

***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

**21st Sunday in Ordinary Time**

***August 27, 2023***

**September 3, 2023**

***Lectors***

Darren Sliva  
Emily Stambaugh

***Eucharistic Ministers***

Matthew Sheehy  
Stanley Glynn  
Vernessa Hall

***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 went into the region of Caesarea Philippi and he asked his disciples,**

**“Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” Matthew 16:13**

Today's Gospel scene takes place about twenty miles north of the Sea of Galilee outside of Herod's jurisdiction and away from the Pharisees' watchful eyes. This is a private conversation between Jesus and His disciples that took place where they could speak freely. For that reason, this conversation is particularly personal in nature in that the disciples felt free to express their personal convictions without fear of retribution. As the conversation unfolds, Jesus asks two consecutive questions. First, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" Second, "But who do you say that I am?" By asking these two questions, Jesus first invites the disciples to identify the different opinions floating around about Him and then gives the disciples an opportunity to speak their own conviction. Peter responds on behalf of them all when he solemnly professes, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." If Jesus were to ask you these two questions, what would you answer? First, what is the general opinion about Jesus that most people have today? When asked, most Christians would give the correct answer. Jesus is God. He is the Savior. He is the Son of the Father. But sometimes those answers are more theoretical than they are personal. Often it is easy to believe things about Jesus rather than believing in Jesus. So if you were to answer the second question, what would you say? Ideally, you would answer that Jesus is your Savior, your God, your Shepherd, your Lord. Faith in Jesus must not only be theoretical, it must be deeply personal, flowing from the depths of your heart. Deep personal faith in Jesus can only come from one source. It comes from the Father speaking to your heart in a real and personal way. After Peter professed His faith in Jesus, Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father." Peter's personal faith in Jesus was not just something he heard from others, it was not just a popularly accepted opinion, it was something that the Father in Heaven personally revealed to him. This is the gift of faith. Peter's personal profession of faith became the rock foundation on which Jesus built His Church. "And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it." This reveals Jesus' plan to establish Peter as the head of the Church and to give to him the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven for the whole Church. Similarly, our personal profession of faith will become the unshakable foundation within our souls upon which God's Church becomes alive in each one of us. When our faith is based upon a personal revelation from the Father in Heaven, spoken within the secrecy of our souls, then nothing can extinguish this faith. The gates of the netherworld cannot prevail against it. Reflect, today, upon this holy conversation between Jesus and His disciples. As you do, know that Jesus wants to have the same conversation with you. As Jesus took the disciples away to this quiet and safe place, He wants to take you away through prayer to the privacy of your own soul. There, within you, He seeks to elicit a response of personal faith. He wants you to identify Who He is to you. He wants you to profess your faith to

Him. This faith is your personal solid foundation, and upon that foundation our Lord will build up His Church in you and through you.  
*Glorious Lord, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. I believe this with all my heart. Please continue to deepen my faith in You by revealing to me Who You are. As You do, I pray that this gift of faith will become a rock foundation upon which You form me more fully in the life of holy virtue and grace. Jesus, I trust in You.*

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

**August 20, 2023**

Offering amounts will be available in the September 10<sup>th</sup> bulletin.

*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

Julie Hemstreet

Stanley Marek

Henry Walker

Sonja Hemstreet Gaines

Jessie Hithe

Valerie Laubach

Kevin Byrd

Gloria Guerra

### ***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.

## *Announcements*

**Catholic Charities of Central Texas** is thrilled to celebrate Catholic Charities Weekend! For 25 years, Catholic Charities has proudly served as the social service arm of the Diocese of Austin and continues its commitment to serve anyone in need across all 25 counties in our Diocese. Learn more at [ccctx.org](http://ccctx.org).

**September 10, 2023 – Second Collection for Sisters of Christ the Light**, 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.

**September 10, 2023 – Breakfast** will be available in Sophie Hall after Mass. Details will be announced at Mass soon!

**September 10, 2023 12:00 noon - Pro-Life Luncheon.** Rev. Clenard Childress, a leading national pro-life voice, will be the speaker at St. Mary's Church Hall in Waco. An Italian buffet will be served throughout the noon hour—adults \$10. Children welcome. The program is 12:45 to 2:30 PM. For questions contact John Pisciotta at [prolifewaco@gmail.com](mailto:prolifewaco@gmail.com) or 254-644-0407.

**September 10, 2023, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm – Chicken Fajita Dinner at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Marlin.** Please see the flyers on the doors for more information.

**September 14, 2023 – Annual CareNet Banquet** at the Waco Convention Center. Doors open at 6:00 pm, dinner served at 6:30 pm, and the program begins at 7:00 pm. For more information, see the posted flyers on the doors.

**September 21, 2023, 6:00 pm - Active Shooter Class** in Sophie Hall. The training will be led by Sofie Martinez from the Waco PD.

**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.