. For that reason, we should understand that we are all “blind” in the sense of being born into the state of original sin and are, therefore, in need of the grace of spiritual sight. The healing of this man is done purely on Jesus’ initiative. This shows that God’s healing action in our lives is always His initiative. But Jesus clearly offered this man healing because He knew the man would eventually come to faith in Him, which is the far more important healing that took place in this story. After the man is healed, a very interesting drama unfolds. The Pharisees hear of the healing and begin to interrogate the man. Afterwards, they also interrogate the man’s parents and then the man for a second time. Throughout their interrogations, two things happen. First, the Pharisees slowly become more agitated, more irrational and end by completely rejecting both this miraculous sign and Jesus Himself. The man, however, begins with what appears to be a bit of ignorance about Jesus, but as he is interrogated and challenged to explain his healing, he deepens and clarifies his convictions, ending in the deepest faith when he cries out to Jesus, “I do believe, Lord.” Then we are told that the man worshiped Jesus. The dramatic unfolding of this story teaches us that when we are given the grace of God by hearing His holy Word spoken and witnessing His mighty hand at work, we must make a choice. Either we will respond in faith and slowly be drawn deeper into that faith, or we will rationalize it away and reject God’s saving action in our lives. It is not possible to simply remain indifferent to the Gospel when we hear it spoken or when we see its effects changing us or others. Reflect, today, upon the two paths this sign from Heaven

had on those present to this miracle. You, too, are present to this miracle through your reading of it. How will you respond? Will you imitate the Pharisees and discount the deep spiritual truths this action conveys? Or will you open yourself to the transforming power of this healing? Commit yourself to the path of this blind man. Say to our Lord, "I do believe, Lord." Apply those words to every action of Jesus in your life and allow that faith to lead you into worship of Him Who is the Light of the World.

Jesus, Light of the World, You came to dispel the darkness caused by original sin. You came to heal our blindness and open the eyes of our souls to Your true Light. Please open my eyes so that I may see, and give me the courage I need to profess my faith in You and worship You with all my heart. Jesus, I trust in You.

St. John's Offering

March 12, 2023

Regular Offering: **\$1,278** Building Fund: **\$100**

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

Garv Gradel

Gloria Johnson

Diocesan News

April 28, 2023 3:00 pm – April 30, 2023, 12:30 pm – Spend time "**Mingling with the Mystics**," four of them who span six centuries of Christian history. Br. Joel Giallanza, CSC will lead each sessions providing an overview of the life and teaching of Saints Catherine of Siena, John of Ávila, Francis de Sales, and Thérèse of Lisieux. These four have much to teach us about developing our relationship with God in daily life. Br. Joel is a Holy Cross brother and has led retreats around the world for 35 years. The retreat at Cedarbrake cost is \$280 for a private room and \$230 for a shared room, all meals 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.**

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 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.

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 **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.