

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-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 5, 2025

October 12, 2025

Lectors

Carolyn Brown
Gwen Stewart

Eucharistic Ministers

Mathew Sheehy
Jessica Lozano
Heather Keahey

Altar Servers

Raymond Rivera
Julianna Guerrero
Phoebe Madrigal
Trinity Vallejo

***Ministry for the
Sick and Homebound***

Carolyn Brown

Photographer

David Haliburton

Bulletin

Celeste Sheehy

Live-Stream and Music

Greg Guerra

Parish Advisory Council

Members

Chairman: Father Cyril Ejaidu

President: Faye Stewart

Vice President: Darren Sliva

Recording Secretary: TBA

Other members

Joseph Brown, Freddy Duron,
Stanley Glynn, Sylvia Glynn,
David Gradel, Roseanne Reyes

Finance Council:

Bobbie Sharkey, Carolyn Brown,
Jessica Breda, Joyce
Fonteneaux, Matthew Sheehy,
Celeste Sheehy

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

Council # 385 Grand Knight

Stanley Glynn

Court #385 Grand Lady

Teaberta Black

The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith.” The Lord replied, “If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.” Luke 17:5–6

Is it possible to completely uproot a tree and plant it in the sea? It’s certainly hard to imagine how. It is especially hard to imagine doing so with a simple command of faith. Uprooting a tree is hard enough to imagine, but it is even more difficult to imagine a tree being planted in the sea. Though water is necessary, one cannot plant a tree in the sea and expect it to grow. But that’s partly the point. We often underestimate the power of true faith. Saint Matthew’s Gospel says that faith can move mountains. Saint Luke’s says it can uproot a tree and replant it in the sea. All it takes to do so is faith the size of a mustard seed. How much faith is equal to a mustard seed? A mustard seed is small, very small. It measures only about one millimeter in length. People who worked the soil at that time would have known that it was among the smallest of seeds they planted. For that reason, Jesus uses this familiar image to teach the apostles that faith, even a little faith, is powerful. Jesus’ teaching comes in response to a prayer on the part of the apostles. “Increase our faith,” they said. Jesus’ response, inviting them to have only a little faith, implies that their faith was quite weak. To increase their faith to the size of a mustard seed suggests that they did not even have a little faith yet. Most likely they were aware of that fact, and that was the reason they asked Jesus to increase their faith. They perceived their lacking and turned to Him Who could help. One of the first steps to increasing faith is to humbly admit our lack of faith. In our pride, we often want to convince ourselves and others that we are filled with faith. But if that were the case, God would be doing incredible things through us. He would be doing that which is otherwise humanly impossible. Obviously, faith does not give us magical powers by which we can literally command a tree to uproot itself and plant itself in the sea. This imagery is meant to tell us that faith will work miracles of faith, not necessarily physical miracles. In fact, if God ever did use us and our faith to work a physical miracle, it would only happen because it was a motivation for the far more important gift of the increase of faith. What, then, can a little faith do? It can uproot sin from your heart and from the hearts of those around you. It can nourish you and others in ways that seem impossible. Just as a tree cannot normally be planted in the sea and survive, the gift of faith, even a little faith, will enable the soul to be nourished and strengthened in ways that otherwise seem impossible. A martyr perfectly illustrates this fact. Normally, persecution and death are not considered to be nourishing to a person. But when a person has faith and suffers martyrdom on account of Christ, then their soul will be fed by the persecution itself. And that is among the greatest of miracles possible. Suffering, persecution, illness, poverty, and every other difficulty imaginable are transformed by God into a source of nourishment when we endure them with true faith. Reflect, today, upon the prayer of the apostles: “Increase our faith.” Some of the greatest mystics taught that faith darkens the intellect. By this darkening, they mean that, by faith, God will lead us into the unknown, on a path that He alone is

aware of. We will become instruments of His transforming grace in ways that are completely beyond our natural abilities. Pray for an increase of faith. When our Lord hears your humble prayer, by which you also confess your lack of faith, He will increase that faith, uproot sin and evil, and plant your soul in places in which you become nourished in ways that you could have never imagined possible.

