

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

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 11, 2024

February 18, 2024

Lectors

Joe Quinones
Joseph Brown

Eucharistic Ministers

Heather Keahey
Heather Weekley
Jessica Lozano

***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

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, “If you wish, you can make me clean.” Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, “I do will it. Be made clean.” Mark 1:40–41

In the Old Testament, Leviticus 14, God gave Moses a purification rite to be used for those who were cured of leprosy. This detailed rite that spanned several days was used to reintegrate a healed leper back into society. After Jesus healed the leper in today's Gospel passage, He ordered him to “go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them.” Thus, Jesus not only healed the man but instructed him that he was ready to be restored to the community. At that time, leprosy was a horrible disease, not only for its physical effects, but also because the leper was not permitted to be a part of the society. This was because leprosy was quite contagious. By keeping those infected separate, the disease did not spread as easily to others. As we ponder this healing, try to imagine not only the pain caused by the leper's disease, but especially the pain caused by his isolation. Obviously, there were no phones at that time, no video chatting, and no means of communication from a distance. Therefore, isolation would have meant a complete loss of the person's relationship with his family and friends, as well as his former livelihood, home and all that was a part of his life. On a spiritual level, the various illnesses that Jesus cured are, in part, to be seen as symbols of sin. In the case of leprosy, we should see this illness as a symbol of the effects of mortal sin. And mortal sin, unless it is cured by God's forgiveness, has the effect of completely isolating a person from the life of grace. One becomes cut off from a relationship with God, as well as every other relationship that is centered in Christ. When one commits mortal sin and remains in that sin, that person is not capable of true love, since all grace is gone from their life. Therefore, their relationships become self-centered, demanding and unholy. For those who have fallen into mortal sin, this leper is a symbol of the way out. First, he came to Jesus and knelt down before Him. He humbled himself before our Lord, acknowledging that Jesus was the answer to his ailment. He then begged Jesus for help. But the way he begged Jesus is also revealing.: he did not demand a healing but instead simply professed his faith in the fact that Jesus could heal him. And then he knelt there in trust and hope. This leper teaches us the perfect way to approach our Lord when we struggle with serious sin. Reflect, today, upon this leper. Try to understand his isolation and loss. Try to understand his humility and faith. And seek to imitate the way that he comes to our Lord. Do not be afraid to humble yourself before God as you acknowledge the sins and other needs you have. Profess your faith in His almighty power and love, and place yourself into His hands of merciful love. He will not let you down.

Most merciful Lord, You desire all of Your children to be healed of the many sins that keep them from communion with You and with Your people. Please give me the faith and trust I need to always be able to humble myself before You so as to receive the restoration to Your grace I so desire. Jesus, I trust in You.

St. John's Offering

February 4, 2024

Regular Offering: **\$1692**

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

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.

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.

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.

February is Black History Month! Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. Also known as African American History Month, the event grew out of “Negro History Week,” the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating Black history.

Please take a few minutes to see and read the black history of our church and community on the walls in Sophie Hall.



“I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” Maya Angelou

“We are reminded that, in the fleeting time we have on this Earth, what matters is not wealth, or status, or power, or fame, but rather how well we have loved and what small part we have played in making the lives of other people better.” Barak Obama

February 18, 2024 – We will have a Soul Food Dinner immediately after Mass to celebrate Black History Month. Adult plates \$15, childrens plates \$8.

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 11, 2024 – The Catholic Womens Group is have a **T-shirt fundraiser pre-sale. Today is the last day!** 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 14, 2024 – Ash Wednesday Services will be at 6:00 pm.

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 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 **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.