

## **Pope establishes 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday as the Day of the Word of God**

### **A certain solemnity**

Pope Francis invites local communities to find ways to “mark this Sunday with a certain solemnity”. He suggests that the sacred text be enthroned “in order to focus the attention of the assembly on the normative value of God’s Word”. In highlighting the proclamation of the Word of the Lord, it would be appropriate “to emphasize in the homily the honor that it is due”, writes the Pope.

### **An ecumenical value**

In the Motu proprio (literally, “of his own initiative”), Pope Francis declares that “the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God”. This is more than a temporal coincidence, he explains: the celebration has “ecumenical value, since the Scriptures point out, for those who listen, the path to authentic and firm unity”.

### **The importance of the homily**

“Pastors are primarily responsible for explaining Sacred Scripture and helping everyone to understand it”, writes Pope Francis. Which is why the homily possesses “a quasi-sacramental character”. The Pope warns against improvising or giving “long, pedantic homilies or wandering off into unrelated topics”. Rather, he suggests using simple and suitable language. For many of the faithful, he writes, “this is the only opportunity they have to grasp the beauty of God’s Word and to see it applied to their daily lives”.

### **Sacred Scripture and the Sacraments**

The Pope uses the scene of the Risen Lord appearing to the disciples at Emmaus to demonstrate what he calls “the unbreakable bond between Sacred Scripture and the Eucharist”. Since the Scriptures everywhere speak of Christ, he writes, “they enable us to believe that His death and resurrection are not myth but history, and are central to the faith of His disciples”.

When the sacraments are introduced and illumined by God’s Word, explains the Pope, “they become ever more clearly the goal of a process whereby Christ opens our minds and hearts to acknowledge His saving work”.

### **The role of the Holy Spirit**

“The role of the Holy Spirit in the Scriptures is primordial”, writes Pope Francis. “Without the work of the Spirit, there would always be a risk of remaining limited to the written text alone”. The Pope continues: “This would open the way to a fundamentalist reading, which needs to be avoided, lest we betray the inspired, dynamic and spiritual character of the sacred text”. It is the Holy Spirit who “makes Sacred Scripture the living word of God, experienced and handed down in the faith of His holy people”.

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## **Practicing mercy**

The Pope concludes his Apostolic Letter by defining what he describes as “the great challenge before us in life: to listen to Sacred Scripture and then to practice mercy”. God’s Word, writes Pope Francis, “has the power to open our eyes and to enable us to renounce a stifling and barren individualism and instead to embark on a new path of sharing and solidarity”.

The Letter closes with a reference to Our Lady, who accompanies us “on the journey of welcoming the Word of God”, teaching us the joy of those who listen to that Word – and keep it.

### **January 26, 2020 Annual KC Domino Tournament**

The annual 42 domino tournament sponsored by Council #13902 is on January 26<sup>th</sup>. It is a single player –draw for partner’s event. Registration is 11:30am to 12:30pm and play starts shortly after. There is a \$5 entry fee and prizes will be awarded to the top 3 players. Food will be available starting at 11am. Make plans to attend

**January 26, 2020 Holy Trinity Catholic Church of Corn Hill** invites you for a BBQ Pork meal with all the trimmings. The meal will be served from 11 am - 1 pm in their Parish Activity Center. Adults \$9 / Children \$5. Adult to-go plates available in the drive-thru (11 am - 12:30 pm). All proceeds benefit the Holy Trinity Cemetery Fund.

**Sunday, February 9, 2020 St Lukes 2nd Annual Fashion Bingo** from 1-4 with doors opening @ 12noon. Tickets are \$40 in advance and \$50 at the door. For tickets they can call: Laura Brenek: 254-718-2991 Sandy Brenek: 254-760-8393 St. Luke Office: 254-773:1561

**Sunday February 9, 2020 KJT Society #28, Granger** will be having their annual Pork Steak Dinner in conjunction with the Polka Mass. The Mass will be held at 10 AM at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Granger and the dinner will be held at the Parish Hall beginning at 11 AM. This year, they decided to donate the proceeds of it (along with a matching grant from the KJT Home Office) to the Church of the Visitation for the rebuilding of our church and in memory of Msgr. Ed Rabroker and Deacon John Thornton. They both served SSCM for many years and were from our parish. Serving will begin at 11 AM and plates will be \$10. A drive thru line will also be available from 11 AM - 12:30 PM. Everyone is welcome!!

