

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

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 28, 2024

February 4, 2024

Lectors

Fred Ouellete
Gwen Stewart

Eucharistic Ministers

Cynthia Quinones
Darren Sliva
Emily Stambaugh

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

Mrs. Gwendolyn Stewart and
Mrs. Carolyn Brown

Photographer

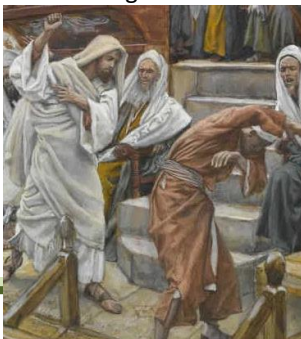
David Haliburton

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

In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!” Jesus rebuked him and said, “Quiet! Come out of him!” The unclean spirit convulsed him and with a loud cry came out of him. Mark 1:23–26

It's interesting to note that this unclean spirit immediately knows Who Jesus is. This is because each of two opposites emphasizes the other very clearly. For example, the color black is most clearly seen when it is placed in front of something white. Or something hot is most noticeable after experiencing something very cold. And a loud noise is most jarring when someone is sitting in silence. And so it is with Jesus and evil. Jesus, the Holy One of God, is most clearly seen when He comes in contact with an unclean spirit. This fact gives us some wonderful insights into our journey toward the heights of holiness. Oftentimes, when one experiences a profound and transforming conversion, it is because they were first living a life of sin. When one who is living in sin encounters the saving grace of God, it is quite noticeable. And that is good. But there is also another spiritual insight we can take from this. To further the analogy, it is also true that when the color black is put next to something dark blue, or something hot is touched after holding something quite warm, there is less notice taken. So it is with the spiritual life. When we are striving to obtain true holiness of life, and when we are already living the many virtues to which we are called, the next step closer to God might not be nearly as noticeable. Instead, growth in perfection for one who is already striving for perfection will be very subtle. And that is also good. This is important to understand because sometimes, when a person has gone through a powerful conversion earlier in life, they want to return to the experience they had when they initially converted. But that should not be our goal. Instead, we should continually strive to experience these more subtle changes that take us from a life of holiness to one of even greater holiness. In this case, if you do not sense a powerful contrast of spiritual experiences within you, that may be simply because there are no serious sins you are trying to overcome. Thus, the ideal for every Christian is to eventually experience less contrasting spiritual experiences and more that are gentle and subtle as our Lord continues to gently perfect you in many ways. Reflect, today, upon your own spiritual journey toward holiness. If you do see serious sin in your life, know that God wants to profoundly free you and draw you through a major conversion. If you do not see serious sin in your life and if you already strive daily to become holy, then rejoice if your spiritual consolations and communications from God are much more subtle and, at times, undetectable. Keep working at perfection and rejoice that you are on the correct path.

Lord of all holiness, please continue to draw me into the life of perfection. Help me to grow in every virtue and to continually be aware of every gift of grace I am given. Please help me, especially, to be attentive to every small and subtle grace and to respond to those graces with a truly open and grateful heart. Jesus, I trust in You!

St. John's Offering

January 21, 2024

Regular Offering: **\$875**

Building Fund: **\$70**

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

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.

Announcements

January 28, 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 4, 2024, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm – Join us for **Love Life Chain**. Pro-Life Waco will have G-rated signs for life at the intersection of Valley Mills Drive and New Road at the now closed CVS store parking lot. You can also make your own sign. Park near the big pro-life billboard truck. For questions or to receive PLW's bi-monthly email newsletter, contact prolifewaco@gmail.com.

February 7, 2024, 10:00 am (Corrected date) – The Waco Area Deanery Meeting will be held at St. John's. All women are invited to attend .

Tuesdays, February 13, 2024 through March 19, 2024 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm – Women’s Bible Study for Lent hosted by the Columbiettes at Sacred Heart Parish Hall! Please sign up for this **FREE** Catholic Bible Study focusing on Matthew’s Gospel chapters 26-28, which will provide fellowship and reflection for a total of six weeks. Invite and sign up a friend or two also, **by 5 February**, so that we know how many books to provide. English and Spanish study guidebooks and groups will be made available, so please select your language choice when you sign up using the QR code. All parishes’ ladies are invited to this Bible study! Teens are also welcome so consider bringing your daughters for prayer and reflection together. See the flyers in the church foyer for more details and the QR code.

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 Crest 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.

February 24, 2024, 7:00 pm – The Bash You are invited to the annual Bishop Reicher Bash. This year, we’re taking it back to the 80’s with dinner provided by Casa de Castillo, music by Sloppy Joe and live & silent auctions. Tickets and sponsorships are on sale now at <https://events.handbid.com/lp/blr-the-bash-2024>. Please contact Lindsay Burroughs at 281-593-5278 with any questions.

March 7-10, 2024 – All men of the parish are invited to attend the **Men’s ACTS retreat** in Bruceville. The purpose of the weekend is to invite you to experience a new or deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. Registration forms are available in the church foyer. If you have questions, please contact Matt Sheehy.

March 9, 2024 – 9:00 am – 2:00 pm CDA Day of Reflection at KC Hall in West. The program speaker is Sr. Mary Danielle Peters, member of the Secular Institute of the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary. Submit name, phone #, & \$10 registration fee (check payable to CDA #829 or cash), by Fri., Mar. 1, to Cyndi Lair (254-537-2250). For additional information call Cyndi Lair, or June Danker (214-208-7514). Registration includes a lite breakfast and lunch.

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.