

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

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 16, 2025

November 23, 2025

Lectors

KOPC

Eucharistic Ministers

KOPC

Altar Servers

Faith Ndeffo

Raymond Rivera

Phoebe Madrigal

Sophia Rivera

Ministry for the Sick and Homebound

Carolyn Brown

Photographer

David Haliburton

Bulletin and Website

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

“Before all this happens, however, they will seize and persecute you, they will hand you over to the synagogues and to prisons, and they will have you led before kings and governors because of my name. It will lead to your giving testimony. Remember, you are not to prepare your defense beforehand, for I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute.” Luke 21:12–15

It could be said that these are among the least consoling words that Jesus ever spoke. Imagine what His disciples would have thought upon hearing this. Some of them might have changed their minds about following Jesus and walked away. Why would anyone want to be seized and persecuted, or thrown into prison? Jesus even went on to say that “they will put some of you to death.” Though these words might not, at first, seem all that consoling, they were inspired words and, therefore, must be inspiring. By analogy, imagine an army general in charge of troops defending their families and homeland from hostile invaders. If that general were to say similar words to the troops, acknowledging that some of them would be captured and even killed, it would be a reality check for sure. But it would also inspire a certain courage and drive. In that moment, the soldiers would need courage to face the challenge that awaited them. Therefore, by being honest with them, the general would stir up their courage and strengthen their resolve to enter the battle. We must hear Jesus’ words today as His battle cry, spoken to encourage us. He is warning us that the secular and unchristian world will be hostile. The leader of the kingdom of darkness, the devil, is very active and, with his legion of demons and followers, is seeking to destroy us. For our part, we must decide whether we will retreat and hide, or enter the battle for the salvation of souls. Though most of us will not endure physical martyrdom for our faith, it will happen to some. But for most of us, the persecution we will endure will be on a different level. We may be mocked or even hated for our refusal to accept immorality within the culture. We may be called hateful when we stand up for the dignity of the unborn child in danger of abortion. We may be deemed superstitious or old fashioned by remaining faithful to Sunday worship and daily prayer. And we may be thought of as out-of-touch or behind the times for refusing to embrace the latest popular fads and secular values. Sometimes this happens even within the family. Instead of shying away from the various forms of persecution we may experience, we need to allow our Lord to stir up a courage within us that is fueled by love. We must deeply desire the salvation of every soul and remain certain that the only way to salvation is through fidelity to Christ. When you are challenged by others or by the world, you must trust in Jesus’ words. “I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute.” When we resist and refute the errors of our age, some people will become hostile. But if we remain faithful to our Lord and speak by His inspiration, then those who are hostile will be affected for the good. Because Jesus said that people will not be able to “resist or refute” the words He inspires us to

say, we must know that our words can make a difference in the battle for souls. We must engage the battle with courage and love and rely upon our Lord to lead. Reflect, today, upon the fact that we are all in a battle for the salvation of souls, beginning with our own. We cannot be passive bystanders. We must move forward with much courage and strength. We must trust in the guidance given to us by our Lord. We must be open to the words He will inspire us to speak when needed. Resolve to follow our Lord into this holy battle, and He will equip you with all you need to be victorious.

My courageous Lord, You endured much suffering in life and embraced it with pure love. Please give me the grace I need to follow You wherever You lead and to be an instrument of Your voice to a world in need. Jesus, I trust in You.

St. John's Offering

November 2, 2025

Regular Offering: **\$2,680**

Building Fund: **\$100**

November 9, 2025

Regular Offering: **\$1,741**

Building Fund: **\$88**

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

Ed Jasek

Kay Jasek

Caden Noon

Andrew Galindo

Alice Montoya

Roger Perez

Henry Walker

Ava Crogan

Mary Ann Felton

Joel Anderson

Linda Tovar

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/school choice](https://csdatx.org/school-choice) and be ready when applications open.

Discover the gift of Catholic education with Bishop Louis Reicher! Join us Sunday, **November 16** at 3 pm for a Texas Education Freedom Accounts (TEFA) Information Session (English & Spanish) and Tuesday, **November 18** at 8:30 am for Cougar Coffee, Talk, and Tour. Discover how faith and learning come together to foster saints, scholars, and leaders. Register at bishopreicher.com/DCS-events.

November 20, 2025, 9:00 am – 2:30 pm – Pathways to Forgiveness The Lord's Prayer instructs us, "forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us." Often, we want to forgive but do not know how to begin. Discover the meaning and myths related to forgiveness with practical how to steps to reach forgiveness. Forgiveness will set your heart free. This retreat will be led by Cindy Isaacson, a gifted retreat leader and parishioner of St. Teresa's parish in Austin. The retreat will be held at **Cedarbrake Catholic Retreat Center**. The cost is \$50, which includes lunch. Registration is required.

St. Joseph's in Bellmead is hiring for a **part-time Maintenance position** to begin around the turn of the year. If you know a practicing Catholic who may be interested or have interest yourself, a job description and application are at <https://recruiting.paylocity.com/recruiting/jobs/Details/3685861/Diocese-of-Austin-Catholic-Parishes/Maintenance>

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.