

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

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

December 21, 2025

Lectors

Destiny Maxwell

Emily Stambaugh

Eucharistic Ministers

Vernessa Hall

Faye Stewart

Sam Watkins

Altar Servers

Donald Lopez

Lexi Vallejo

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

“Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me.” Matthew 11:4–6

Suppose a priest came to your church to put on a parish mission, and during that mission he miraculously healed the blind, crippled, terminally ill, and deaf. What if he even raised the dead to life? How would you respond? Most likely with amazement! You’d contact everyone close to you and tell them about those miracles, encouraging them to attend the next session. Though Jesus’ ministry was filled with miracles, they were far from the most important part of His mission. His miracles healed bodies that would eventually die, but His preaching healed souls that would live forever because His preaching ultimately pointed to His greatest work—to suffer and die for the salvation of souls. If you were alive as Jesus walked the earth, performed miracles, preached the Good News, suffered death and rose again, which of His actions would have the greatest effect on you? When we consider our Lord’s mission, we must consider it all as one unified whole, not missing the most important aspects. From a faith perspective, Jesus’ suffering, death, and Resurrection are clearly His greatest acts. By freely embracing suffering and death, He transformed the worst into the best: the consequence of sin—which is death—into the instrument of eternal life. When Jesus said, “And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me,” He was identifying those as blessed who discovered the great value of His Cross. If we were to ask Jesus’ first followers whether they would prefer to see Jesus perform miracles or suffer and die, most likely they would prefer the miracles. Such a question might have even left them confused. Why would anyone want to see a great prophet suffer and die? Yet, today, from a theological perspective, it is clear that Jesus’ suffering, death, and Resurrection are the greatest acts in human history. Imagine being our Blessed Mother who witnessed it all, stood by her Son as He endured His Cross, and rejoiced with Him when He rose. Unquestionably, if we asked our Blessed Mother whether she preferred to see a few miracles from her Son or to witness His perfect sacrifice that brought salvation to the world, her holy and sorrowful heart would choose the latter. Reflect today on these questions within the context of your own life. When you pray, do you primarily ask for favors, blessings, or miracles? Or do you primarily pray for the Cross? Do you see greater value in having God remove some suffering from your life or in transforming your suffering by the power of His Cross? Ask for the grace to die with our Lord, to become a living sacrifice of love, and to have the strength to lay down your life for others. By choosing that which has eternal value, you choose the better part and will rejoice in that better part forever.

My sacrificial Lord, You invite me to take no offense at Your suffering and death; to see beyond the pain, blood, and physical death; and to discover the unfathomable riches of Your Sacrifice. Please give me the eyes of faith to see the value of not only accepting Your Cross, but also to see the value of living

Your Passion in my own life by laying down my life with You. Jesus, I trust in You.



St. John's Offering

November 30, 2025

Regular Offering: **\$2,096.20**

Building Fund: **\$10**

December 7, 2025

Regular Offering: **\$1,806**

Building Fund: **\$210**

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

Mary Ann Felton

Olivia Guerra



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.

February 18, 2026, 9:00 am – 2:30 pm – Ash Wednesday Join us as we enter the Lenten season to reflect more deeply on God's tremendous love for us. Fr. Harry Dean and Brian Egan will share spiritual messages about what this sacred time of preparation asks of us. The day will include lunch and Mass with the distribution of ashes at Cedarbreake Retreat Center. The cost is \$50. Registration is required.

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.

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.

The Parish Advisory Council will meet **quarterly** in Sophie Hall at noon. Parishioners are welcome to attend. The date will be announced.

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

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 19, 2025, 6:30 pm – The **St. John's Women's Group** will celebrate Christmas with a dinner at Abuelita's Mexican Restaurant at 1623 N. Valley Mills Drive. Those who wish to participate in a gift exchange should bring a wrapped gift valued at \$20; this is completely optional. Come join us for food and fellowship.

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**.

December 25, 2025 – **Christmas Eve Mass** begins at midnight; please plan to arrive about 10 minutes early. **Christmas Day Mass** will be at 10:30 am.



Important: St. Phillips Catholic Mission in China Spring will be selling tamales after Mass this Sunday! Don't miss out!