

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

Second Sunday of Lent

February 25, 2024

March 3, 2024

Lectors

To be determined

Eucharistic Ministers

To be determined

**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

Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. Mark 9:2–3

Just six days prior to this glorious event of the Transfiguration, Jesus spoke for the first time to His disciples about His pending crucifixion and death. He taught them that “the Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and rise after three days” (Mark 8:31). Recall that Peter had a difficult time accepting this teaching. Jesus went on to rebuke Peter for his refusal to accept this prophetic teaching and further explained that “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me” (Mark 8:34). These disciples then had six days to ponder this prophecy of our Lord before witnessing the Transfiguration.

In your life, is there something that God is trying to say to you that you have difficulty accepting? If so, it will most likely be related to God’s call to you to take up your cross and follow Him. The Cross of Christ comes in many forms throughout life. It might be experienced when we allow the passion of anger to die so that pure mercy can be offered to one who has hurt us. Or it might be that God is calling you to step out in faith to embrace some endeavor that requires courage and trust. Or it might be that God is calling you to accept some hardship in life that is difficult to accept, such as the loss of a loved one, an illness, the loss of a job or any other difficulty that you struggle to accept with love and trust. Bitterness, resentment, anger, fear and the like are often the most difficult crosses we are called to embrace and let die. If this resonates with you, then this story of the Transfiguration is for you. After giving these disciples six days to ponder the difficult news of His coming Cross, Jesus gives them hope and inspiration through this sacred encounter. Though it lasted for only a short time, this manifestation of Jesus’ glory was all that these disciples needed to begin to accept Jesus’ prediction of His passion. On one hand, they feared what Jesus said was going to happen. But on the other hand, they saw His glory and majesty. By combining these two experiences, these disciples were given a new hope and strength to trust that whatever was to happen in the future, God was in control. We also need the consoling revelation of our Lord’s glory to help us navigate the difficulties we will endure. For some, life is good, very good, and they walk with joy and ease with our Lord. But for others, life has taken a difficult turn and confusion has set in. If life is good for you right now, then rejoice that you are currently sharing a taste of the glory of the Transfiguration. Give thanks to God and tell Him with Saint Peter, “Rabbi, it is good that we are here!” Give thanks to him for the joy and consolation you currently experience. But if life is difficult for you right now, ponder those six days during which the disciples struggled with the prediction of the Lord’s passion. Think about their confusion, doubts and fear. As you do, turn your eyes up the mountain. Know that the glory of God awaits you and that He wants to free you from all fear and anxiety. The mountain is climbed by a firm faith that is grounded in prayer. Make that journey with our Lord through prayer.

Reflect, today, upon this holy mountain to which you are called. Know that as you climb it with perseverance and determination, hope and joy will be given to you. Pray for the ability to trust in the God Who not only died a cruel death but also is radiant in glory for all eternity. Trust Him, turn to Him and commit to the journey ahead.

My Transfigured Lord, You revealed Your glory to these disciples as a way of helping them accept Your Cross. Help me to also embrace Your Cross in my life and to see clearly the glory that results from its embrace. I trust in You, dear Lord; help me to trust You more. Jesus, I trust in You.

St. John's Offering

February 11, 2024

Regular Offering: **\$1,157.13** Building Fund: **\$10**

February 18, 2024

Regular Offering: **\$1,756** 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

Sonja Hemstreet Gaines

Jessie Hithe

Julie Hemstreet

Stanley Marek

Renee Murrey

Santos Rodriguez, Sr.

Diocesan News

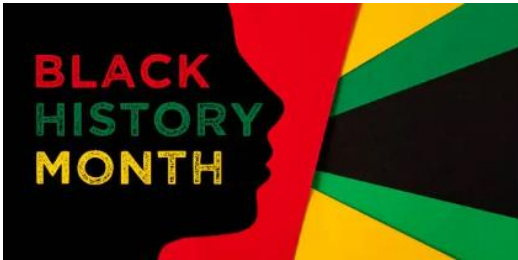
March 8, 2024, 3:00 pm – March 10, 2024, 12:00 pm – Lent is a graced time of the year to ponder more deeply the sacrificial love of Our Lord. This **Silent Retreat** will include community prayer, reflections, mass, adoration and confession and will be led by Fr. Harry Dean and Brian Egan. The costs are \$295 for a private room, \$255 for a shared room and \$150 for commuters.

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



February 25, 2024 – We celebrate with young members of our church family receiving sacraments today. Jayden Sterling will be baptized, and Jayden, Faith Ndeffo, and Julianna Guerrero will receive first communion.



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 3, 2024 – Please join us in Sophie Hall for a breakfast sponsored by the St. John the Baptist Catholic Women's Group. We will have breakfast tacos, breakfast pastries, coffee, juice, and water. An adult plate (3 tacos) is \$12; a child's plate is \$5. All proceeds will go to the Virgin Mary Sanctuary fund.



March, 3, 2024 2:00 pm-3:00 pm – Please 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. Look for the billboard truck and park nearby. Enjoy public witness and fellowship with new friends. The location is the former CVS store. For questions or to receive PLW's bi-monthly email newsletter, contact prolifewaco@gmail.com. A free pro-life yard sign awaits your visit to the front door of the home/office of PLW, 4200 Grim Ave.

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, 12:00 pm – The **Parish Council** will meet in Sophie Hall.

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 lletin for Sunday Mass.

