

***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

**First Sunday of Advent**

***December 3, 2023***

**December 10, 2023**

***Lectors***

Joe Quinones  
Joseph Brown

***Eucharistic Ministers***

Stanley Glynn  
Vernessa Hall  
Darren Sliva

***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 his disciples: “Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.” Mark 13:33**

To which time is our Lord referring? He is referring to the time of His coming. But it must be understood that even though He came to us once in the flesh long ago, and though He will return again in the flesh to judge the living and the dead at the end of time, He never ceases to come to us day and night by the transforming gift of grace. Are you attentive to this coming? Or do you miss out on the countless blessings of God’s grace that He wants to bestow upon you every day, all day? The world has many distractions. We are distracted by the lure of riches, the indulgence of our appetites, and the constant noise of modern media, electronic gadgets and the like. These and many other daily distractions make it very difficult to be constantly “watchful” and “alert.” This is because our attention span is limited. Though some may learn to “multi-task” to a certain extent, no one can continually divide their attention between the presence of God and the distractions of the world. Some may argue that it is necessary to engage the world today. It is not possible to continually pray and think only about God. But those who would be tempted to think this do not understand the attentiveness and watchfulness to which we are called. Being watchful and attentive simply means that God is central in our lives and is the motivation and purpose of all we do every day. Our love for and service to God cannot be divided. We cannot set aside some time for the world and other times for God. Instead, everything we do, every day, all day, must have the glory of God and the fulfillment of God’s perfect will as the central and exclusive purpose of our lives. Thus, if we interact with the world, tune into social media, fulfill household chores, put in extra hours at work, etc., we must constantly ponder the simple question, “Lord, am I doing this for Your glory and in accord with Your will?” We must never fail to ask ourselves that question. We must always have the glory of God and the fulfillment of His will as the central purpose and motivation for all that we do. If we can live this way, then we will discover that it becomes increasingly easy to always and everywhere be attentive to and watchful for God’s will. Reflect, today, upon that to which you most often turn your attention. What is it that you think about the most each day? To what are you most attentive and watchful? If the answer to that question is not the ongoing promptings of God and His grace, then make note of that fact. Humbly pray that you can change and begin to form a transforming habit of daily keeping your attention on our Lord so that He will become your daily guide and focus in all things.

*Lord of all grace, You come to me day and night, speaking to me, calling me and desiring to guide me. May I learn to turn my full attention to You every day so that nothing but You and Your holy will lead me always. Jesus, I trust in You.*

**St. John’s Offering**

**November 19, 2023**

Regular Offering: \$1,409

Building Fund: \$10

**November 26, 2023**

Regular Offering: \$795

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

Hilde Ouellette

Julie Hemstreet

Jazz Rosas

Christina Lambert

Rebecca Galindo

Sonja Hemstreet Gaines

Jessie Hithe

Stanley Marek

Lori Kidd

George and Linda Morales

***Diocesan News***

**January 19, 3:00 pm - January 21, 2024, 12:00 pm – Rest in Me** This retreat is a weekend of rest for moms/female caregivers of children with physical, mental, or intellectual disabilities and/or chronic medical issues. This weekend is a time for each caregiver to share and find strength in each other and God. Mass, adoration plus praise and worship will be part of the retreat. The costs are \$225 for a private room, \$200 for a shared room and \$100 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.

**December 9, 2023, 12:30 pm** – The **St. John's Mens Group** will meet for lunch and fellowship; we will also put up Christmas lights outside the church. All men of the parish are invited. Please let Matt Sheehy know if you plan to attend.

**December 16, 2023** – The **Parish Council** will meet in Sophie Hall at noon.

**December 16, 2023, evening** – Bishop Louis Reicher Catholic School in Waco will host a **BBQ contest and Dessert Baking Contest**. You must bring your own grill for the BBQ Contest (transportation for grills may be requested). Please contact [javier@ablaze.us](mailto:javier@ablaze.us) for grill transportation, **registration, or for more contest information**. All funds raised will go to the Bishop Reicher soccer program. BBQ entry: \$35. Baking entry: \$25. (\$5 off for teams/contestants under 18 years old). Come-to-taste tickets: \$10.

**December 17, 2023** – We will have a catered **Christmas lunch** in Sophie Hall for all members of the parish.

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.

