

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

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 1, 2023

October 8, 2023

Lectors

Darren Sliva
Emily Stambaugh

Eucharistic Ministers

Stanley Glynn
Vernessa Hall
Faye 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

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: “What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He came to the first and said, ‘Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.’ He said in reply, ‘I will not,’ but afterwards changed his mind and went. The man came to the other son and gave the same order. He said in reply, ‘Yes, sir,’ but did not go.” Matthew 21:28–30

This parable presents a message of great hope to those who find it difficult to follow the will of God. The first son, the one who said he would not obey the father but then changed his mind, refers to those who have initially rejected the will of God but then repented and turned back to Him. The second son represents those who claim to be faithful followers of the will of God, but are not. This second son presents us with a very dangerous trap we can fall into. He represents the interior disposition of the chief priests and elders of the people. They said one thing but did another. They acted as if they were righteous but were not. They might have even been fooling themselves. Of course, there is another possible scenario Jesus doesn't present. Ideally, when the father asked his son to work in the vineyard he would have said “yes” and then followed through with his commitment. But this is not mentioned because no one falls into that category, except for our Blessed Mother. All people have sinned, and everyone needs to repent. When we look at these two sons, we must humbly strive to be like the first one. We must begin by acknowledging that we have refused to obey the will of God in many ways throughout our lives. God has invited us to serve Him, and we have said “no.” Acknowledging this is an essential starting point for a life of true conversion and service of God. When we fail to humbly admit that we have sinned, we are acting like the second son. We are living a lie and are trying to convince ourselves that we are faithful to the will of God when we are not. This second son represents a very dangerous interior disposition that we must avoid with all of our might. It is the sin of impenitence, a sin against the Holy Spirit. It is dangerous because this type of self-righteousness keeps a person from truly serving the will of God. They believe their own lie and see no need to repent. Which of these two sons are you most like? Are you keenly aware of your weaknesses and sins? Can you humbly admit them to yourself and to God? Or do you tend to present yourself as one who is holy and does not need to repent? Never be afraid to admit your sin. Never pretend to be someone you are not. Never allow yourself to be drawn into self-righteousness. We are all called to a life of ongoing conversion. Seeing that fact, admitting to it and striving for that conversion will win for us the glorious Kingdom of Heaven. Reflect, today, upon the many ways that you have initially said “no” to the will of God. Sometimes we do so in grave matters, and sometimes we do so in less serious ways. The humble truth is that we all refuse to fully embrace the will of God every day. The invitation we have been given to obey Him is much more than a black-and-white, yes-or-no answer. God's call to obedience goes deep and is a call on a continuously deepening level. Keep looking into your soul and confess the ways you reject the will of God. The more clearly you see your sins and confess them, the more fully you will be in a position to say “yes” to the will of God with all your heart.

Most merciful Lord, You continuously call us to repentance. We have all sinned against You and do so every day. Please give me the gifts of humility and honesty so that I will be aware of the ways in which I refuse to say yes to Your perfect will and so that I can repent of those sins and daily turn back to You. Jesus, I trust in You.

St. John's Offering

September 24, 2023

Regular Offering: **\$1,230** Building Fund: **\$110**

Special Collection: **\$101.66**

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

October 7, 2023, 9:00 am – 2:30 pm - Contemplative prayer and meditation no longer hide behind the walls of cloistered monasteries.

Thomas Merton and other spiritual contemporaries reopened the door of the contemplative path to all Christians. Learn more about contemplative prayer at this day retreat at Cedarbrake. The cost is \$45.

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.

October 14, 2023 – Annual Parish Festival and OKTOBERFEST Picnic at St. Philip Catholic Mission in China Spring, TX – Our parish is invited to attend the

event; planning is underway now. Two of the most popular attractions are the Silent and Live Auctions. The Auction Committee is soliciting donations of items, services, and gift certificates that they can offer for auction. Contact Cathy Dominguez at 254-640-1060 if you or your business would like to make a donation.

October 8, 2023 – 2nd annual National Faith & Blue Weekend. This program is part of the WPD community engagement. St. John's will host **Coffee with a Cop** in Sophie Hall after Mass. WPD officers will attend mass and will be available to talk with parishioners in the hall.

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.

November 2, 2023 - Dia de los Muertos is believed to have been celebrated originally in the summer by the Aztecs, but when the culture became Catholic, it was moved to coincide with All Souls and All Saints Days. Catholics have usually celebrated the feast by having family meals at the graves of loved ones, decorating altars of prayer in their homes with pictures of deceased family, and having communal meals with neighbors, friends and family. The essence of Catholic celebration of this feast has been an emphasis on the Communion of Saints, that we are all still connected to each other both in this world and the next. The Catholic Women would like for you to join us to celebrate an honor our deceased loved ones. Please feel free to bring a 4x6 or 5x7 framed photo to place on the ofrenda which will be located in Sophie Hall. We will have a rosary on All Souls Day prior to mass.

November 5, 2023 – All Souls Day was November 2. The Catholic Women's Group invites us to **celebrate our loved ones by sharing a potluck lunch of your favorite dishes** after Mass in Sophie Hall.

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 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.

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.