

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

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

“Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, “Untie him and let him go.” John 11:43–44

The death of Lazarus can be seen as a symbolic representation of the soul that has died from mortal sin. This is similar to the fact that leprosy, physical ailments and the like are also symbols of sin. For that reason, Jesus’ initial reactions reveal how we should respond to serious sin in our lives. When Jesus faced the death of Lazarus, “he became perturbed and deeply troubled,” “Jesus wept,” He became “perturbed again” and He “cried out in a loud voice.” Though Jesus was God, He freely chose to assume human nature and to experience human emotions and passions to teach us how we should react. In this case, He chose to become perturbed, deeply troubled, to weep and to cry out to show us how we should react to grave sin. Grave sin kills the spirit. As a result, we must be deeply affected if we commit or witness a grave sin. One lesson we can take from this passage is that when you or a loved one falls into grave sin, it must not be ignored. Final impenitence is a sin by which a person fails to have appropriate remorse for sin and reacts to it in a dismissive and casual manner. This cannot be our reaction. Begin by considering the great value of taking sin seriously, reacting to it with passion and emotion, and crying out to God for forgiveness. When Jesus cried out, commanding Lazarus to come out of the tomb, the details were added that Lazarus did come forth but was still bound “hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth.” Saint Augustine teaches that, in part, this symbolizes the entire process of confession and the forgiveness of sins. First, no person is capable of confessing their sins by their own effort. It must be that they are moved by grace and the command of our Lord to come forth to show themselves in their bound state to God. Lazarus’ obedience to Jesus’ command symbolizes the Christian’s response to God when called to repentance. When our Lord says, “Untie him and let him go,” this symbolizes the unmerited effect of the Sacrament of Confession and the power it has to release a person not only from their sins but also from the ongoing effects of those sins. Our Church teaches that sin has a double consequence. First, it keeps us from eternal salvation. This effect is remedied through Confession and forgiveness. However, there is a second effect called “temporal punishment” (see the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1471–1473). This “punishment” is not from God, but from sin. It means that when we sin, even in a less serious way, we become attached to that sin and that the ongoing temptation to return to it is strengthened. Thus, ongoing conversion also means we hear our Lord say, “Untie him and let him go.” This is especially accomplished by ongoing conversion and growth in virtue. Reflect, today, upon the rich symbolism found in the story of the raising of Lazarus from the dead. As you do, listen for the passionate voice of Jesus who calls to you, “Come out!” What sin is Jesus calling you to be free from? Identify that sin and repent of it with the same passion that our Lord exhibits. From there, consider any ongoing temptation you struggle with and any attachment you still have toward a particular sin. Jesus

desires that you be completely unbound and set free. Be open to that grace and do all you can to accept it.

My merciful and passionate Lord, You command me, in love, to come forth from all sin. And when I respond, You command that the effects of my past sins be removed. Please free me, dear Lord, from all that binds me so that I will be set firmly on the glorious road of virtue that leads to eternal joy. Jesus, I trust in You.

St. John's Offering

March 19, 2023

Regular Offering: **\$1,043** 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

Hilde Ouellette

Gary Gradel

Mary Hayes

Bill McDaniels

Sonja Hemstreet Gaines

Jessie Hithe

Gloria Johnson

Peggy Miller

Maria McDaniels

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 5:30pm at Saint Peter Catholic Student Center (Waco). Please visit www.TexasToJesusThroughMary.org for more information.

March 30, 2023, 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm – Join a **Virtual Job Fair** for our Catholic schools in the Diocese of Austin. It will feature **a variety of positions in Catholic schools throughout the Diocese of Austin, including teaching positions, administrative roles, and support staff positions.** The job fair will provide attendees with the chance to connect with representatives from various Catholic schools in our Diocese, learn about their missions and values, and explore job opportunities. Register online at CSDATX.ORG/JOBFAIR.

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.