

Announcements

(Please submit bulletin announcements 2 weeks in advance of the expected publication date.)

Dear Visitation Family,

Shalom (Peace)!

It is a well known fact that the number of people taking medication for depression is constantly on the increase. In the book *Rediscover Catholicism* the author Matthew Kelly writes: "When we separate the daily activities of our lives from our essential purpose, the very meaning of our lives, it is only a matter of time before despair and desperation take hold of us. And yet, the great casualty in this modern culture has been exactly that - our essential purpose. If you can distract a person from his/her essential purpose for long enough, he/she will become miserable. If you can prevent a whole generation from ever discovering their essential purpose, you will create an epidemic of misery and despair... The greatest tragedy of modern Catholicism is the way we have become so distracted from the goal of the Christian life." (pg 68)

In the readings, especially the Gospel for this Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time "A", we are clearly taught about the goal of our Christian life as Disciples of Christ: to be the **SALT OF THE EARTH, LIGHT OF THE WORLD, and A CITY ON THE MOUNTAIN.**

As the salt, light and the city on the hill exist not for themselves but for others, so must we ! As salt adds flavor to food and preserves it from decaying, as light drives out darkness and helps people see the good and the evil that surrounds them, as the city on the hill can guide a wayward traveler with direction and hope so must a Christian let his/her faith help others to preserve life and find joy, bring clarity of vision to a doubting mind with gospel truth, and be a beacon of hope to the lost sheep of Christ's flock. Prophet Isaiah (*Is 58:7-10*) and the psalmist (*Ps112*) give us some practical tips to be what we are called to be. St. Paul (*1Cor 2:1-5*) explains that we can fulfill this mission effectively with the Spirit and power of God. And Jesus (*Mt 5:13-16*) warns us that if we lose the gift of faith given to us at baptism we risk being the salt, the light and the city on the hill.

Dr. James Stewart, a great British preacher, once said: "*The greatest threat to Christianity is not communism, atheism, materialism, or humanism. It is Christians trying to sneak into Heaven incognito without ever sharing their Faith, without ever living out the Christian life as salt of the earth and light of the world.*" This is exactly the problem Jesus was trying to remedy with the part of the Sermon on the Mount on the Beatitudes.

On a practical note here is an encouraging story: *A little boy was taken by his mother to see a famous cathedral. On the windows were the pictures of various Christians. As he was watching the sunbeams shining through the stained-glass windows, he asked his mother, "Who are those people on the windows?" She said, "They're saints." The little boy looked at the windows and said, "Well, now I know what saints are. They are people who let the light shine through."* That little boy got it right. ***That's what a saint is-someone who lets the light of Jesus shine through his life. Let us continue to SEE Jesus and BE Jesus! That is the secret of holiness and discipleship!***

God bless and Mary protect you and yours!

Yours in Christ's service,

Fr. Edwin Kagoo
Pastor

THY WILL, LORD!

Building Fund Collection this weekend, Please be generous.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be this Wednesday, February 8th at 6:00pm.

SPECIAL MASS FOR THE SICK WITH THE SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING AT 9 AM ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2017 IN THE CHURCH: WORLD DAY OF THE SICK, FEBRUARY 11 was instituted in 1992 by Pope St .John Paul II as a special day to pray for those suffering from illness on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. All are welcome to attend and pray for all the sick in our families and community. We also invite those who are sick to come receive a special blessing on this day. The Sacrament of Anointing will also be administered during Mass for those who begin to be in danger of death due to old age or sickness. The Catechism tells us that Anointing of the Sick is a sacrament that is administered to a baptized Catholic who, having reached the age of reason, begins to be in danger of death due to sickness or old age (CCC 1514). The faithful are encouraged as always to make a good confession prior to the reception of this sacrament as well, to obtain the grace of the sacrament in its fullness.

World Marriage Day is observed next Sunday, February 12th. A special blessing will be given to all married couples during Mass.

A special collection will be taken up next weekend to support Campus Ministries in the Diocese of Austin. These include communities at the University of Texas, Texas A&M, Baylor University, Texas State University, Mary Hardin-Baylor and other college campuses. The goals of Catholic campus ministry are to build a faith community, bring the message of Christ to the academic world and prepare future leaders of society and our Church. Please be generous in your support of this most worthy cause.

Monthly Socials: It is a good tradition to have monthly socials after the Mass on the second Sundays. The signup sheet is in the narthex. August, November and December, 2017 are still available. If your family or families can host one of the available months, it will be a blessing for you and the parish! Please consider signing up! Thank you in advance!

TAKE ONE, GIVE ONE! A free book gift program for Christmas was launched in our parish. *Rediscovering Catholicism* by Matthew Kelly, a very popular best seller was given out at Christmas. If you haven't picked up a copy, please take one to read and give one to someone you think may benefit by it. Books can transform lives, influence our behavior, and empower us to be better disciples. If you would like to support this program by donating any amount, please take an envelope marked DONATION TO THE FREE BOOK PROGRAM and place it in the offering basket or send it to the parish office. Thank you for your support!

