

***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

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

***May 7, 2023***

**May 7, 2023**

***Lectors***

Alicia Pesena  
Cynthia Quinones

***Eucharistic Ministers***

Fred Ouellette  
Gwendolyn Stewart  
Heatyher Keahey

***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 said to his disciples: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?” John 14:1–2**

These consoling and encouraging words, spoken by Jesus to the Apostles at the Last Supper, come immediately after Judas left to betray Jesus and after Jesus told Peter, in the presence of the others, that Peter would deny Jesus three times before the cock crowed. As a result, the Twelve (now Eleven) would have been discouraged, especially Peter. Jesus senses this and says, “Do not let your hearts be troubled...”

Peter was told that he would soon commit a grave sin against Jesus. As we are later told, as soon as Peter committed these sins, he went out and wept bitterly. Perhaps, as he did, he would have recalled Jesus’ words: “Do not let your hearts be troubled...”

Being tempted toward sin can be discouraging. But that can turn into a good thing. If we are not affected by our temptations, then we lack love for God. And if we give into those temptations and fail to experience sorrow, this is even worse. However, discouragement over our sins cannot remain; it must turn into its opposite, the virtue of hope. Hope will result from sin only when we hear and understand Jesus’ promise, seen above.

Jesus not only tells the disciples not to be troubled, He also tells them why. Jesus promises them He will prepare a place for them in Heaven and will come to take them to that place in His Father’s House, despite their failings. By believing, Peter and the other apostles will be able to dispel the initial discouragement they feel over their failings and turn back to God with the anticipation of Heaven.

Do you get discouraged by your sin? Begin by calling to mind any sin that you regularly struggle with. Habitual sin, especially, will lead to either sorrow, repentance and hope, or to a discouragement that ends in despair and the abandonment of virtue. Like Saint Peter, we must strive to weep bitterly over our sins. We must let our sins, and the temptation toward despair, become a motivation to regain hope, courage, and determination. This will only be possible if we always hear Jesus say to us, “Do not let your hearts be troubled...” We must sense His compassion and tenderness and allow that love to fill us with confidence that we will one day overcome all sin and be welcomed into the Father’s House.

Reflect, today, upon any sin with which you regularly struggle. As you do, consider whether your discouragement leads to despair or hope. Hope does not come from your ability to overcome sin on your own. It comes from the compassion of our Lord and His promise to redeem you. If you do have a troubled heart, that is good. It is the starting point for hope. Allow Jesus to lift your troubled heart and to point your eyes to Heaven.

*Most compassionate Lord, though I am a sinner, You speak to me with tenderness and call me to repent so that I will always have hope in Heaven. Please give me a true and holy sorrow for my sins and help me to always turn*

*back to You so that You will one day lead me to the fullness of the Father's House. Jesus, I trust in You.*

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

**April 30, 2023**

Regular Offering: **\$1,792.66** Building Fund: **\$230**

*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

Jazz Rosas

Sonja Hemstreet Gaines

Jessie Hithe

Gloria Johnson

***Diocesan News***

**June 2, 2023, 3:00 pm – 7, 2023 – Summer Silent Retreat.** Spend two to five nights in quiet prayer with others desiring to draw closer to Jesus. Daily mass, talks, communal prayer, devotions, confession, and Eucharistic Adoration will be part of the retreat led by Fr. Harry Dean and Brian Egan. The cost (see Diocese webpage) varies depending on the number of nights requested.

***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.** The food pantry will be open on **May 13, 2023, 10 am – 12 noon.** Contact Sylvia Glynn if you would like to volunteer to help.

**May 1-31, 2023 – May is the Month of Mary.** The rosary will be said for the Blessed Mother each Sunday. The Catholic Women are looking for volunteers dedicate a decade or bring flowers up while the rosary is being said. There is a

sign-up sheet at the back of the church you may contact Destiny Vallejo (786) 972-5668 or Heather Weekly (254)855-0671.

**May 7, 2023, 11:30 am – Please attend the Cinco de Mayo** celebration immediately after Mass. The taco plates will be \$12 each including 3 tacos, rice, beans, drink and dessert. We will have live entertainment and a piñata for the kids. Proceeds will benefit the Catholic Women's Group Sanctuary Building Fund.



**June 4, 2023** - Holy Trinity Catholic Church of Corn Hill is hosting its **annual fundraiser and dance**. Holy Mass begins 10:30 a.m. Fried Chicken & Sausage (served from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.; adults \$15/children \$7; drive-thru available). And then, you can dance the afternoon away to the music of the Jodie Mikula Orchestra. Great food - great fellowship - great day for all!

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](mailto: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](mailto:stjohn1312@yahoo.com). Please submit all items **by 5:00 pm on Thursday** to allow time to prepare the bulletin for Sunday Mass.