

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

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 7, 2025

September 14, 2025

Lectors

Matt Sheehy

Sam Watkins

Eucharistic Ministers

Faye Stewart

Fred Ouellette

Gwen Stewart

Altar Servers

Emanuel Lozano

Sophia Rivera

Phoebe Madrigal

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

Great crowds were traveling with Jesus, and he turned and addressed them, “If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.” Luke 14:25–26

Why would Jesus exhort the “great crowds” to hate their families? In fact, Jesus went even further than that. He said they must also hate their own lives. If they do not, then they cannot be His disciples. One thing that this shocking teaching did was to shake people out of their lukewarm faith. Sometimes we think of Jesus only as a kind and gentle soul Who always brightens people’s days. We see images painted of the smiling Jesus Who always made people feel welcomed and loved. And though these images have truth, it is also true that one way He brightened their days was by challenging them to the core of their being to convert. And that is what Jesus does today in our Gospel. To hate your father, mother, children, siblings and even your very self is obviously not a reference to the sin of hate that flows from anger. In this case, the word “hate” refers to the best way to love others and to love even your own self. To begin, let’s look at the conclusion. Jesus said that this form of hate is a requirement of being His disciple. This is the key. Unless we are first and foremost a disciple of Christ, we cannot love others and we will not even love ourselves in the proper way. “Hate” in this context refers to selfish attachments. This means that people and things can easily get in the way of our love of God. When they do, we must see them as an obstacle to both the love of God, as well as to the authentic love of others and even ourselves. For example, if a family member were to demand in some way that you love them more than you love God, then this must be rejected with passion. This could be referred to as holy hatred of the temptation, not the person. Say a spouse criticizes you for attending Mass and tries to stop you from doing so. If you listen to them, then you are placing them before God. Or say someone hurts you and you choose to forgive them, only to have a family member challenge you and try to stir up anger in you toward that person. If you listen to them, then you are not listening to God. In these cases, we must “hate” in the sense that we reject the temptation. What about yourself? How do you hate yourself? This is a reference to the many ways that our disordered appetites are drawn to sin. If we indulge in the disordered desires, or even worse, if we treat those disordered desires as normal and good for us, then we have chosen the disordered desire over God. In that case, we must learn to hate and reject the selfish and disordered desire, choosing God and His will alone. When we are able to choose the love of God first and foremost in our lives, rejecting the temptations that come through others and even the temptations within our disordered desires, then, and only then, are we in a position to love others and ourselves, in the right way. Jesus obviously wants us to love others and ourselves. But this is only possible when our love is pure and holy and flows from the love of God. Any other form of “love” is not love at all. It is a selfish attachment that hinders our true

mission as lovers of God and instruments of that love to others. Reflect, today, upon the passion that you must have to reject all forms of sin. This includes sin that tempts you through the mediation of your family and friends. It also includes every form of temptation that arises within you on account of your disordered human nature. This holy **hatred** is an act of love in that it seeks to eliminate everything that keeps you from true love. Choose, today, to be a faithful disciple of Jesus and commit yourself to reject all that seeks to interfere with this choice. Doing so will not only increase your love for God, it will also increase your love for others, and even your love for your own soul.

My passionate Lord, You exhorted the crowds to reject every form of temptation that interfered with their love of You. Please fill my soul with a holy hatred for sin and all temptation so that I can reject them with passion. May I love You above all things and from that love, love others and even my own soul with Your Sacred Heart. Jesus, I trust in You.

St. John's Offering

August 24, 2025

Regular Offering: \$2,134.80

Building Fund: **\$60**

August 31, 2025

Regular Offering: **\$2,047.60**

Building Fund: **\$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

Jessie Hithe

Julie Hemstreet

Roseann Reyes

Santos Rodriguez, Sr.

Ed Jasek

Delia Mendoza

Caroline Korah

Kevin Byrd

Jesus Chavez

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.**

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 17 – November 12, 2025 – St. Louis Families is hosting a Women's Book Club every other Wednesday from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. The group will read **Be Healed by Dr. Bob Schuchts.** Contact Carmen Niedzielski or email stlouisfamilieswaco@gmail.com for more information.

September 21, 2025 – The Catholic 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.

September 21, 2025 – Holy Trinity Catholic Church of Corn Hill invites everyone to join them for their **Annual Bazaar**. A delicious meal of Corn Hill fried chicken & BBQ will be served from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. or sold out. Adult plates are \$15/children \$8; drive-thru available for to-go plates. There will be live music during the meal, children's games, live and silent auctions, country store, bingo and kolaches for sale. Hamburgers will be available at 2:30 p.m. Enjoy a day of good food and fun for the whole family!

