

***St. John the Baptist Catholic Church***

1312 Dallas Street  
Waco, Texas 76704

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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

**19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

***August 13, 2023***

**August 20, 2023**

***Lectors***

Gwen Stewart  
Heather Weekley

***Eucharistic Ministers***

Faye Stewart  
Fred Ouellette  
Heather 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

**After he had fed the people, Jesus made the disciples get into a boat and precede him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. After doing so, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When it was evening he was there alone. Matthew 14:22–23**

Our Gospel today presents us with two different images to ponder. The first one is recorded above, and the second one is the story of Jesus walking on the water. In the second story, the disciples were rowing against the wind and waves in the early morning before the sun rose. Jesus appeared to them walking on the water, and they were frightened. Jesus confronts the fear they experience and calls Peter to walk on the water as a sign of his faith in Him. Peter begins to walk on water, and then in fear, he begins to sink. He cries out to Jesus Who catches Him and then gently rebukes Peter for his lack of faith. It is helpful to understand the first image in this Gospel passage as the context for the second. In this first image, we see Jesus dismissing the crowds after feeding the five thousand and going up a mountain to pray all alone. Though Jesus was always in perfect union with the Father and, therefore, had no need for prayer, He prayed nonetheless because it was His human expression of the deep union He had with His Father. As He prayed, He also set forth an example to all who would follow Him, teaching them by His example about the importance of private prayer. The primary lesson He taught on this occasion was that prayer is the remote preparation we need so as to overcome all apparent obstacles in life and to confront fear with perfect faith. First, the obvious “obstacle” Jesus overcame through His prayer was symbolized by His walking on the stormy sea. No one walks on water. It’s physically impossible. But that’s the point. When we make our life of personal prayer a priority, God will lead us to accomplish that which appears to us to be impossible. It might not be walking on water literally, but His walking on water after spending the night in prayer is symbolic of every apparent impossibility we face in life. The lesson is that if God wills it, nothing is impossible. We will know that if we make personal prayer our first priority. A second obstacle that Jesus confronts is fear. Fear is paralyzing and results in us “sinking” when life becomes difficult. Again, personal prayer is the necessary preparation for overcoming fear. What’s interesting is that we have two witnesses of prayer. First is Jesus’ witness. He prayed because it was good and right to pray. The second is Peter. He prayed when he started to sink. He said, “Lord, save me!” This is the prayer of one who failed to have faith and prayed out of a present need rather than out of pure love of God. Too often, Peter exemplifies the prayer life that many Christians have. We often wait to pray until we need help and are sinking. But what if Peter had also spent the night in prayer simply out of love of God? What if he had just finished praying all night when he was invited to walk on water? Perhaps then he would have easily walked to Jesus and would not have given into fear. Reflect, today, upon making your life of prayer the number-one priority in your life. Maybe you have many responsibilities in life. Nothing is more important than praying—and not only when you feel trapped or feel like you are sinking. Instead, we must all establish an unbreakable habit of prayer

to God for the singular reason that it is good and right to do so. The fruit of such a life of prayer is that no matter what obstacle comes our way, we will have the faith we need to follow every command of our Lord, overcoming even that which appears to be impossible.

*My prayerful Lord, You spent the night in prayer to Your Father not because You needed help, but because of Your love. Your prayer was an expression of that love and was a natural requirement of it. Please help me to also establish an unbreakable habit of prayer so that my love for You will remain strong and so that I can follow You through every apparent obstacle in life. Jesus, I trust in You.*

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

**August 6, 2023**

Regular Offering: **\$1,862**

Building Fund: **\$35**

*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

Valerie Laubach

Stanley Marek

Kevin Byrd

Henry Walker

### ***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." Spend this retreat day to **learn more about the angels among us and their presence in our lives.** The retreat at Cedarbrake cost \$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.

Father Cyril would like **to celebrate all marriages** in our parish in an upcoming Mass. If you are a married couple, please enter your **names, marriage date, and number of years married** on the **clipboard in the foyer**.

**August 15, 2023, 6:00 pm** – Join us for the **Mass of the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**. We will also have Mass on Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

**August 16, 2023, 6:00 pm – 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Rural Life Celebration** in honor of farmers and ranchers throughout the Austin Diocese. Please join us for Mass with the Most Reverend Bishop Joe Vasquez at St. Mary's Church of the Assumption, 301 S. Harrison Street, West, TX.

**August 20, 2023** – With the extreme heat this summer, we will have our **Church Picnic TO GO** immediately after Mass. Hotdogs, burgers, chips and all the fixings on a plate ready to take home and enjoy inside.

**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.

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](mailto:saintjohn1312@yahoo.com). Please submit all items **by 5:00 pm on Thursday** to allow time to prepare the bulletin for Sunday Mass.