

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

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 17, 2024

March 24, 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

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

Council # 385 Grand Knight

Mr. Stanley Glynn

Court #385 Grand Lady

Mrs. Teaberta Black

"I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'?

But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again." John 12:27-28

Our Lord's human soul was "troubled." Other translations state that His soul was in agony. After expressing His interior suffering, Jesus identified the human temptation caused by this suffering: to flee from His "hour." Of course Jesus dismisses this temptation as a way of teaching us a lesson from His human experience. As God, Jesus had perfect strength and always remained faithful to the mission He received from the Father. But as a human, Jesus permitted Himself to experience temptation and human suffering for many reasons. One reason was so that He could relate to us in every way. That includes being able to relate to interior human suffering. In doing so, Jesus also made it possible for us to imitate Him and to share in the strength and determination He had as He perfectly fulfilled the will of the Father. Jesus allowed Himself to endure the agony caused by foreseen suffering because we will endure similar temptations through life. What is it that causes you fear and anxiety as you look into the future? If there is something that immediately comes to mind, try to look at that within the light of Jesus' own experience above. The first thing Jesus does is identify the temptation to fear. He does this by identifying the interior suffering He experiences and then by looking at the cause: His coming "hour." The "hour" of Jesus in the Gospel of John is a reference to His crucifixion and death. This was the reason He came to us. He came to suffer the consequences of our sins and to destroy death itself. But this mission of His was the cause of true human suffering and was also a temptation toward fear. But it was a fear that He perfectly overcame. As you look at anything that tempts you to give into fear and anxiety, first ask yourself whether it is the will of God that you fulfill that action. If we are fearful of something that is not the will of the Father, then we should reject it. But very often the plan God has for our lives will include acting with courage in the face of some pending cross and suffering. Experiencing fear is normal, but fear will not turn into anxiety if we imitate our Lord and choose the will of God no matter the cost. Jesus also embraced His Cross by looking at it through the lens of glory. He understood that His suffering and death would glorify the Father in Heaven. Therefore, He allowed Himself to see the Cross as a glorification of the Father. The same must happen in our lives. No matter what we face in life, no matter the cross we are given, if it is the will of God that we embrace it, then we must see it not only as a suffering we must endure but primarily as an act by which God will be glorified in our lives. This truer perspective will bring with it hope, joy and strength which will free us from anxiety caused by fear. Reflect, today, upon the ways in which God is calling you to the cross. As you do, don't allow fear to deter you. Instead, look at every pending suffering as an opportunity to glorify God in your life. See your crosses with gratitude and joy, and allow this new perspective to give you the strength you need to fulfill the mission given to you by the Father in Heaven.

Most glorious Father, Your will is perfect. You called Your Son to the suffering of the Cross. Through that act of perfect love, the suffering Your Son endured gave You perfect glory. Lord Jesus, please give me Your courage as I face my own sufferings in life and help me to imitate Your perfect obedience to the Father's will in all things so that I, too, may give Him glory. Jesus, I trust in You.

St. John's Offering

March 10, 2024

Offering amounts will be include 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 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.

April 6, 2024 9:00 am- 3:30 pm – Art and Prayer God is the ultimate creator and artist. God loves us so much that he lets us express ourselves creatively, like Him. Mara Johnson, parishioner at Emmaus Catholic Church and with Moon Bird Arts will lead this retreat inviting you to paint, draw and pray as a way of praising God. The cost is \$55 with lunch and art supplies included.

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 17, 2024 – We recognized all of our **new members** during Mass today. 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 register now and 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.

March 31, 2024 11:30 am – The Catholic Women's Group is hosting an **Easter Cake Sale** after Mass. Cakes are \$25 and all proceeds will go to the sanctuary building fund. Volunteers are welcome to bake and donate cakes. Please contact Destiny Vallejo or Heather Weekley.



April 7, 2024 – The KOPC Men will sponsor **Breakfast Burritos** in Sophie Hall immediately after Mass.

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**. 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. The

cost is \$35 for the simulcast and \$20 for the t-shirt. 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.*

