

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

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 10, 2024

March 17, 2024

Lectors

Vernessa Hall
Alicia Pesena

Eucharistic Ministers

Darren Sliva
Emily Stambaugh
Faye 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

**The Knights of Peter Claver
and Ladies Auxiliary**

Council # 385 Grand Knight

Mr. Stanley Glynn

Court #385 Grand Lady

Mrs. Teaberta Black

Jesus said to Nicodemus: “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.” John 3:14–15

The line quoted above concludes a dialogue that Jesus had with Nicodemus, a Pharisee and a member of the Sanhedrin. This is the first of three times Nicodemus is mentioned in the Gospel of John. The second time he appears is when he reminds the other members of the Sanhedrin that a man must be first heard before he is condemned. The third time was when Jesus was killed and Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes to prepare Jesus' body for burial. Jesus was not accepted by most of the Pharisees and within the Sanhedrin. For that reason, Nicodemus was taking a risk by going to him at night to talk. But Jesus clearly senses faith in the heart of Nicodemus, which is why when Nicodemus asks Jesus about His teaching, Jesus answers him. Unlike the other Pharisees, Nicodemus was not trying to trap our Lord; he sincerely wanted to understand. At the beginning of this dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus, Nicodemus professes the beginning of faith in Jesus when he says, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you are doing unless God is with him” (John 3:2). Interestingly, Jesus then speaks to Nicodemus in figures of speech, saying that one can only enter the Kingdom of God when they are “born from above” and “born from water and the Spirit.” Nicodemus tries to understand but fails. Jesus then gently rebukes him by saying, “You are the teacher of Israel and you do not understand this?” (John 3:10). Jesus then goes on to speak further in symbolic language and figures of speech, concluding with the beginning of today's Gospel quoted above when He speaks in a veiled way about His coming crucifixion. One thing that is important to understand from this dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus is that Jesus' language is veiled in symbolic language because, even though Nicodemus was on the right path, he was not yet ready for the full revelation of the Gospel. He could not yet fully comprehend all that our Lord came to reveal. Thus, Jesus spoke in veiled language and invited Nicodemus to keep seeking its hidden meaning. In our own lives, we can come to God and want Him to speak clearly and definitively to us, revealing His perfect will for our lives. But often He doesn't. Why? Because God knows we are not yet ready for the full truth. When He speaks to us and when we gain insight in one way or another, this is good and reveals we are on the right path. But the Gospel, in its fullness, is so radical and so demanding that most people are not yet ready for the full truth. Therefore, in His compassion, God gives us only what we can handle at the moment. But this humble truth should encourage us, as it did Nicodemus, to not give up and to continue opening ourselves to the fullness of the Word of God. Reflect, today, upon how open you are to the fullness of God's Word. What would happen if God were to reveal to you, by an immediate personal revelation of divine knowledge, all that was in His sacred mind? Would it be too much for you to handle? Yes, it would be. But that humble admission is an important step toward that very goal. Humble yourself, today, more fully

before the mysterious Word of God and pray that you will continue to be changed and open so that the clarity of God's truth will more fully penetrate your soul.

My teaching Lord, Your sacred Truth is so deep, so profound and so transforming that it remains too much for me to fully comprehend and embrace. For that reason, I thank You for the mercy of speaking to me in veiled ways so as to continually draw me deeper in my faith and knowledge of You. Please continue to open my mind and heart to You so that, one day, I will understand Your Truth most fully. Jesus, I trust in You.

St. John's Offering

March 3, 2024

Regular Offering: **\$5,168**

Building Fund: **\$1,110**

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 16, 2024, 11:00 am – The **Parish Council** will meet in Sophie Hall. The **St. John's Men's Group** will meet at noon in Sophie Hall for fellowship and food.

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@holytrinityofcornhill.org.

March 17, 2024 – We will recognize all of our **new members** during Mass. We are so glad to officially welcome you to St. John's!

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.

March 29, 2024 11:00 am – 5:00 pm – **The Annual Fish Fry** sponsored by St. John's KOPC will take place in Sophie Hall. Adults \$15, children under 12 \$8.

March 30, 2024, 1:00 pm – Our annual **Easter Egg Hunt** will take place on the grounds of St. John's. The community is invited; food and drinks will be available.



March 30, 2024 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm – A **Virtual Job Fair** will feature a variety of positions in Catholic schools throughout the Diocese of Austin, including teaching positions, administrative roles, and support staff positions. The job fair will provide attendees with the chance to connect with representatives from various Catholic schools in our Diocese, learn about their missions and values, and explore job opportunities. For more information or to RSVP, go to csdatx.org/careerfair.

April 7, 2024 – The KOPC Men will sponsor **Breakfast** in Sophie Hall immediately after Mass. Details coming soon!

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.

*We invite all to contribute to a **Love Offering for Father Cyril** whose mother, Maria Ejaidu, passed away peacefully in her sleep on February 17, 2024. In Nigeria, families do not bury the dead during Lent. Instead her children, all extended family, and the village will gather after Lent to pay their respects and celebrate the life of Maria Ejaidu for several days. Someone will be at the back of the church with a designated basket on March 10, 17 and April 7th to accept any donation you wish to make in cash or check made payable directly to Cyril Ejaidu. Father Cyril will be in Nigeria from April 11 – 26th. Please pray for his safe travels*

