

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

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 16, 2023

July 23, 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

“To anyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because *they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand.*” Matthew 13:12–13

How is it that someone can look without seeing or hear without listening or understanding? This is only possible when one's eyes and ears are working properly, but the mind is distracted, not attentive to what is seen or heard. For example, say you were listening to a book being read and suddenly you realized that even though you heard what was read, your mind was elsewhere and you had no idea what was spoken. This is a common experience for everyone from time to time. This portion of the Gospel quoted above comes immediately after Jesus spoke the Parable of the Sower to the crowds from a boat. In that parable, seed fell on the path, on rocky ground, among thorns and in rich soil. Only the seed on the rich soil grew and produced good fruit. Therefore, Jesus' teaching quoted above, as well as His parable spoken before it, teach that there were many who heard the Word of God and witnessed Jesus' miracles but failed to allow His teachings and miracles to produce faith in their hearts. This Gospel passage is especially important for those who have been Catholics for many years but have become stagnant in their faith. When someone goes to Mass every week, listens to the Gospel and shares in the Eucharist but fails to continually grow in holiness and understanding of the Mysteries of Heaven, then they will slowly lose even the little faith they have. They will become lukewarm Catholics who go through the motions but fail to produce the good fruit that comes from authentic faith. When you look back at your life as a practicing Catholic, what do you see from year to year? Was there a time when you were strong in faith but have slowly closed your ears to the Gospel and have drifted away from a deep and prayerful interior engagement with our Lord? Or when you look back do you see that the Lord has continuously given you more and more, leading you to a life of true spiritual riches? Has the Gospel entered not only your ears, but also your mind and your understanding? Do you both see and perceive the action of God in your life and in the world around you? Are you actively engaged with the life of grace and find that you grow closer to God every day? Or, sadly, have you lost interest and zeal and now find yourself slowly drifting away from the fruitful practice of your faith? Reflect, today, upon these important questions and strive to answer them honestly. If you do not see yourself growing in faith every year and becoming truly rich in the grace of God, then know that something needs to change. Stagnation and lukewarmness in the faith are not good. They lead to the slow loss of everything. As you reflect upon your own faith journey, recommit yourself to a zealous embrace of the Gospel so that your soul will be truly rich soil that continually produces an abundance of good fruit.

Lord, You desire that all people hear Your Word and see Your action in their lives. Please continue to pour forth Your grace into my life so that I will continually grow rich in Your mercy. I pray that my eyes and ears will be open to You more fully every day. Jesus, I trust in You.

St. John's Offering

July 9, 2023

Regular Offering: \$1,561 Building Fund: \$130

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

Julie Hemstreet

Diocesan News

September 14, 2023 9:00 am – 2:30 pm -In our Creed, we pray, "I believe...all things visible and invisible." We are taught in the catechism of "the existence of the spiritual, non-corporeal beings" yet do we pay attention to these beings? Spend this retreat day to **learn more about the angels among us and their presence in our lives.** The retreat at Cedarbrake will be led by Mary Pomeroy. The cost is \$45.

September 28, 2023 9:00 am – 2:30 pm As part of the U.S. Bishop's Eucharist Revival, Cedarbrake is offering a day retreat on "**The Gift of the Holy Eucharist**" at St. Thomas More in Austin. Fr. Harry Dean will share insights from some saints on the Eucharist and Brian Egan will speak about scripture passages that teach us about Our Lord who is truly present in the Holy Eucharist. The retreat, which includes mass and lunch, cost \$45.

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.** Contact Sylvia Glynn if you would like to volunteer to help.

As you probably noticed this morning, we have NEW pew cushions! Please help us take good care of them so that we can all enjoy them for years to come. If you or your child needs **food or drink during Mass, please go to Sophie Hall.** We have speakers in the hall, so you will still be able to hear Mass.

July 22, 2023, 9:00 am – The Central Texas Fellowship of Catholic **Men's Mass** will be held in Manor, TX this year. All men of the parish are welcome to attend. Please contact Matt Sheehy if you have any questions.

August 20, 2023 – Please save the date! We will have a **Church Picnic** on the church grounds immediately after Mass. Details to follow soon!

October 28, 2023, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm - St. John's will hold its first **Fall Festival!** Activities will include silent auction, games, food booths, photo area, music and fun, fun, fun! If you would like to be a part of planning this event, please see Faye Stewart.

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 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.

If you have **items for the bulletin**, please submit them to Celeste Sheehy at saintjohn1312@yahoo.com. Please submit all items **by 5:00 pm on Thursday** to allow time to prepare the bulletin for Sunday Mass.

Important Reminder:

Please do NOT put partial bills in the offering basket. We are NOT able to deposit bills that are incomplete; they are not valid currency once a section is missing. Your offering is important and we want to be able to include it each week.

