

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

Third Sunday of Lent

March 3, 2024

March 10, 2024

Lectors

Joe Quinones
Joseph Brown

Eucharistic Ministers

Heather Keahey
Heather Weekley
Matthew Sheehy

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

He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace." John 2:15–16

All four Gospels speak of Jesus' cleansing of the Temple. However, there is a difference between the way this event is portrayed in the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) and in the way it is portrayed in John's Gospel. John's Gospel places this event at the very beginning of Jesus' public ministry during the first of His three annual trips to Jerusalem for the Passover. This was His first attempt at cleansing the Temple. Jesus was also less severe in John's version of the story, stating only that the moneychangers had turned His Father's House into a "marketplace." In the three Synoptic Gospels, this event takes place at the very end of Jesus' public ministry, less than a week before Jesus' death when He returned to Jerusalem for the last time. In those versions, Jesus was more severe, stating that the moneychangers had turned His Father's House into a "den of thieves" and not just a "marketplace." In commenting upon the differences between John's version and the Synoptics, Saint Augustine and Saint Thomas Aquinas believe that they are two different occasions when a similar act of cleansing of the Temple took place. The Jewish Temple, at the time of Jesus' public ministry, was the place people traveled to each year for Passover to offer the sacrifice of a spotless male lamb in commemoration of the first Passover in Egypt when God set the Jews free from slavery. During this annual celebration, Jewish families who traveled to Jerusalem would purchase a lamb for sacrifice. At the appointed time, they slaughtered the animal in the courtyard of the Temple and then presented it to the priest who gathered some of the blood and sprinkled it on the altar, and then removed the skin, organs and fat to be burned in sacrifice. The meat was returned to the family and roasted on a pomegranate branch so that they could feast on it as they recalled the saving action God granted their ancestors in Egypt. Today, we see the Jewish Temple as a symbol and prefiguration of Christ, the New Temple Who is also the priest and the Lamb of Sacrifice. Recall, also, that at Jesus' death, the veil of the Temple was torn in two, opening it up to the whole world so that all may share in the Sacrifice of the Lamb of God. We are now invited into this Holy of Holies to share in the new life of grace accomplished by His Sacrifice. Since the grace of this Sacrifice of our Lord enters into each and every heart that believes, to cleanse and purify, then every person receiving this grace becomes a new dwelling place of God, a member of His new Temple, the Body of Christ. When Jesus came to the Passover feast and witnessed the buying and selling of these animals in the Temple, He drove them out with much zeal. It was clear that this holy celebration of the Passover had become less of a celebration of faith and more of a marketplace for profit. Jesus' action is also a symbol of the zeal with which He now seeks to cleanse the temple of your soul. At first, when sin and disorder pervade our souls, our Lord may take the approach of a gentle rebuke, as He did in His first cleansing of the Temple in John's Gospel. If we persist in our sins,

then our Lord will become more zealous in His cleansing as He was in His final attempt to cleanse the Temple the week before He died. Reflect, today, upon this twofold cleansing of the Temple in Jerusalem by our Lord and apply Jesus' sacred actions today to your own soul. Are there new sins that you have fallen into recently that require a gentle rebuke from our Lord? Are there sins that Jesus has been revealing to you for years now that you obstinately persist in? Allow Him to rebuke you in love and to cleanse you so that His saving Sacrifice as the Lamb of God will indeed purify you, and allow His judgment and wrath to "passover" you this Lent.

My cleansing Lord, You cleansed the Temple of Jerusalem not once, but twice. Your zeal for its purity of worship was clear. Please come and make my soul Your dwelling place today and cleanse me of all sin. Please help me to especially see any ways that I have remained obstinate in my sin, and please cleanse those sins with much vigor. Jesus, I trust in You.

St. John's Offering

February 25, 2024

Regular Offering: **\$1,291.45**

Building Fund: **\$1,212** (Proceeds from the Soul Food Dinner)

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 16, 2024 9:30 am-2:30 pm – Our Rich Easter Prayers “Come, Holy Spirit, come! And from your celestial home shed a ray of light divine! Christians, to the Paschal Victim Offer your thankful praises! Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Exult, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen! Come, Holy Spirit, Creator blest, and in our souls take up Thy rest; come with Thy grace and heavenly aid to fill the hearts which Thou hast made.” You have heard these words sung in praise of Our Lord. Come and

share in the richness of their meaning and history in the life of the Church. Fr. Leon Strieder from St. Mary's Seminary and a priest of the Diocese of Austin will lead a day of reflection exploring these words of prayer and praise. The cost is \$45 which includes lunch.

