

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

1312 Dallas Street

Waco, Texas 76704

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Phone (254) 753-6742

Pastor/Administrator: Father Cyril Ejaidu

Confession: Sunday 10:00-10:25 am

Mass: Sunday 10:30 am

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 24, 2025

August 31, 2025

Lectors

Joe Quinones

Jessica Lozano

Eucharistic Ministers

Sam Watkins

Stanley Glynn

Vernessa Hall

Altar Servers

Emanuel Lozano

Sophia Rivera

Valerie Lopez

Julianna Guerrero

***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 passed through towns and villages, teaching as he went and making his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, “Lord, will only a few people be saved?” He answered them, “Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough.” Luke 13:22–24

The context of this passage provides insight into Jesus’ mission and His concern for each and every person. Note that Jesus was traveling toward the large and populous city of Jerusalem. But as He traveled, He passed through “towns and villages” and taught the people as He went. This might seem like a small detail, but it is also a significant one. A city like Jerusalem was large and often had wealthy, influential, and “important” people. The less-populated towns had borders and often some form of local government. Villages were much smaller rural areas, often made up of poorer, less educated, less influential, and simpler people. One historian, Josephus, wrote that there were about 240 villages throughout Galilee at the time Jesus lived. It’s interesting to note that Jesus wanted to teach everyone. He didn’t care if they were wealthy and powerful people in the large city or peasant farmers and shepherds from the countryside. His mission was to all. One thing this teaches us is that we, also, must have love and concern for everyone, regardless of their social status. Each and every person is equal in dignity. From the president of a large country, to the beggar in an alleyway, everyone deserves our respect and attention in an equal way. Our fallen human nature experiences various forms of temptation. Among them are temptations for riches, power and prestige. For that reason, we tend to admire those who have obtained worldly success because we want it for ourselves. As a result, we tend to show greater respect for those who have achieved what we covet and give less attention to those who do not have that success. This, of course, goes to the heart of the problem. When you think about the people whom you have encountered recently, what comes to mind? Perhaps your “encounter” was to read about someone’s great success in the financial world. Or perhaps it was to read about someone’s demise in another way. Perhaps a neighbor has done well and purchased a new car, or a friend got fired from a job. Whatever the case may be, it is important to consider the level of personal respect and love you show for each person. It must be equal. Worldly status cannot determine how we treat others. This is hard to avoid. The teaching that Jesus gave to those in the towns and villages was an exhortation to holiness. “Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough.” And at the end of today’s Gospel, Jesus says, “For behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.” The latter statement must have especially resonated with those who felt somewhat insignificant and unimportant in life. Those who felt like they were “last” would have received a certain hope. This tells us that God never measures us by our successes from a worldly standpoint. He measures us only on the level of

our fidelity to His holy will. Reflect, today, upon how you look at all people. Do you see every person in the way that God sees them? Do you see everyone with equal dignity and worth? Or do you elevate those whom you envy and whose success you covet? Seek to eliminate all worldly ways of looking at others so that you will only look at others through the lens of their dignity and fidelity to the will of God.

Lord, as You journeyed through life, You looked only at the hearts of those You encountered. You treated each person with dignity and love. Please help me to shed all temptations to see others through the eyes of the world and to show full respect to all of Your sons and daughters. Jesus, I trust in You.

St. John's Offering

August 17, 2025

Offering amounts will be included 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

Jessie Hithe

Julie Hemstreet

Roseann Reyes

Santos Rodriguez, Sr.

Ed Jasek

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. 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 Advisory Council is no longer meeting monthly, and will now meet **quarterly** in Sophie Hall at noon. The next meeting will be **November 8, 2025**.

August 24, 2025 – Catholic Charities of Central Texas is thrilled to celebrate Catholic Charities Weekend! Catholic Charities proudly serves as the social service arm of the Diocese of Austin and continues its commitment to serve anyone in need across all 25 counties in our diocese. We have SIX programs that promote human dignity and life: Counseling Services, Disaster Response, Financial Stability, Immigration Legal Services, St. Gabriel's Pregnancy and Parenting Program, and St. Michael's Veteran Services. Learn more and get involved at www.ccctx.org.

September 13, 2025 – National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children will be observed in over 200 cities. The location is Rachel's Park Memorial, 4720 N. 19th Street. Just across the street from MCC. Worship, speeches, and personal testimonies will be from 9 to 10:30 AM. Among the more than 65 million abortions nationwide, over 20,000 have occurred at Planned Parenthood Waco. For questions, contact John Pisciotta 254-644-0407

September 21, 2025 – The Women's Group is holding a **Fall Photoshoot Fundraiser** immediately after Mass. Mini-sessions are \$50 for individuals or families. Professional photography, digital images, and two printed 5x7 images are included. All proceeds will benefit the Virgin Mary Sanctuary Fund. Reserve your slot right away. Contact Destiny Maxwell or Heather Weekley with 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.

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.