

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

1312 Dallas Street
Waco, Texas 76704

Website: www.stjohnswaco.org
E-mail: 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

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 7, 2024

January 14, 2024

Lectors

Alicia Pesena
Darren Sliva

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

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.” Matthew 2:1–2

The Magi were most likely from Persia, modern-day Iran. They were men who regularly engaged in a study of the stars. They were not Jewish but were most likely aware of the popular belief of the Jewish people that a king would be born who would save them.

These Magi were called by God to encounter the Savior of the World.

Interestingly, God used something very familiar to them as an instrument of their calling: the stars. It was among their belief that when someone of great importance was born, this birth was accompanied by a new star. So when they saw this new, bright and brilliant star, they were filled with curiosity and hope. One of the most significant aspects of this story is that they responded. God called them through the use of a star, and they chose to follow this sign, embarking on a long and arduous journey.

God often uses those things most familiar to us that are part of our daily life to send forth His calling. Recall, for example, that many of the Apostles were fishermen, and Jesus used their occupation to call them, making them “fishers of men.” He especially used the miraculous catch of fish to clearly indicate to them that they had a new calling.

In our own lives, God is constantly calling us to seek Him out and worship Him. He will often use some of the most ordinary parts of our lives to send forth that calling. How is He calling you? In what way is He sending you a star to follow? Many times when God speaks, we ignore His voice. We must learn from these Magi and diligently respond when He calls. We must not hesitate and must seek to daily be attentive to the ways that God invites us to deeper trust, surrender and worship.

Reflect, today, upon God’s call in your life. Are you listening? Are you responding? Are you ready and willing to abandon all else in life so as to serve His holy will? Seek Him, wait on Him and respond. Doing so will be the best decision you ever make.

Lord, I love You and pray that I will be open to Your guiding hand in my life. May I always be attentive to the countless ways that You call to me each and every day. And may I always respond to You with all my heart. Jesus, I trust in You.

St. John’s Offering

December 31, 2023

Regular Offering: **\$1558.55**

Building Fund: **\$1,010**

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

Connie Latham

Sonja Hemstreet Gaines

Jessie Hithe

Stanley Marek

Bob Jr. and Kay Sheehy

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.

February 2, 3:00 pm – 4, 12:00 noon, 2024 – Workshop for Spiritual Directors Apostles of Interior Life Sisters' Raffaella Cavallin & Tatum McWhirter will present a weekend of talks based on St. Ignatius spirituality and discernment. The Sisters' charism is to teach and give spiritual direction and they will give five conferences at this workshop. 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.

February 17, 2024, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm – The 12th Annual Catholic Men's Conference will take place at San Jose Parish, 2435 Oak Cresst Ave, Austin , TX. The day will include rosary, mass the conference with speakers Matthew Leonard and Devin Schadt, fellowship, and expo. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided. The church will pay the registration fee for any men who would like to attend. Information on registration is available in the church foyer. Please let Matt Sheehy know if you plan to attend; transportation from the church to the conference is being arranged.

March 7-10, 2024 – All men of the parish are invited to attend the **Men's ACTS retreat** at URJ Greene Family Camp in Bruceville, TX. The purpose of the weekend is to invite you to experience a new or deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through the four themes of an ACTS Retreat. ACTS is an acronym for Adoration, Community, Theology and Service. Registration forms are available in the church foyer. If you have questions, please contact Matt Sheehy.

Contact Carolyn Brown or Gwendolyn Stewart either while at church or email at 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. Please submit all items **by 5:00 pm on Thursday** to allow time to prepare the bulletin for Sunday Mass.