March 22, 2024 9:00 am-2:30 pm –The Noise and the Silence Dr. Stephen Braden will lead a day retreat based on his book per the retreat title to invite us to live a balanced life of work, prayer and family, and to listen and seek the Holy Spirit each day. Dr. Braden is a retired family doctor who has led over 40 medical mission trips to Latin America. The cost is \$45.

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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.



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.



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 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.

March 16, 2024 9:00 am-4:30 pm – Holy Trinity of Corn Hill - please join us for a **Lenten Retreat "The Passion of Christ"** at the PAC Bldg. Hosted by Lavinia Spirito, a dynamic Catholic teacher, spiritual director and evangelist who speaks internationally and leads pilgrimages to Rome and Israel. Light Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Early Bird registration fee \$ 30 - after March 9, \$35. Register at htcdre@holyltrinityofcornhill.org.

March 19, 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, please check virtusonline.org for other workshops in the Waco area.** If you have any questions, please contact Heather Weekley or Celeste Sheehy.

April 13, 2024 7:30 am 4:00 pm – The women of our church (6th grade and up) are invited to join the women of First Baptist Church of Hewitt for the **Lifeway Women Simulcast** with Jen Wilkin, Jada Edwards, Kelly Minter, Elizabeth Woodson, Melissa Spoelstra, Jennifer Rothschild, Caroline Saunders, and more. Over the course of one day, attendees will pursue Christ together with their favorite Bible teachers and authors while connecting with old and new friends. The doors will open at 7:30 am for women to eat some breakfast and get checked in before the simulcast actually begins at 8:30 AM. The event will end around 4:00 PM with multiple breaks including lunch. If purchased by March 17th, the simulcast will cost \$30 per person and t-shirts are priced at \$15. However, the cost will go up to \$35 for the simulcast and \$20 for the t-shirt if purchased after March 17th. So register early! Breakfast, lunch, snack foods and drinks will be provided throughout the day.

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.





Diocese of Austin

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www.austindiocese.org

Office of the Bishop

January 1, 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

In the summer of 2001, the Diocese of Austin inaugurated the **Ethics and Integrity in Ministry** (EIM) program – one of the first programs for the protection of children and youth in the United States. As of January 1, 2023, the diocese will implement VIRTUS® for the training and safety education of adults and youth, and VIRTUS® Online as the EIM database portal.

As your bishop, I remain committed to our shared effort to protect God's children – of all ages – and expect all who join in my ministry in the Diocese of Austin to act morally, ethically, and with integrity. I require diligent compliance with our EIM policies and procedures, which are reviewed annually and updated as needed.

All persons who engage in ministry in the Diocese of Austin (clergy, religious, employees, and lay volunteers) must complete the two-step EIM registration process through VIRTUS® Online in order to serve in ministry. The first step is to submit your profile and background history, agree to adhere to the diocesan Code of Ethics, and authorize the Diocese to run an initial background check. The second step is to sign-up for and participate in an in-person EIM workshop within the first 30 days of ministry. To remain compliant and eligible to continue serving in ministry you will need to reauthorize a background check and complete an online EIM refresher training every three years.

The EIM workshop for adults, Protecting God's Children®, gives insight into the victim's experience of sexual abuse, teaches skills for prevention and response, and reviews diocesan EIM policies and procedures. Age-appropriate education for youth, focusing on boundaries, respect for self and others, safety in relationships, and the sacredness of being a child of God is provided through VIRTUS' Empowering God's Children®.

EIM policies include reporting procedures and the diocesan response to allegations of: (i) abuse, exploitation, or neglect of a child, (ii) abuse of a child who is now an adult, (iii) abuse, exploitation, or neglect of an elderly person or a person with a disability, (iv) other breaches of ethical behavior expected of those in ministry.

You join tens of thousands of people in our diocese who have committed over the past 20 years to establishing a safe and ethical environment for our children and others. I am grateful for your response in living your baptismal call by joining my ministry and serving those who are entrusted to us. Wishing you God's blessings and with gratitude for your service, I remain

Gratefully in Christ,

Most Reverend Joe S. Vasquez
Bishop of Austin

Code of Ethics

I, *(name)*, while serving in ministry in the Diocese of Austin, and in my personal life, commit to:

- strive to exhibit ethical behavior and integrity, free from any scandal;
 - conduct myself in a moral manner consistent with the discipline, norms and teachings of the Catholic Church;
 - accept responsibility in the protection of minors, elderly adults and adults with disabilities from abuse;
 - adhere to the applicable laws regarding the reporting of abuse;
 - report concerns about unethical behavior to the diocese and my pastor, principal, or supervisor; and
 - follow the diocesan policies on Ethics and Integrity in Ministry (EIM), including remaining EIM compliant.
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