

***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

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

***August 20, 2023***

**August 27, 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

**At that time, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman of that district came and called out, "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon."**

**Matthew 15:21–22**

After Jesus was harshly challenged by the Pharisees, He and His disciples took a 35-mile journey to the northwest to a region that was in pagan territory and outside of the jurisdiction of Herod and the Jewish leaders. It might have been a time of repose for Him and His disciples and an opportunity for Jesus to form the disciples more directly. It was during this retreat that a pagan woman came to ask Jesus for help. As the story unfolds, we see that her prayer is a model for us all. First, she acknowledges Who Jesus is—the Son of David. This is a manifestation of her faith and a clear contrast to the lack of faith Jesus had experienced with many of the people in Galilee. Second, her request is expressed in straightforward and simple language, "Have pity on me!" And, "Lord, help me." Third, her prayer is persistent. Jesus allows her to manifest her persistence by first being silent to her request and then telling her "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." Jesus obviously does not say this to be rude, but to invite her to manifest her faith in a persistent way. And that she does. Finally, her prayer is one of deep humility. She responds, "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." She was begging for the "scraps" of Jesus' mercy, and she received His mercy in abundance. Do you desire the scraps of Jesus' mercy in the way a dog desires the scraps from the table of its owner? Hopefully you do. This is the disposition that we must all have in prayer. Sometimes, out of pride, we can think that we have a right to God's mercy. We can think that God owes us. And though we might realize that mercy is not deserved, we must allow that truth to sink in deeply. That is why this story is so important. It presents us with the ideal way to pray and the humble interior disposition we must have when approaching God. Prayerfully sit with the image of a dog begging for scraps from the table. When a dog is given what is left over, it is thrilled. To us, eating the scraps from another's plate is undesirable. But if the "plate" belongs to the Savior of the World and the "food" is His grace and mercy, then that changes everything. In the end, the Master also invites us to the table and feeds us with the finest of spiritual food. But that doesn't change the fact that we must always have the humble disposition exemplified by this humble woman. Reflect, today, upon this holy woman. In the end, Jesus cried out, "O woman, great is your faith!" But that did not come until she wholeheartedly expressed her faith with humility and persistence. With her as a shining example, reflect upon how you pray to God. Do you pray with self-righteousness, as if you deserve God's mercy? Do you tend to see God as one Who owes you something? Do you get angry with God when He doesn't immediately answer your demands? Try to humble yourself like this woman. Beg for whatever God wants to give to you. Do so with perseverance and the utmost trust. If you do, our Lord will not only pour forth the scraps of His

mercy, He will also pick you up and invite you to the glorious meal of His abundant grace.

*Most merciful Jesus, I beg of You that I be given only the scraps from the table of Your mercy. I beg this of You with all my heart. Though I do not deserve You, I seek You anyway. You know what I need, dear Lord; please bestow upon me Your mercy for those needs. Jesus, I trust in You.*

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

**August 13, 2023**

Regular Offering: **\$1,512.75**

Building Fund: **\$200**

*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.

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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.

## *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.

**Catholic Charities of Central Texas** seeks to help the most vulnerable in our communities to thrive in their God-given gifts and dignity. **Next weekend is Catholic Charities Weekend throughout the Diocese of Austin**. Stay tuned for more information at next week's mass, check out social media, and visit **[www.ccctx.org](http://www.ccctx.org)** next weekend to learn how you can become part of Catholic Charities' mission!

**Sisters of Christ the Light** is a diocesan congregation under the patronage of the Bishop of Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh, India. The ministry includes evangelization; pastoral care; education of the poor, child laborers, school dropouts, speech and hearing-impaired; care of the elderly, destitute, mentally challenged and many others. With our generosity, children can get a pair of hearing aids, food, clothing, education and medication. Donations can be made to Christ the Light, 401 N. Washington Street, Wilmington, DE 19801.

**August 20, 2023** – Today we recognize the **marriages** of our parish members. Congratulations to all of our married couples on your commitment and love. If you did not receive a certificate and would like one, please contact Heather Weekley with your names, date of marriage, and years married.

**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.

**September 20, 2023 – Breakfast** after Mass. Details coming 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.

If you are interested in **becoming a member of St. John's**, please fill out the membership card located in the foyer 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.