

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

First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025

December 7, 2025

Lectors

Sam Watkins
Vernessa Hall

Eucharistic Ministers

Hether Keahey
Heather Weekley
Jessica Lozano

Altar Servers

Emanuel Lozano
Faith Ndeffo
Raymond Rivera
Donald Lopez
Lexi Vallejo

***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



“Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.” Matthew 24:42–44

How does one “stay awake” as our Lord commands us? We receive this holy exhortation as we enter into a new liturgical year. In Advent, we begin at the beginning. We ponder the Incarnate Son of God dwelling as a human Child in the precious womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We anticipate the celebration of His birth into the world at Christmas. As the liturgical year progresses, we will prayerfully walk through each moment of His life, from the events of His childhood, to His public ministry, and ultimately His death, resurrection, and ascension into Heaven. Our Lord’s exhortation to stay awake invites us to be attentive to the ways that the Son of God’s human life speaks to us, calling us to become fully united to Him so as to share in the glorious gifts of holiness in this life and eternal salvation in the next. After exhorting us to stay awake, the Son of God said, “For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.” Of course, we know He came into this world over 2,000 years ago in physical form. This exhortation is not only a call to ponder that event long ago; it’s also an invitation and exhortation to become continuously more attentive to the effect that His historical coming has upon us today. Advent is a season that invites us to reflect on Christ’s first coming in Bethlehem, His daily coming to us in grace, and His final coming at the end of time. These moments are intimately connected, as each prepares us more fully for the next. From Heaven, the Son of God continues to descend to us, inviting each of us to conceive Him in our souls by grace, to be attentive to His divine presence within us, and to nurture His divine presence so that He will grow and live within us, making us true members of His Body, the Church. Staying awake means being aware of Christ’s presence in every moment and cultivating a personal relationship with Him that is alive and growing. This Advent, ask yourself: How am I nurturing my relationship with Jesus so that I am ready to meet Him whenever He comes? Jesus calls us to be prepared at every moment of every day, “for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.” Though this is a promise that He will return one day to judge the living and the dead at the end of time, it is also a promise that He relentlessly pursues us here and now, communicating to us by grace and inviting us to be transformed more fully, so as to love Him and manifest His love to the world around us. As we mature in our faith, God often speaks in subtler ways, inviting us to listen with the ears of our hearts. These gentle whispers of grace require us to be even more attuned to His presence, ready to respond to His call in the quiet moments of our day. Reflect today on Jesus’ exhortation to be awake, vigilant, attentive, and ready to love Him in the smallest ways. To stay spiritually awake, cultivate habits that keep you attuned to God’s presence: set aside time for daily prayer, receive the

sacraments frequently, and be mindful of opportunities to serve others. These practices will help you remain vigilant and ready to encounter Christ at any moment. Search for Him this Advent, and never tire of loving Him in your prayer and in those around you. The Son of God continuously comes to you “at an hour you do not expect.” By building a spiritual habit of being prepared, you will meet and love Him throughout your day. *My ever-present Lord, You surround me with Your grace and flood me with Your mercy day and night. Please give me a heart that is attentive and receptive to You so that I can receive all that You wish to bestow and love You and others with Your Sacred Heart. Jesus, I trust in You.*

St. John's Offering

November 23, 2025

Offering amounts will be included in next weeks 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
Roseann Reyes	Caden Noon
Andrew Galindo	Alice Montoya
Roger Perez	Henry Walker
Ava Crogan	Mary Ann Felton
Joel Anderson	Linda Tovar
Alexandra Patterson	LeeAnne Brown

Events in the Austin Diocese

January 29, 2026, 9:00 am – 2:30 pm – Aging Faithfully Retreat Aging can often be seen as a time of loss and decline. It is also an opportunity to live faithfully and grow in grace while letting go of fears and doubts. Judy Hoelscher will invite us to explore aspects of aging that challenge us but also call us to respond in faith. Holy Mass will be part of the retreat at Cedarbrake Retreat Center and the cost for the day 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.**

On the first Saturday of every month, we will have **Adoration** from 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm. **This will NOT include a Mass.**

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.

If you are aware of a **church member who is ill, hospitalized, or homebound**, contact Carolyn Brown at saintjohn1312@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Parish Events

December 8, 2025, 6:00 pm – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass.

December 10, 11, 2025, 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm – Reconciliation with Fr. Cyril in the Confessional.

December 14, 2025, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm – The Parish Christmas Dinner will take place immediately after Mass. A traditional dinner of turkey or ham, cornbread dressing, giblet gravy, sweet potato casserole, and southern green beans with rolls and tea will be served. Come join us for great food and fellowship. Carry-out plates will also be available if you are not able to stay.

December 21, 2025 – The children and youth of our church will present **The Story of Jesus' Birth** during Mass.

All high school age youth who are interested in attending the **Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference (DCYC)** need to submit your parent's completed permission slips to Heather Weekly as soon as possible, no later than **December 21st**.

February 21, 2026 8:00 am – 4:00 pm – Join other Catholic men from across the Diocese of Austin at the **14th Annual Catholic Men's Conference** at Emmaus Catholic Church in Lakeway. The day will feature a Rosary and Holy Mass. There will also be music, Catholic exhibitors/vendors, and the opportunity to fellowship with other men who are looking to grow in their walk with Jesus and dynamically live out their Catholic faith.