Holy Trinity Catholic Church
of Corn Hill

ANNUAL BAZAAR
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

Masses at 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

BBQ & Corn Hill Fried Chicken Dinner
with dressing and all the trimmings
(beginning at 11 a.m.)
Adults \$15 / Children \$8
Dinner and plates available
11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

BBQ by the Pound
(sold at pot 8 am - noon)
\$4.99

Hamburgers at 2:30 p.m.

Live Auction
Starts at 1:30 PM
Inside the PAC Wing

RAFFLE
GRAND PRIZE - \$1,500 Visa Card
(20 grand prizes valued over \$6488)
Tickets only \$3 each or 6 for \$15
*Must fill out prize tag and
showing valid photo Live Auction

Visit our website at www.holytrinityofcornhill.org
417.465.3020

Email: parish@holytrinityofcornhill.org
8026 FM 1163, Jewett, TX, 76857

Directions: Hwy 3-50 - go East on CR 313 for
2 1/2 miles, right onto SH 1128
From Jewett: Hwy 75-90 - go West on SH 427, turn left onto
SH 1128 - go 8 miles

September 28, 2025 – You and your parish are invited to our **Annual Picnic** at **St. Martin Catholic Church in Tours, TX**. A fried chicken & sausage dinner with all the trimmings will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. Inside dining and drive thru plates to go available for \$15. A live auction starts at 1:00 p.m. A raffle drawing will be held at the conclusion of the auction. We will also have a country store, bingo and children’s games.

<p>ST. MARTIN CATHOLIC CHURCH</p> <p>ANNUAL PICNIC</p> <p>TOURS, TX</p> <p>Sunday, September 28, 2025</p>	
<p>FRIED CHICKEN AND SAUSAGE DINNER</p> <p>With all the trimmings All Plates \$15.00</p>	<p>AUCTION</p> <p>Starts at 1:00 p.m. Credit Cards Accepted</p>
<p>INSIDE DINING</p> <p>SERVING 11:00 TO 2:00</p>	<p>RAFFLE</p> <p>Donation 6 for \$5 Drawing After Auction Over \$4,000 in Prizes</p>
<p>DRIVE THRU PLATES TO GO</p> <p>CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED SERVING 11:00-12:30</p>	<p>COUNTRY STORE</p> <p>11:00- 3:00</p>
<p>301 St. Martin's Church Rd West, Tx 76691</p>	<p>BINGO</p> <p>12:00- 5:00</p>
	<p>CHILDREN'S GAMES</p> <p>12:00-4:00</p>

October 9 – 12, 2025 – You are invited to join us for the **Women's ACTS Retreat** at URJ Greene Family Camp in Bruceville, TX . The purpose of this weekend is to invite you to experience a new or deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through the four themes of an ACTS Retreat. ACTS is an acronym for Adoration, Community, Theology, and Service. More information is on the bulletin board in the foyer.

WOMEN'S ENGLISH ACTS RETREAT

ACTS of the Holy Spirit Coalition

"Stand up and go, your faith has healed you"
Luke 7:11-19

You are invited to join us for the Women's ACTS Retreat at URJ Greene Family Camp in Bruceville, TX on October 9-12, 2025. The purpose of this weekend is to invite you to experience a new or deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through the four themes of an ACTS Retreat. ACTS is an acronym for Adoration, Community, Theology, and Service.

Retreatants should arrive no later than 5:15 p.m. for check-in. Retreatants will be departing by bus from St. Jerome Catholic Church Mother Theresa Center, the Raphael Room on Thursday evening, October 9, 2025. It concludes with all retreatants returning to St. Jerome Catholic Church on Sunday, October 12, 2025, and attending the 11:00 a.m. Mass. Your friends and loved ones are invited to enjoy a return meal in Brooks Hall at St. Jerome following the Mass. Please return the attached registration form below along with the \$255 fee to the ACTS member who contacted you or any of the leadership team below. All applications must be turned in two weeks prior to the retreat start date. Checks should be made payable to: St. Louis Catholic Church. CASH or CHECKS only. We are NOT able to accept credit cards or other forms of electronic payment. An ACTS Retreat Team member will contact you with more detailed instructions about the retreat 2-3 weeks prior to the retreat weekend. Please contact us 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.

December 5 - 23, 2025 – The Promise of Christmas will open at a new location, **Willow Park Baptist Church**, and will include new scenes, new digital visual effects, and updated music. We are excited about the new opportunities afforded by the indoor location and the proximity to the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex to bring The Promise to an even wider audience. Tickets are available for purchase now. Audition requests and applications for staff and crew are now open at thepromiseglenrose.com/auditions.

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.