

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

1312 Dallas Street  
Waco, Texas 76704

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Pastor/Administrator: Father Cyril Ejaidu

Confession: Sunday 10:00-10:25 am

Mass: Sunday 10:30 am

Mass: Wednesday 6:00 pm

**22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

***September 3, 2023***

**September 10, 2023**

***Lectors***

Faye Stewart  
Fred Ouellette

***Eucharistic Ministers***

Darren Sliva  
Emily Stambaugh  
Gwendolyn Stewart

***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

**"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life?" Matthew 16:24–26**

Just before Jesus gave this teaching, He predicted to the Twelve for the first time that He would "suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised." In fear, Peter objected, saying, "God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you." To Peter's statement, Jesus responds firmly, "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." What a difficult thing that must have been to hear from Jesus! Jesus was ready and willing to suffer and die for the salvation of the world. He knew that by dying He would transform death itself into the very means of eternal salvation. He knew that laying down His life in this way was the greatest act of love He could offer; therefore, Jesus didn't hesitate at all. He was ready and willing to give His human life so that we could live. To understand this we must realize three things. First, by assuming our human nature, Jesus forged a bond between God and humanity. Second, by sharing in our death He made it possible for us to cling to Him in our own death. Third, by rising from the dead, Jesus made it possible for those who cling to Him in death to also share in His Resurrection. Though we will only fully understand this great mystery of redemption in Heaven, we must strive to comprehend it as best we can here on earth. Peter did not understand this, at least not at that moment when Jesus first revealed it. Peter allowed fear to tempt him to interfere in Jesus' glorious act of salvation. This is why Jesus rebuked him so strongly. It was a loving rebuke meant to free Peter from his fear and to give him courage to embrace the Sacrifice Jesus was about to offer. The passage quoted above follows Peter's rebuke and is Jesus' instruction on how we will all share in His gift of salvation. In order to rise with Christ, we must freely die with Him. We must deny ourselves, meaning all selfishness and sin, and imitate Jesus' heroic sacrificial gift of His life. The result will be that we are united to Him in His death and in His Resurrection to new life. Fear can paralyze us. But fear, in this case, is a response that is based on an error. We embrace that error when we act out of selfishness. Each of us will die. That's a fact. The question is how we die. We can either die selfishly, seeing our earthly life as the center of all. Or we can die in a self-giving way with our Lord by uniting ourselves to His act of sacrificial love. We do this by turning our eyes away from ourselves and seeking out every way that we can imitate Jesus' death. We must strive to serve, live sacrificially, put God's will first, unite ourselves to Christ, and make love for our neighbor our mission in life. This is what Jesus did. When we do this, we take up our cross, follow Him, die with Him, and are prepared to share in His Resurrection. This is the only way to eternal life. Reflect, today, upon the words "Take up your cross and follow Me." This is Jesus' most sacred instruction to us all on how we should live and how we will share in His gift of eternal life. What

cross in your life are you fearful of? What act of sacrifice do you avoid? True love hurts in the sense that it is always selfless. We must die to ourselves. Reflect upon any way that you fail to do this, and allow Jesus' rebuke of Peter to also rebuke you so that you will be freed from the fear of this holy sacrificial love that will unite you to our Lord.

*My sacrificial Lord, You did not fear laying down Your sacred life for us all. You embraced Your mission of love by entering into death itself so that we could die with You and thus share in Your Resurrection. Please free me from all fear of the crosses in my life and help me to fully embrace a life of sacrificial love. Jesus, I trust in You.*

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

**September 3, 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

Sonja Hemstreet Gaines

Hilde Ouellette

Jessie Hithe

Julie Hemstreet

Stanley Marek

### ***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*

**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 17, 2023, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm – Annual Bazaar at Holy Trinity Catholic Church of Corn Hill.** Mass at 10:30 am will be followed by a meal and festivities at the Parish Activity Center. Please see the flyers on the doors for more information.

**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.