Most glorious Lord, Increase my faith. Give me a pure faith—a faith that enables You to lead me down the unknown path to Your glory. With this gift of faith, please use me to bring forth Your miraculous power by which sin is uprooted and souls are nourished by You alone. Jesus, I trust in You.

St. John's Offering

September 28, 2025

Regular Offering: **\$1,738.00**

Building Fund: **\$10.00**

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

Jesus Chavez

Caden Noon

Cherie Price

Events in the Austin Diocese

Did you know Texas is offering a new school choice opportunity through the **Education Savings Account (ESA)** program? Eligible families may receive \$10,000 per student, per year, to help with approved educational expenses such as Catholic school tuition and fees. This program gives parents the resources to choose a faith-centered, mission-driven education that nurtures their child's mind, heart, and spirit. Learn more at csdatx.org/schoolchoice and be ready when applications open.

October 5, 2025, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm – National Life Chain Sunday, holding signs in public witness for life, will be in Waco and 2,000 cities across North America. Pro-Life Waco will distribute G-rated signs at the intersection of Valley Mills Drive and New Road. Look for the Pro-Life Waco billboard truck and park nearby. Enjoy public witness and fellowship with new friends. For questions, contact John Pisciotta at prolifewaco@gmail.com. A free family-themed yard sign awaits all families who participate in Life Chain 2025.

October 18, 2025, 11:00 am – Join **Catholic Healthcare Professionals of Central Texas** for their **Healthcare Mass** St. Louis King of France in Austin! In honor of St. Luke's Feast Day, we will have Mass, followed by a Luncheon Reception. The event is free, so please join us and bring a healthcare friend! For registration and more information, please visit catholichealthaustin.com or email susie@forlifeandfamily.org.

October 18, 2025, 9:00 am – 2:30 pm – *We all carry invisible wounds— moments that have shaped us, weighed us down, or left us questioning who we are.* **Healing Hearts** is a gentle and reflective day retreat for those seeking to move through life's events with grace, clarity, and purpose. This day offers sacred space to explore how life's hardest moments can become turning points for healing and transformation. This retreat at **Cedarbrake Catholic Retreat Center** is for anyone who has felt stuck in their pain, unsure how to move forward, or simply ready to begin again with God's grace. The cost is \$50 and includes lunch. Registration is required.

October 31 – November 2, 2025 – Navigating Grief Retreat Coping with working grief takes work and courage. Retreatants will identify and reflect on their personal grief symptoms, followed by a ritual to help ease the pain of grief and increase positive emotions. There will be opportunities to share with others who are also trying to navigate grief in a healthy way. The retreat will end with a celebration of life and the presentation of memories. Fr. Harry Dean, and spiritual directors Clyde Gottschalk and Judy Hoelscher will lead this retreat at **Cedarbrake Catholic Retreat Center**. The costs are \$310 for a private room, \$265 for a shared room and \$165 for commuters. Registration is required.



Regularly Scheduled Parish Events and Contact Information

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. Parishoners are welcome to attend.

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.



Upcoming Parish Events

October 5, 2025 – We will have a **Potluck Lunch** in celebration of **Fr. Cyril's 30th anniversary of ordination** immediately after Mass. Come enjoy visiting with Fr. Cyril; he has made arrangements for another priest to cover the 1:00 pm Mass at St. Catherine's so that he can spend this time of fellowship with us. Bring your favorite dish to share.



October 25, 2025, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm – We will have a **Parish Family Picnic** on the grounds behind the church. Join us for food and fellowship with your fellow parishioners. Burgers, hotdogs, chips and all the fixings will be served. We will also have games for the children.



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.



November 8, 2025, 12:00 noon – The Parish Advisory Council will meet in Sophie Hall. Parishioners are welcome to attend.



A colorful stained-glass style graphic. At the top center is a chalice (Eucharist cup) with a sunburst pattern inside, set within an arched frame. Below this, the text reads: "Please join us for the 30th Anniversary of Ordination for Father Cyril Ejaidu". The date and time are listed as "OCT 5TH | SOPHIE HALL | 11:30 AM". Below that, it says "A POTLUCK WILL FOLLOW AFTER 10:30 MASS". At the bottom, it says "Please feel free to bring your favorite dish or dessert". The entire graphic is framed by decorative stained-glass patterns on the sides and bottom.