

***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

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

***October 8, 2023***

**October 15, 2023**

***Lectors***

Faye Stewart  
Fred Ouellette

***Eucharistic Ministers***

Darren Sliva  
Emily Stambaugh  
Heather Weekley

***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 them, “Did you never read in the Scriptures: *The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes?* Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit.” Matthew 21:42–43**

The most amazing thing that has ever happened in this world is the death of the Son of God. It is amazing for many reasons. It's amazing that God the Father allowed His Son to be brutally murdered by evil men. It's amazing that the Son did not call upon the myriad of angels to stop His persecution. It's amazing that Jesus spoke words of forgiveness from the Cross as His own mother looked on. But perhaps the most amazing aspect about this event is that from it, the gift of eternal salvation was made possible.

Only God, in His inconceivable wisdom and power, could bring forth the greatest good from the greatest evil. Nothing could be more evil than the brutal murder of the Son of God. And nothing could be more glorious than the transformation of that heinous act into the definitive act of salvation for the human race. Jesus was “the stone rejected by the builders.” But that rejected Stone was used by the Father to “become the cornerstone” of the new life of grace to which we are called. The passage quoted above concludes the Parable of the Tenants, which outlines salvation history. The Father is the owner of the vineyard, which represents the people of Israel. The tenants were the religious leaders of the time who abused the prophets who were sent to gather the fruit of God's Kingdom. The son is the Son of God whom the leaders of Israel killed under the misconception that killing Jesus would guarantee the continuation of their power. However, the true result was that they suffered their own destruction, and the murdered Son became the cornerstone of the Church and the source of new life. Today, you are among the people to whom God has given charge of His new Vineyard, the Church. Of you, God demands an abundance of good fruit. Though the Church is entrusted to the pope, bishops and priests in a special way, it is also entrusted to the laity, each in their own way. Everyone must bear fruit for the Kingdom of God, and everyone will be held accountable for their stewardship. Sometimes we can fall into the trap of thinking that we have little to offer. If we were the pope, a bishop or even a priest, we could do great things for God. And though that is true, it is no less true that everyone is capable of bearing an abundance of good fruit for the Kingdom. And God expects that of us all. If you doubt that fact in any way, recall again the undeniable fact that the Father used the greatest evil ever committed to bring forth the greatest good ever known. If God can bring forth new life from death, then He can certainly use you in powerful ways. In fact, the weaker you are and the more insignificant you feel, the more God can use you to produce good fruit. Reflect, today, upon the glorious fact that if God can use his own suffering and death to bring salvation to the world, He can also use you in ways that are beyond your imagination. You might not become a famous evangelist. You might not succeed in some well-recognized ministry. In fact, you might even encounter much suffering, persecution, and hardship

throughout life. Regardless of your own life situation, God desires to use you for great things and to bear an abundance of good fruit for His Kingdom. Commit to that mission, and allow God to use you as a cornerstone of His grace in this world.

*My Lord and Cornerstone of the Church, You were rejected by the leaders of Israel and were killed in the most horrific way. Yet in Your glorious power, You transformed that evil into the greatest good. I give to You my weaknesses and pains, my talents and labors; I give to You my entire life. Please use me and help me to share in Your life so that, with You, I may also become a cornerstone of Your grace as You desire. Jesus, I trust in You.*

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

**October 1, 2023**

Regular Offering: **\$1,474.67** Building Fund: **\$135**

*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

Stanlev Marek

### ***Diocesan News***

**October 13, 2023 3:00 pm – October 15, 2023, 12:30 pm - Celtic Christian spirituality** refers to a set of practices and beliefs in Western Europe that developed in the early fifth century during the development of the monastic tradition. Sr. Veronica Cahill of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate Order is originally from Dublin, and she will direct this retreat. The cost is \$280 for a private room, \$240 for a shared room and \$140 for commuters.



*Please pray for a successful fall festival on October 28, 2023. A great deal of planning and work is being done for this family activity. Please pray for our parish to enjoy the day.*

## *Announcements*

**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 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. 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 28, 2023, 10:00 am - 5:00 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!

**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. 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 4, 2023 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm** – The KOPC Ladies Auxiliary Court 365 presents their **Fall Tea, Living Life with a Purpose** in Sophie Hall. Donations of \$15 are requested.

**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.

**November 17, 2023** - The 2023 **RED-C Catholic Radio KYAR 98.3 FM Benefit Dinner** will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in West. Our keynote speaker will be Dr. David Anders, host of EWTN's daily show, "Called to Communion." **To reserve a table or individual seats go to [redcradio.org](http://redcradio.org) or call Deacon Robin Waters at 254-749-4937.**

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.