

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

1312 Dallas Street
Waco, Texas 76704

Website: www.stjohnswaco.org
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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

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 5, 2023

November 12, 2023

Lectors

Martha Stambaugh
Matt Sheehy

Eucharistic Ministers

Emily Stabaugh
Faye Stewart
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

Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, saying, “The scribes and the Pharisees have taken their seat on the chair of Moses. Therefore, do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example.” Matthew 23:1–3

Sometimes people’s words inspire us, but more often it is the witness they give with their actions that inspires. Additionally, when someone’s words do not match up with their actions, they are seen as hypocrites. Jesus is very hard on the scribes and the Pharisees for this reason. “For they preach but they do not practice.” They spoke about the Law of God, taught it in a detailed way, but they did not truly practice God’s Law as it was intended to be practiced. Jesus goes on to give a list of the ways that these religious leaders failed to live the laws of God. They failed in their charity and encouragement of others, they did everything for public praise and for show, and they sought out honors and meaningless titles. As a result, they cared little for others and cared much about themselves. At the heart of Jesus’ criticism of the scribes and Pharisees was their tendency to exalt themselves in the eyes of others. Jesus corrects this tendency by saying that “the greatest among you must be your servant,” and that “whoever humbles himself will be exalted.” Therefore, if you wish to be truly great and if you wish to be exalted by God, you must serve with the deepest humility. Humility begins by seeing yourself in the light of truth. How does God see you? The humble soul seeks to discover this insight by using the eyes of Christ to look at their own soul. It would be truly humbling if we could see ourselves in the full light of the truth. But too often we take on a false image of ourselves and look at our lives through a lens of self-righteousness. We tend to quickly defend our actions, justifying the sins we commit and failing to acknowledge our weaknesses. What would you see if you looked at yourself with humility? One glaring thing you will see is your sin. Our lives are filled with sin. Sometimes they are serious sins, and at other times less serious, but our lives are undoubtedly filled with sins and imperfections. If we are blind to those sins, then we lack the necessary humility we need to see ourselves in the light of truth. The virtue of humility will also take us a step further than seeing our sins clearly. It will also help us to see our need for God’s grace in order to change, to love, and to serve God and others. We cannot love by our own efforts. It is impossible. The love of charity is only possible when it is God Who lives in us and acts through us. God and God alone is able to work true charity through our actions. Knowing and believing this humble truth is the only way to open the door to that grace. Reflect, today, upon the humility that you need in order to truly love. When you love others with the pure love of God, you will discover within yourself a need to serve. You will see others as objects of your love. You will discover a burning desire to help them, forgive them, be gentle and merciful to them, and to do all you can to help them discover the truth of their own lives so they will, in turn, humbly turn to God. The scribes and Pharisees failed miserably at this mission, and that is one of the reasons that Jesus used them as an example. Do not follow their lead. Seek to take the

opposite approach. Seek humility. Seek the truth. If you do, God will use you in powerful ways and will exalt you on high.

Most humble Lord, You are exalted above all because You were humble beyond all. You knew the truth of Who You are and embraced that truth with all Your might. Please give me Your eyes to see myself as You see me, so that in Your humble gaze, I will see my sin, repent wholeheartedly, and turn to You as the source of all my love. Jesus, I trust in You.

St. John's Offering

October 29, 2023

Regular: **\$968.25**

Building Fund: **\$35**

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

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.

December 1, 2023, 3:30 pm – December 3, 2023, 12:30 pm – Silent Advent

Retreat Give yourself a gift early by preparing for the birth of Our Lord. This silent retreat will include community prayer, reflections, mass, adoration and confession and will be led by Fr. Harry Dean and Brian Egan. The costs are \$295 for a private room, \$255 for a shared room and \$150 for commuters.

Our Mission Statement: To be a faith community bringing the presence of Christ to all by celebrating God's word and the Sacraments.

Our Vision Statement: To build a strong and vibrant community through core values based on love, selflessness, and service.

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.

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 8, 2023 10:00 am – All ladies of the parish are invited to attend the next **Waco Deanery meeting of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women**. The meeting begins at 10 AM and will be held at **St. Mary Church of the Assumption, 303 S. Harrison, in West**. Lunch will be provided by the ladies of St. Mary Church with donations accepted. Meeting, brief program, meal and door prizes will conclude about 1:30 PM. Make plans to attend and be ready to be inspired in your role as a Catholic woman and enjoy great fellowship with Catholic ladies from throughout the Waco Deanery. Call/text Bernice Helpert @ 254-723-6521 or email bbhelpert@gmail.com for more information.

November 14, 2023, 6:45 pm – 7:45 pm – For decades, John Pisciotta has been a dynamic pro-life leader in Central Texas. On the topic of **“The Promise and Peril for Pro-Life Progress in the Post-Roe Era”**, John will present to the Central Texas Fellowship of Catholic Men at the Ret Kat building 5034 Franklin Avenue. To learn about Pro-Life Waco, check out prolifewaco.com. For questions contact Robert Tunmire 254-745-2502.

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. The 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 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. Please submit all items **by 5:00 pm on Thursday** to allow time to prepare the bulletin for Sunday Mass.