

***St. John the Baptist Catholic Church***

1312 Dallas Street

Waco, Texas 76704

Website: [www.stjohnswaco.org](http://www.stjohnswaco.org)

E-mail: [saintjohn1312@yahoo.com](mailto: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

**Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

***August 3, 2025***

**August 10, 2025**

***Lectors***

Destiny Maxwell

Emily Stambaugh

***Eucharistic Ministers***

Faye Stewart

Fred Ouellette

Heather Keahey

***Altar Servers***

Trinity Vallejo

Donald Lopez

Franklin Ndeffo

Faith Ndeffo

***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

**Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, tell my brother to share the inheritance with me.” He replied to him, “Friend, who appointed me as your judge and arbitrator?” Luke 12:13–14**

Many things in life are not fair. Children are keenly aware of this any time they sense they have been cheated by a sibling. They complain to their parents, just as the person in the crowd quoted above complained to Jesus about his brother. We want justice and can become quite upset when we feel that we have been dealt an injustice. The passage above is interesting because Jesus gently but clearly refuses to be the arbiter of justice for this man. It may indeed be the case that he was cheated out of his inheritance by his brother. But it's interesting that Jesus not only refuses to resolve the dispute, He then goes on to teach about greed, suggesting that the cheated man was acting out of greed. If you were cheated out of your inheritance by a sibling, how would you react? If a sibling were to do this, it would clearly be a sin and an injustice. But the question at hand is your reaction to being cheated. Being cheated by another might result in one of two responses. The most common response is to immediately seek justice, to fight back. But this is not always what God will inspire us to do. Instead, when we experience injustice, we are given an opportunity to love on a very deep level. And this must be our response. This is why Jesus said we must love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. In the big picture of eternity, earthly injustices are always an opportunity for grace. This is evident by simply looking at the gravest injustice of the suffering and death of the Son of God. Jesus did not complain about being so cruelly treated. He did not call on the angels of Heaven to destroy the Pharisees and Romans who attacked Him. Instead, Jesus used the injustice inflicted upon Him as a foundation for His gift of salvation. As we journey through this life, we need to decide whether we are going to live for this life or for eternity. We cannot have both. However, by choosing to live for eternity, we also enhance our lives here on earth in ways that nothing in this world can match. For example, say you experienced the unfortunate situation of extreme poverty. Say you were cheated out of your home and possessions and were left with nothing. Would this make you miserable? It might, but it doesn't have to. Instead, such an unfortunate circumstance has the potential for you to live day-by-day, trusting in God's providential care and to offer mercy in the face of injustice. And that is good. It is good for your eternal soul. It is good because it will motivate you to trust God on a very deep level and to become a beacon of God's mercy. By contrast, if you had everything you could ever want in this world, it would be seriously tempting to rely less upon God and more upon the things you possess in this world. But the things of this world cannot save your eternal soul. In fact, they are a serious hindrance to your ability to trust in God alone. So, truth be told, poverty and injustice actually open the door to an opportunity for much more grace in our lives than material wealth does. But so often we still long to have more and more of the things of this world. Reflect, today, upon the

spiritual and eternal blessings that come from relying solely upon God and not upon material wealth. This is a hard lesson for most people to learn. If this is your struggle, then try to take on the eternal perspective. Try to look beyond the temporary stability and pleasures that come from accumulating earthly wealth, so that you will see the eternal riches that come from seeking God alone. Everything in this world will one day pass away. In the light of that fact, recommit yourself to the embrace of God's riches by loving others through every injustice you encounter in life.

*Most merciful Lord, You endured the greatest injustice ever known. But in the face of that injustice, You offered mercy and the gift of salvation, transforming that injustice into the greatest act of love ever offered. Help me to imitate Your merciful heart and to see injustice, poverty, and every difficulty I encounter as an opportunity to turn more fully to You. Jesus, I trust in You.*

### **St. John's Offering**

**July 27, 2025**

Regular Offering: **\$1,915**      Building Fund: **\$1085**

*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

Gary Gradel

Delia Mendoza

### ***Diocesan News***

**September 18, 2025 9:00 am – 2:30 pm – The Beauty of the Feminine Genius** This retreat is based on St. John Paul II's Apostolic Letter "On the Dignity and Vocation of Women," which offers insight into the necessary gift of womanhood and the fruit of our feminine holiness. The gift of this Love Letter can open your eyes to the unique nature of womanhood and the necessity of our gift as woman, wife, mother and consecrated religious. Cost is \$50 and includes lunch. Registration is required.

**September 26 -28, 2025 – Broken for All: Being the Body of Christ** We each are members -bodies- who are broken and part of the whole. Join author Sr.

Julia Walsh for a time of reflection centered on exploring the sacredness of brokenness, paths to healing and integration, and our call to communion. The cost is \$310 for a private room, \$265 for a shared room and \$165 for commuters. 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.

**August 6, 2025 10:00 am- 1:00 pm** – All ladies of the parish are invited to attend the next **Waco Deanery meeting of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women** at **St Jerome Catholic Church, 9820 Chapel Road, Waco**. Lunch will be provided by the ladies of St Jerome. Make plans to attend and be ready to be inspired in your role as a Catholic woman and enjoy great fellowship with Catholic ladies from throughout the Waco Deanery. Call/text Amy Rhoades @ 330-634-4068 or email her at [atrhoades@entouch.net](mailto:atrhoades@entouch.net) for more info.

**August 10, 2025 2:30 pm 4:30 pm** – **Ethics and Integrity in Ministry, Protecting Gods Children Workshop** is open for registration. All who have not completed a workshop or renewed online **within the last 3 years must do so before volunteering for any ministry**, such as teaching CCE, KOPC, Women's Group, etc. Contact Heather Weekley or Celeste Sheehy if you have any questions.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:saintjohn1312@yahoo.com). **Please submit all items by 5:00 pm on Thursday** to allow time to prepare the bulletin for Sunday Mass.