

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

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 20, 2025

July 27, 2025

Lectors

KOPC

Eucharistic Ministers

KOPC

Altar Servers

Raymond Rivera

Emanuel Lozano

Phoebe Madrigal

Sophia Rivera

Ministry for the

Sick and Homebound

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

Mrs. Celeste Sheehy

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

Council # 385 Grand Knight

Mr. Stanley Glynn

Court #385 Grand Lady

Mrs. Teaberta Black

Jesus entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary who sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak. Luke 10:38–39

It's interesting that it was Martha who welcomed Jesus, but it was Mary who sat at His feet listening to Him. As the story goes on, we discover that Martha took her responsibility of hospitality seriously; she was very busy preparing a meal. But it appears that Mary needed a different form of hospitality from our Lord Himself. As Martha prepared to feed Jesus so as to care for His physical hunger, Mary sought to be fed by our Lord so as to feed her spiritual hunger. And interestingly, it was the generosity of Martha who was diligent in preparing the meal that made it possible for her sister to receive the spiritual food she longed for. When we read this story, we can easily become critical of Martha because she complained to Jesus about her sister. It is easy to see Martha's frustration in her words, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me." And though Martha may have been a little impatient, Jesus' response to her was gentle and corrective. "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her." What was that "better part?" It was Mary's prayerful attentiveness to Jesus. She was hungry for His teaching, and Jesus offered it to her in a very personal and loving way. And though this image of Mary before Jesus is a beautiful image to ponder and to use as a model of our own prayer, there is also something important to be said about Martha's role in making Mary's prayer possible. Because Martha was diligent in taking care of the duties of hospitality, Mary felt the freedom to sit at Jesus' feet. Perhaps the ideal response from Martha would have been to notice that Mary was being spiritually fed by our Lord and to rejoice in that fact, giving her the continued freedom to sit at Jesus' feet. If Martha would have realized this, then she would have continued working in the background so that her sister could continue listening to Jesus. But even though Martha did interrupt this sacred moment for her sister, the fact remains that her initial diligence in taking care of preparing the meal did give Mary some time alone with Jesus. In a similar way, we will all be given various opportunities in life to take care of the daily mundane tasks that are needed within a family or community. It is easy to fall into the trap of thinking that unless everyone does their equal part, then things are not fair. But being "fair" should not be our focus. True charity, especially within the family, means that, first and foremost, we look for opportunities to better the lives of those around us. For example, spending extra time cleaning a home so that others can enjoy it more adds much to family life. Or spending hours preparing a nice meal for family or friends may afford everyone the opportunity of time well spent together. These are only a couple of the countless ways that our diligence and generosity toward others is fruitful, especially within family life. Reflect, today, upon these two women and the unique calling they each were given

at the time of Jesus' visit to their house. One was called to be fed by our Lord as she sat at His feet. The other was called to work hard so as to make it easier for her sister to receive that spiritual nourishment. Know that both of these callings are important. For that reason, if God calls you to be more like Martha at times, rejoice in that fact and work hard at serving in many ways. If God calls you to be more like Mary at times, then rejoice in those moments and sit prayerfully at the feet of our Lord, being fed by His holy Words.

My gentle Lord, when You came to the home of Martha and Mary, You fed Mary with Your Word and fed Martha by your gentle correction. I thank You for these two women and the roles they both play in teaching me how to love and to serve. May I always be diligent in my service to others, and may I always embrace every moment that You invite me to sit at Your feet in prayer. Jesus, I trust in You.

St. John's Offering

July 6, 2025

Regular Offering: **\$1,840.22**

Building Fund: **\$160.00**

July 13, 2025

Regular Offering: **\$2,542.80**

Building Fund: **\$50**

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

Jessie Hithe

Julie Hemstreet

Roseann Reyes

Santos Rodriguez, Sr.

Ed Jasek

Eva M. Gonzales

Gary Gradel

Melissa Mansolo-Byrd

Jesus Chavez

Diocesan News

August 1, 2025 3:00 pm – August 3, 2025 12:00 noon – Women's Retreat, Adapting to Life's Changes Change is inevitable; handling it with faith, courage and awareness is a choice. Join Beverly Collin, former assistant director at Cedarbrake, as she invites participants to explore ways to grow closer to God amid life's transitions. Registration is required.

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 Heart, 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.

The **Parish Council** usually meets at noon on the **second Saturday of every month** in Sophie Hall.

July 22, 2025, 6:00 pm – Practice for all new and returning **Altar Servers** will be held in the church.

July 26, 2025, 9:00 am – The **Annual Men's Mass** at St. Mary's Church in College Station is open to all men in the Diocese. This is a great opportunity to celebrate Mass with your son, grandson, brother, friends, and other men across the Austin Diocese. There will be a free reception immediately following the Mass.

July 26, 2025 – Join us at St. Louis Catholic Church in Waco for a powerful day of faith, family, and formation! This year's theme is **"Hope for the Family, Hope in Christ."** Snacks, drinks, and lunch will be provided as well as a nursery and childcare, as needed, for those ages 6 and under. Just \$50 per household. Register now at redcradio.org/familyretreat25. Space is limited—don't wait!

August 3, 2025 – The **Catholic Women's Group** is selling tickets for **The Big Raffle**. Enter to win and choose **one of 4 prizes per ticket**. Tickets are \$5 each or 6 for \$20. Prizes are a grillmaster cooler, self-care basket, a \$100 gift card bouquet, and a smoked brisket.

November 2, 2025 – The Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary are holding a **Beef Raffle**. Tickets are \$10 each. 1st prize is 100 pounds of beef, 2nd 75 lbs, 3rd 50 lbs, 4th and 5th 25 lbs will be awarded.

If you are aware of a **church member who is ill, hospitalized, or homebound**, contact Carolyn Brown at saintjohn1312@yahoo.com.

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.