

***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

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

***October 22, 2023***

**October 29, 2023**

***Lectors***

Gwen Stewart  
Heather Weekley

***Eucharistic Ministers***

Jessica Lozano  
Matthew Sheehy  
Fred Ouellette

***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

**The Pharisees went off and plotted how they might entrap him in speech. They sent their disciples to him, with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. And you are not concerned with anyone's opinion, for you do not regard a person's status. Tell us, then, what is your opinion: Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?" Matthew 22:15-17**

It has been said that "the enemy of my enemy is my friend." In other words, two people who are enemies with each other will often join together if they see an opportunity to jointly attack an even greater enemy. This is what was happening in today's Gospel. Jesus was considered the greatest enemy of the Pharisees and the Herodians, and both of these groups joined together in a plot to trap Jesus even though they greatly disliked each other. The Pharisees were very nationalistic and were strict observers of the Law of Moses. It was their view that the people should not have to pay taxes to the Romans, and many of the people agreed. The Herodians supported the Romans and, therefore, were supporters of Herod, the Jewish ruler appointed by the Roman Emperor. One of Herod's responsibilities was to obtain taxes from the Jews for use by the Roman government. Those who opposed the paying of taxes to the Romans could even be put to death. This joint questioning of Jesus had one goal: to get Him in trouble. If Jesus said it was unlawful to pay taxes to Caesar, Herod's soldiers could arrest Him. If Jesus said that the people should pay taxes to Caesar, the Pharisees could turn the people against Him. It appeared to be a lose-lose question posed to Jesus. Of course, Jesus' answer was perfect. Without violating the Law of God, He also refrained from violating the civil law. Upon hearing His answer, all who heard Him "were amazed, and leaving him they went away." The lesson learned from this passage is an especially important lesson to apply to family life. It is very common for conflicts to arise from time to time among those who are close to each other. When that happens, we can often take the approach of trying to trap the other person and trip them up with our deceptive reasoning. When this happens between two people, the conversation often turns into a shouting match with each party seeking only to find fault with the other. The solution to such situations is simple. Every conflict must be resolved by the truth. Jesus did this perfectly. He did not attack when He was attacked. He did not defend Himself irrationally. He did not shy away from the confrontation. He did not manipulate the truth to His own advantage. Instead, He spoke openly and honestly the full truth and refused to engage his opponents in their trickery. Consider this question. What if you were in Jesus' position and the Pharisees came to you, asking you this question? What would you be tempted to answer? Most likely, you would try to answer them in such a way that appeased them. You might whisper, "We shouldn't pay the taxes but don't tell that to the Herodians." And if the Herodians were to ask you that question, you might be tempted to give a different answer that appeased them. Oftentimes, when we feel as though another person is trying to trap us, condemn us, or challenge us, we become more concerned about our defense than with the honest truth. We can

become afraid to say anything that will give them reason to attack us. We will be tempted to twist our answers rather than speak forthrightly with sincerity and honesty. This will never resolve a conflict. The only way to resolve anything is with the truth. Reflect, today, upon how you work to resolve conflict when it arises. Are you more like the Pharisees and Herodians whose only goal was to trick, trap and win? Do you see the other as an enemy in those moments? Or do you strive to be like Jesus who didn't shy away from the conversation, answering honestly and directly? Of course, the truth was easy for Jesus since He was without any fault. In our lives, the truth may require that we admit our sin and apologize when confronted. However, if the truth, the full truth and nothing but the truth is our goal, then our conversations will imitate Jesus and, most often, a peaceful resolution will ensue.

*My truthful Lord, Your wisdom is perfect and Your words are truth. Please give me the gifts of wisdom and all truth, especially when conflicts arise. In those moments, please keep me from reacting in an angry and defensive way so that I can always be an instrument of the unity You desire. Jesus, I trust in You.*

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

**October 8, 2023**

Regular: **\$1,694** Building Fund: **\$110** Special Collection: **\$315**

**October 15, 2023**

Regular: **\$826** Building Fund: **\$10**

*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

Mario Campos

### ***Diocesan News***

**November 10, 2023, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Exploring the Road Blocks to Letting Go** What keeps you from experiencing true joy and the love of God? Is it control, doubt, fear, pride, past hurt or anger? Come and open your hearts and uncover what may be blocking your path to live a life in Jesus Christ with purpose, freedom, and joy. Cindy Isaacson, a gifted retreat leader and

parishioner at St. Theresa in Austin will guide us on retreat from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The retreat includes mass and lunch; the cost is \$45.

### *Announcements*

**October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.** Please pick up a pink ribbon in the foyer to wear in recognition of breast cancer survivors.

**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! Please pray for all working to make the day a success!

**November 2, 2023 - Día 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 connected to each other both in this world and the next. The Catholic Women invite you to celebrate and honor our deceased loved ones. You may bring a 4x6 or 5x7 framed photo to place on the ofrenda 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 Mexican dishes** after Mass in Sophie Hall.

**November 5, 2023** – St. Joseph Catholic Church in Marlin will host its **2023 Turkey and Dressing Dinner** for \$15 per plate serving from 11:00 am until sold out. There will also be a Bake Sale with lots of cakes, pies, and cookies.

**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 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](mailto:saintjohn1312@yahoo.com). Please submit all items **by 5:00 pm on Thursday** to allow time to prepare the bulletin for Sunday Mass.