

***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

**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

***February 4, 2024***

**February 11, 2024**

***Lectors***

Heather Weekley  
Jessica Lozano

***Eucharistic Ministers***

Faye Stewart  
Fred Ouellette  
Gwendolyn Stewart

***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 it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him. Mark 1:32–34**

Jesus was in the home of Simon Peter whose mother-in-law He had just cured. “The whole town gathered at the door” when evening came. This was Jesus’ first time being in Capernaum after beginning His public ministry, and already people were flocking to Him in droves. The next morning, Jesus got up before dawn and went away alone to pray. Soon, some of the disciples found Him and told Him that, once again, the whole town was looking for Him. The excitement was great. So many were amazed. And their amazement at Jesus was not simply a form of curiosity. It was an amazement fueled by faith, which is why Jesus was able to perform so many miracles there. The people quickly realized that Jesus was the One of Whom the prophets of old had spoken. He was the Messiah, and the people gave Him their full attention. This is a good image for us to ponder. As you think of the crowds and their unwavering desire to be near our Lord, consider your own desires pertaining to God. Do you regularly find yourself consumed with a desire to find our Lord, to be with Him, to listen to Him and to receive His grace and mercy? Or are you tempted to see Jesus and the practice of your faith as boring and uninteresting? One of the unfortunate effects of modern technology is that we easily become fascinated by and intrigued with many superficial things. Perhaps it’s the latest short video on a mobile app, or the latest episode of a favorite television series, or a new post by a friend on social media. There are many things today that compete for our attention, intrigue us and even amaze us. Is Jesus one of those things in your life? In our modern world of constant stimulation and entertainment, we need to understand the difference between being amazed at the latest pop trend and being amazed by the grace and divine actions of our Lord. When we come face-to-face with the power of God in our lives, we will be amazed in a way that fulfills and satisfies us on the deepest level. It will be a spiritual amazement, which is a gift of the Holy Spirit. And the satisfaction we receive from this form of amazement is transforming, deep and sustaining. But when we turn to lesser and more sensory “amazements” common within our world today, we will find that they last only for a moment, and we are quickly left dry and wanting for more. Reflect, today, upon the people in today’s Gospel who were so enthralled by Jesus that they continually sought Him out. Consider their excitement, their hope and their genuine joy at their discovery of the Messiah. As you think about them, consider whether you share in their excitement about Jesus. If that excitement is lacking, recommit yourself to seeking out our Lord. And where you see that excitement present, rejoice and give glory to God.

*Most glorious Lord, Your love and mercy are truly amazing. Please help me to continually see this in my life and to continually become enthralled by Your presence in my life. May I run to You always, giving You my full attention and love. Jesus, I trust in You.*

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

**January 28, 2024**

Regular Offering: **\$1312**

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

Sonja Hemstreet Gaines

Hilde Ouellette, RIP

Jessie Hithe

Julie Hemstreet

Stanley Marek

Melissa Mansolo-Bird

### ***Diocesan News***

**February 9, 2024, 3:00 pm – February 11, 2024, 12:00 pm** 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.

**March 8, 2024, 3:00 pm – March 10, 2024, 12:00 pm** – Lent is a graced time of the year to ponder more deeply the sacrificial love 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.

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*Mrs. Hilde Schmid Ouellette, wife of Fred Ouellette,  
passed away last Sunday, January 28, 2024.*

*The Way of the Cross ceremony will be held on Wednesday, February 7, 2024,  
at 7:00 pm at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church.*

*A Celebration of Life and Mass will be held Thursday, February 8, 2024, at  
10:00 am at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. Brunch in Sophie Hall will  
follow the service.*

*In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Baylor Scott and White Home  
Hospice, 2911 Herring Ave, Ste 310, Waco TX 76708.*



### ***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.



**February 4, 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](mailto: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. Sign up **by 5 February**, so that we know how many books to provide. English and Spanish study guidebooks and groups will be made available; 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. See the flyers in the church foyer for more details and the QR code.

**February 17, 2024, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm – The 12<sup>th</sup> 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 18, 2024, 5:00 pm** – In February we celebrate the **Feast Day of Sts. Cyril and Methodius**, patron saints of the Czech Republic and patron saint of Slavic peoples. In honor of these saints a Czech Mass will be at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Corn Hill. All prayers, readings and hymns will be in the Czech language. After Mass, a Dinner will be served in the Parish Activity Center. Everyone is welcome to come and celebrate this special feast day of Sts. Cyril and Methodius.

**February 24, 2024, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm** – The Knights of Peter Claver are sponsoring a **Yard Sale** on the church parking lot. You may rent a table for \$10 to display and sell your own items. Food and drinks will also be sold. RAIN or SHINE! Contact Teaberta Black with any questions at 254-752-1792.



**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.

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.