

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

1312 Dallas Street  
Waco, Texas 76704

Website: [www.stjohnswaco.org](http://www.stjohnswaco.org)  
E-mail: [saintjohn1312@yahoo.com](mailto: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

**32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

***November 12, 2023***

**November 19, 2023**

***Lectors***

Vernessa Hall  
Alicia Pesena

***Eucharistic Ministers***

Gwen Stewart  
Heather Keahey  
Heather Weekley

***Ministry for the  
Sick and Homebound***

Mrs. Gwendolyn Stewart and  
Mrs. Carolyn Brown

***Photographer***

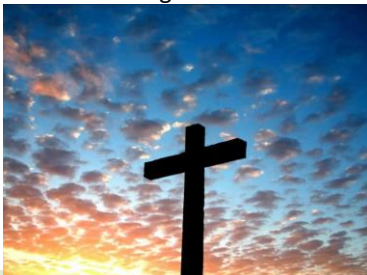
David Haliburton

***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 told his disciples this parable: “The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise.” Matthew 25:1–2**

Our five senses can be said to be a window to our souls. With our senses we perceive the world around us, take it into our minds and heart, and engage it according to the decisions we make. Several of the Church Fathers say that the five wise virgins in today's parable represent those who use their five senses in accord with God's will, whereas the five foolish virgins are those who indulge their five senses in a life of sin. Interestingly, Saint John of the Cross teaches that the highest form of communication with God takes place when our five senses are silenced and all that we have learned through them is darkened so that God can communicate to us in a direct and spiritual way. But until we reach that level of spiritual perfection, accomplished by various purifications of our soul, we must rely upon our senses as a source of knowledge, especially our knowledge of God. With our eyes we are called to perceive the beauty of God's presence within creation, especially in other people. With our ears we hear the Word of God proclaimed that then resonates within us, inspiring the gift of faith. Our senses of smell, taste and touch will also teach us in various ways, leading us either to the delights of the Kingdom of God, or to the indulgences of the fallen world. If the five wise virgins represent the holy use of the five senses, then we must see the connection between them and the oil for their lamps. Many Church Fathers see the oil as a symbol of good works, or charity. Charity is necessary for the attainment of Heaven, for the meeting of the Bridegroom when He shows up at an unexpected time. The person who engages in charity is one who uses the natural gifts given by God for His glory. Their five senses are constantly seeking ways to glorify God and to accomplish His holy will. The five senses can also easily lead us to the selfish pursuit of fleshly pleasures. When this happens, the oil of charity runs dry within us and we are unprepared for the moment of our death, when the Bridegroom returns. Think about yourself being those wise or foolish virgins by considering how you use your five senses. What do you look at regularly with your eyes? Do you seek out the presence of God in our world? Do you see Him in the poor, the vulnerable, the lonely, and the needy? Or do you look at the many evils all around you and become infatuated with them, allowing yourself to be drawn into their practices? With your ears, do you listen attentively to the Word of God? Or do you find yourself drawn to the world of gossip, detraction and other sinful words that are spoken? Do you indulge your senses of touch, smell and taste, choosing an excess of pleasure, becoming inordinately attached? Or do you strive for temperance and self-control, denying yourself unhealthy and sinful pleasures? Reflect, today, upon the natural powers of your own soul, especially the gift of your five senses. As you do, examine the ways you use them, what you look at, listen to, and indulge in. Your senses are but a window to your soul and the first way through which God speaks to you and enters your heart. Keep guard of your senses, and only allow the good things of Heaven to

enter in. Doing so will produce the oil of charity within and will enable you to be perpetually ready for the coming of our Lord.

*Lord of perfect charity, You desire to speak to me and reveal Yourself to me in many ways. I pray that I will always perceive You with my eyes and ears, and use all of my five senses for Your glory. Please free me from every inordinate and unhealthy attachment so that I am free to completely attach myself to You. Jesus, I trust in You.*

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

**November 5, 2023**

The offering amounts for last week will be included in the next 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***

**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.

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**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 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](http://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](http://redcradio.org) or call Deacon Robin Waters at 254-749-4937.**

**November 19, 2023** – We will have a special collection for the **Catholic Services Appeal**. Your gift to the Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) supports men discerning vocations to the priesthood and diaconate, priests currently serving and retired priests. Your gift helps to sustain Catholic schools, religious education, and ministerial formation.

Contact Carolyn Brown or Gwendolyn Stewart either while at church or email at [saintjohn1312@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:saintjohn1312@yahoo.com). Please submit all items **by 5:00 pm on Thursday** to allow time to prepare the bulletin for Sunday Mass.