

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

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 21, 2024

January 28, 2024

Lectors

KOPC

Eucharistic Ministers

KOPC

***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

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.” Mark 1:14–15

Jesus begins His public ministry immediately after being tempted by the devil while in the desert for forty days. As He begins His ministry, He declares: “This is the time of fulfillment.” First, the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry was, historically speaking, the “time of fulfillment,” in that the new era of the Gospel and grace had just begun. But the “time of fulfillment” of which Jesus speaks also refers to each and every time that we hear the Gospel and respond. We do this by sincerely repenting of our sins and by becoming a fuller member of God’s Kingdom. But ponder for a moment the specific word “fulfillment.” What does this mean? The word “fulfilled” can be contrasted with its opposite “unfulfilled.” To be unfulfilled is always undesirable. In this world, many people find themselves unfulfilled and try to fill this void with many things.

Interestingly, the three temptations that Jesus had just experienced in the desert are among the temptations that so many people give into during their search for fulfillment in life. First, Jesus was hungry, and the devil tempted Him to turn stones into bread to satiate that hunger. This is a temptation to fleshly fulfillment. Second, the devil tempted Jesus to throw Himself off the pinnacle of the Temple to prove He was the Son of God. This is a temptation to fulfillment by pride—pride to convince another of one’s importance and identity. Third, the devil showed Jesus all the nations of the world and promised them to our Lord if Jesus worshiped him. This is a temptation to fulfillment by obtaining earthly wealth and power. Of course, Jesus rejected all three temptations as a way of showing that none of these truly fulfill us. And He did this just prior to the beginning of His public ministry so as to then go forth preaching the true message of fulfillment. “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

True fulfillment is only found in the Gospel, the message of Truth that Jesus shared during His three years of public ministry and then brought to completion by His sacrificial death and resurrection. Only those who heed His words and open themselves to the grace poured forth from the Cross are able to find the fulfillment that they seek. Reflect, today, upon your own interior desire for fulfillment in life. How do you try to satiate this desire? Do you allow the evil one to trick you into thinking that fleshly desires, pride or wealth are the answer? Reject those temptations with our Lord and then immerse yourself in His Gospel message, which is the only source of fulfillment in life.

Lord of true fulfillment, You and You alone are the source of the fullness of life. I believe that with all my heart. Please give me the grace I need to reject all temptations in life and to cling only to Your holy Word and the grace given to all who follow You. Jesus, I trust in You.

St. John's Offering

January 14, 2024

Regular Offering: **\$725.09**

Building Fund: **\$225**

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

Sonja Hemstreet Gaines

Jessie Hithe

Stanley Marek

Diocesan News

January 9, 2024 3:00 pm – January 11, 2024 11:00 am – Silent Retreat

Silence is a powerful aid to reflecting on our relationship with God, and writing is a powerful tool to concretely chronicle that relationship. This silent retreat will provide participants with prompts and strategies for writing about their spiritual experiences, and spiritual direction will also be available. Led by writer, editor, and spiritual director Nathaniel Lee Hansen, this retreat requires no prior writing experience. The costs are \$295 for a private room, \$255 for a shared room and \$150 for commuters.

February 14, 2024, 9:00 am – 2:30 pm – Both Ash Wednesday and

Valentine’s Day are celebrated on the same day this year. This rare coincidence offers us a unique opportunity to reflect upon our beginnings, selfless giving and what can become our destiny. Join Cheryl Maxwell (Max) gifted retreat director and parishioner of St. Thomas More as we journey to the Cross, the ultimate gift of Love. The retreat will include lunch, holy mass and distribution of ashes. The cost is \$45.

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 at 254-495-5292 if you would like to volunteer to help.

January 21, 2024 – February 10, 2024 – The Catholic Womens Group is have a **T-shirt fundraiser pre-sale**. All proceeds will go toward the Virgin Mary Sanctuary Fund. Short shirt sleeves are \$20, and long sleeve shirts are \$24(toddler – XL). Larger shirts are available for an additional cost. See Destiny Vallejo or Heather Weekley to place your order.

February 8, 2024, 10:00 am – The Waco Area Deanery Meeting will be held at St. John's. All women are invited to attend.

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.