

***St. John the Baptist Catholic Church***

1312 Dallas Street

Waco, Texas 76704

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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

**First Sunday of Lent**

***February 18, 2024***

**February 25, 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

**The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him. Mark 1:12–13**

What an amazing event we reflect upon today. Jesus, the Son of God, the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity humbled Himself in two ways in the passage quoted above. First, He allowed Himself to endure the temptations of satan. Second, He permitted His very own creation, the good angels, to minister to Him in His human form. First of all, recall that satan is a fallen angel. He was created by God and was created good. But the Book of Revelation (12:4) indicates that one-third of the created angels were cast out of Heaven to roam the earth. These demons act under the direction of the highest fallen angel, satan. Thus, according to the passage above, it was satan himself who tempted Jesus in the desert. Additionally, Jesus permitted the good angels to minister to Him in His human nature. These acts reveal the perfection of the virtue of humility within the humanity of our Lord. According to Saint Thomas Aquinas, angels were created for three primary reasons. The first is for the purpose of worship. Worship of God brings about communion with God and enables perfect love to flow back and forth from God to each angelic being. Second, angels enact the will of God in all things. This includes the implementation of the laws of nature and the imparting of the grace that Christ won on the Cross. Third, God uses angels as messengers. Scripture records various ways that the angels spoke to the prophets, to our Blessed Mother, to Saint Joseph and to others. Saint Thomas Aquinas also believed that each of us is given a particular guardian angel whose role is not only to protect us but also to communicate the will of God to us. As God, Jesus was the Creator of all angelic beings with the Father and the Holy Spirit. As man, Jesus was the recipient of both the ministry of the good angels and the attacks of the fallen angels. By humbly subjecting Himself to the natural powers of these angelic creatures, Jesus was also teaching us that we must do the same. One of the primary natural powers of both the good and bad angels is the power of influence and suggestive thought. Angelic beings have the ability to put before your imagination ideas meant to either influence you for the good (the good angels) or to deceive you and lead you into sin (the bad angels). These communications are real, and we should be aware of them. In his book, *The Spiritual Exercises*, Saint Ignatius of Loyola devotes much time and energy to the ministry of angels. He teaches how to distinguish the lies and deceptions of the fallen angels from the consoling direction communicated by the good angels. In many ways, our Gospel passage today, by which Jesus submitted Himself to the temptations and ministry of the angels, lends much support to the importance of trying to understand how these angelic creatures influence us. For more on this, see the book *Probing the Depths: Ignatian Lessons and Meditations Arranged According to the Liturgical Year*. Reflect, today, upon the amazing truth that both angels and demons are constantly active in your life, seeking to influence you. As you ponder their spiritual role in your life, consider the various ways you can learn more about them. Speak to your guardian

angel. Ask for the intercession of the highest of angels. Try to join them in their divine worship. Pray for their protection. Ask them to communicate to you the highest of truths from God. Seek to be attentive to these holy angels so that as you learn to discern their voices, you will be ready to follow the direction they give to you from God.

*My Lord and Creator of All, You created the angelic order for the glorious purpose of love and worship. You also gave them the mission of enacting Your holy will and communicating to us on earth. Please help me to be more aware of the deceptions of the fallen angels and the direction of the good angels. Angels of God, pray for me, protect me and guide me into God's perfect will.*

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

***February 11, 2024***

Offering amounts will be included in next week's bulletin

*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***

**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.

### ***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 want history to remember me... not as the first black woman to have made a bid for the presidency of the United States, but as a black woman who lived in the 20th century and who dared to be herself. I want to be remembered as a catalyst for change in America. Shirley Chisholm*

*“Neither love nor terror makes one blind: indifference makes one blind.” James Baldwin*

*“As long as God gives me strength to work and try to make things real for my children, I'm going to work for it - even if it means making the ultimate sacrifice.” Medgar Evers*

## *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 18, 2024** – We will have a **Soul Food Dinner** immediately after Mass to celebrate Black History Month. Fried chicken, greens, mac and cheese, corn bread, and more. Adult plates \$15, childrens plates \$8.



**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.

**February 29, 2024, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm – An Ethics and Integrity in Ministry Workshop** will be held in Sophie Hall. If you have not completed the Workshop, we urge you to attend. It is important that we all take responsibility for protecting God's children, particularly the very young and elderly. If you are unable to attend this date, **the next Workshop will be held March 19, 2024**. If you have any questions, please contact Heather Weekley or Celeste Sheehy.

**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.