**Sunday February 16, 2020 Czech Mass - Vítame Vás na Corn Hill:**In February we celebrate the Feast Day of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, patron saints of the Czech Republic and patron saint of Slavic peoples. In honor of these saints a Czech Mass will be celebrated **at 5:00 pm**, at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Corn Hill. All prayers, readings and hymns will be in the Czech language. After Mass, a Dinner will be served in the Parish Activity Center. Everyone is welcome to come and celebrate this special feast day of Sts. Cyril and Methodius

### **PRAYER FOR OUR NEW PARISH CHURCH**

Heavenly Father, author and inspirer of all things holy, hear our prayers for our new church. Send forth Your Spirit that we may humbly be guided by Your Divine Will. Touch our hearts with true generosity to raise up a house of God for the inspiration and renewal of all Your faithful. May it be a home where all are welcomed, nourished, and empowered to be Christ to others. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

MASS INTENTIONS & LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK				
Weekend Mass Intentions	Sat, 01-25 - 6:00 pm RE Bldg	Sun, 01-26 - 9:00am	Sat, 2-1 6:00pm RE Bldg	Sun, 2-2 - 9:00am
	3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	The Presentation of the Lord	The Presentation of the Lord
	Respect Life/Pro Life	Parishioners	+Joe Frenzel	Parishioners
<b>Altar Server</b>	Carter Kleypas Tamryn Stock Easton Green	Colton Ranly Grant Meyer Maverick Cannon	Colton Ranly Grant Meyer Maverick Cannon	Carson Kahlig Addison Wilde Mason Wilde
<b>Lector</b>	Caroline Hoelscher	Ray Rabroker	Mary Jane Hubik	Shawna Rabroker
<b>Psalmist</b>		Kathy Thornton		Margaret Arney
<b>Cantor</b>				Margaret Arney
<b>Gift Bearer</b>		Eric Wilde Family		Nathan Wilde Family
<b>Ushers</b>	Walter Carson Edward Ranly	Johnathan Frei & Bradley Rudloff	Walter Carson Edward Ranly	Daniel Meyer & Mark Hoelscher
EMHC to sick	Geraldine Kahlig	Donna Hoff	Amanda Moeller	Janet Loden
<b>Rosary Leader</b>	Carl & Mary Jane Hubik	Chris & Peggy Hrabal	Patricia Simecek	Bradley & Marilyn Rudloff
<b>Money Counter</b>	Clifford & Susan Newman; Ronnie & Rita Kleypas		Doc & Sherry Savage; Caroline Hoelscher; Warren Hoelscher	
<b>Vocation Cross</b>	Ken & Jenette Driska		Perry & Connie Petru	
<b>Church Cleaner</b>	1/25 & Feb 1 Helen Ranly, Lonnie Ranly, Janice Ranly, Cheryl Sell, Charla Kahlig, Kayla Skala 2/8 & 2/15 Vonnie Green, Jet Kleypas, Tammy Ryan, Jill Williams, Stefanie Hering			
<b>Weekday Mass Intentions</b>	<b>Tue 1/28 8:00 am</b>	<b>Wed 1/29 7:20 am</b>	<b>Thu 1/30 8:00am</b>	<b>Fri 1/31 No Mass</b>
	+Herbert F. Hoelscher +Helen Hoelscher +Evelyn Zeig	+Tommy Frei +Alfons Wilde	+Charles Holy, Sr	No Mass

**The Sick and the Suffering requesting our prayers:** Gary Locklin, John Macha, Eva-Ann Greger, Rachel Rudloff, Charles Thornton, Annette Hoelscher, Layla Grace Evetts, JoeAnn Kalmbach, Pattie Kalmbach, Jeff Bernsen, Josie Kleypas, Dennis Fuchs, Beatrice Arnold, Mike Meyer, Bobby Bulls, Charles Ordner, Don Drake, Al Buckholt, Gene Kreger, Edwin Green, Craig Thornton, Fran Greger, Gary Herzog, Barron Shoemaker, Skylar (Savage) Wolfe & Amy Drake

Daily Prayer Service begins 6:00 pm R E Building	<b>01-19 OFFERINGS:</b>
<b>UPCOMING EVENTS:</b>	Regular 1,721
Wed 1-22 - Youth Meeting ...Hall	
Sun 1-26 - HS Religious Education	
Sun 1-26 -First Communion Parent's Meeting, 10:00 AM; RE Building	
Sun 2-2 -Altar Society Meeting after Mass	

# Church of the Visitation

Westphalia, Texas  
Diocese of Austin



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[westphaliaparish@gmail.com](mailto:westphaliaparish@gmail.com)

254-584-4983

## Rev. Darrell Kostiha, Pastor

Deacon Bill Smetana (Retired)  
Deacon Charlie Wright  
Deacon Julian Tyboroski (Retired)

MASSSES: Saturday - 6:00 pm, Sunday - 9:00 am  
Tues 8:00am, Wed 7:20am, Thurs 8:00am, Fri 8:00am

RECONCILIATION: Prior to Weekend Mass

**3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time  
JANUARY 26, 2020**