Czech Mass - Vítame Vás na Corn Hill: February 14 is the Feast Day of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, patron saints of the Czech Republic and patron saint of Slavic peoples. A Czech Mass will be celebrated on their Feast Day, **Tuesday, February 14, at 6:30 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.

†††

DID YOU KNOW?

A Muslim convert is a canonized saint in the Church? YES! SAINT JOSEPHINE BAKITHA, *virgin* whose Feast Day is February 8. Josephine was born around 1869 in Sudan and raised in the Islamic faith. She was kidnapped around the age of seven by slave traders who gave her the name, "Bakhita" meaning "lucky one". She was sold to a number of owners until she was purchased at the age of twelve by the Italian Consul Callisto Legnani. He brought her to Italy and, while serving as a nanny, was sent to live with the Canossian Sisters in Venice, Verona and Sachio. She was especially beloved by her students for her sweet nature and musical voice. After a long and painful illness, she died in 1947. Pope St. John Paul II canonized this first Sudanese saint on October 1, 2000 as a witness to evangelical reconciliation and a model of freedom.

<i>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>		<i>February 5, 2017</i>		
	February 4th <i>Saturday, 6:00pm</i>	February 5th <i>Sunday, 8:00am</i>	February 11th <i>Saturday, 6:00pm</i>	February 12th <i>Sunday, 8:00am</i>
Intentions	+Connie Smiser +Pauline Wilde +Doug Landry	Parishioners	+Mildred Bruggman +Robert Hoelscher +Herbert F. Hoelscher +Fred Hoelscher	Parishioners
Altar Servers	Elizabeth Ordner & Kasen Ordner	Mikey Lewis & James Lorenz	Brenden Doscocil & Helen Gausemeier	Graham & Nolan Kahlig
Lector	Shawna Ranly	Tammie Frenzel	Laurie Hoelscher	Susan Neumann
Gift Bearers	Charles Wright Family	Louis Vrana Family	Edwin Green Family	Ken Driska Family
Ushers	Mike Heise & Michael Heise	Louis Vrana & Hagen Hoelscher	Bill Reid & Edward Ranly	Marvin Meyer & Edward Meyer
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Connie Petru	Cindy Moeller	Kerri Meier	Debby Meyer
Money Counters		Chris & Peggy Hrabal & Georgia Ketterman		Louis & Jerlene Vrana and Horest & Bernice Weaver
Rosary Leaders	Patricia Simecek	Marilyn & Bradley Rudloff	Patricia Simecek	Marilyn & Bradley Rudloff
Vocations Cross Family		Gary & Bernadette Ketterman		Marvin & Jane Meyer
Church Cleaners	2/11 & 2/18	Kitty Reid, Misty Stock, Donna Heese, Becki Price, Cindy Moeller, Amanda Moeller		
Weekday Mass Intentions	February 7th <i>Tuesday, 8:00am</i>	February 8th <i>Wednesday, 7:20am</i>	February 9th <i>Thursday, 8:00am</i>	February 10th <i>Friday, 8:00am</i>
	+John Lingnau +Helen Lingnau	+Charlotte Ann Thornton +Marie Tana	+Ferdinand Hoelscher +Connie Smiser	+Herbert F. Hoelscher +Alois Ketterman

Saturday, February 11th at 9:00am, Special Mass for the sick with the Sacrament of Anointing

Meetings:

Altar Society 2/5 after Mass
 High School Religious Education 2/5 after Mass
 Outreach Classes 2/5 after Mass
 Knights of Columbus 2/6 @ 6:30pm
 Girl Scouts 2/7 @ 6:30pm
 Adult Choir Practice 2/8 @ 7:00pm

Offerings:

January 29, 2017 \$1,906.00
 Children's Offerings \$26.00

Sanctuary Candle is burning during the month of

February in memory of Henry and Mary Rabroker and Geraldine Merryfield

Please pray for the sick & suffering:

Beatrice Arnold, Jean Trice, Steven Pletzke, Sr. Clemence Ribitzki, Pattie Pletzke, Mike Meyer, Kyla Frei, Bobby Bulls, Cathy Didner, Sr. Benedict Zimmerer, Don Drake, Al Buckholt, Gene Kreger, Jack Longmore, Hudson John Halfmann, George Wright, Charles Ordner, Edwin Green, Craig Thornton, and Grace Hoelscher .

Parish of the Visitation Westphalia, Texas



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Rev. Edwin Kagoo, Pastor

Bishop Joe S. Vásquez – Diocese of Austin
 Deacon Bill Smetana
 Deacon Charlie Wright
 Deacon Julian Tyboroski

Saturday Mass – 6:00pm
 Sunday Mass – 8:00am

Reconciliation: Sat. 5:20pm - 5:50pm and Sun. 7:20am – 7:50am

**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
02-05-2017**

Our Mission is:

TO SEE JESUS & TO BE JESUS
In life and liturgy In family and community