

Dear Visitation Family,

Shalom (Peace)!

## LIFE HAS MANY CHOICES BUT ETERNITY TWO!

The readings for this **Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time** help us make the right choice for eternity. In the first reading (*Sir 15:15-20*) the wise sage says: "*Before man are life and death, good and evil, whichever he chooses shall be given him.*" In the Responsorial psalm (*Ps119*) the psalmist declares: "*Blessed are those who follow the law of the Lord!*" In the second reading (*I Cor 2:6-10*) St. Paul asserts that this law of the Lord is wisdom, not of this age or of any human ruler, but a hidden mystery predetermined by God before the ages for our glory: "*Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him, this God has revealed to us through the Spirit.*" In the gospel (*Mt 5:17-37*) Jesus emphatically proclaims: "*Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.*"

Law is to life, what rules are to a game. Rule is not the game but rules help us play the game. Law is not life, but laws help us gain life. The Law of the Lord both aids us perform good deeds and more importantly makes us become good people that God desires us to be.

The heart of the matter in following the law of the Lord is that it is a matter of the heart. It is not the action itself but the motivation behind the action where the person's true identity is found and formed. It is in that respect we are called as the *Growing Disciples*, to SEE JESUS in Life and Liturgy and to BE JESUS in Family and Community. *We are called to discern the heart of God in the Torah (the law) that God himself has given so that our external actions might truly be a reflection of our internal attitudes.* Jesus' Sermon on the mount gives us the new attitudes of the Kingdom that should motivate our observance of the Decalogue given to Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai. Jesus' point is that following the law demands living the lifestyle that gives rise to the law. Often times what takes place in the heart is what follows as actions in life. Is not murder motivated by hatred and adultery by lust? Disciplining the heart can lead to good habits and good life! Choosing it is a matter of the heart.

Matthew Kelly in his book *Rediscover Catholicism* writes: "*If you can tell me what your habits are, I can tell you what sort of person you are. Socrates, Aristotle, St. Thomas Aquinas, and St. Ignatius of Loyola established that habits create character. Good habits create good character, and bad habits create poor character. From a person's habit it is easy to deduce what his or her future will be like, because habits create character, and your character is your destiny. The good character created by good habits in turn creates a prosperous future. The bad character created by bad habits in turn creates misery in your future. Your character is your destiny in the workplace, in relationships, and in eternity. Our lives change when our habits change. Good habits are acquired intentionally through the efforts of discipline. The habits that allow us to celebrate and defend the-best-version-of-ourselves require real effort and openness to the grace of God. What are your habits?*"(pg.116-117)

On this World Marriage Day, to all the couples who through many years of faithfulness are a great example to all of us of the covenantal love of marriage we send you our prayers of gratitude. To those who have lost your spouses, we offer our prayers of sympathy. To those who struggle in marriage we extend our prayers of support. To those who are discerning marriage we join you in prayer to the Holy Spirit.

God bless and Mary protect you and yours,

Yours in Christ's service,

Fr. Edwin Kagoo

THY WILL, LORD!

## Announcements

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

**World Marriage Day** is observed today Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. A special blessing will be given to all married couples at the end of the Mass.

**A special collection** will be taken up this 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.

**Parish Social** today 2/12 after Mass. Hosted by the Savage, Reid, Carter, Jezisek, Colon, Neumann, Kalmbach, Pletzke, Hurta, Price and Welch families. Thank you to these families for doing this for the Parish.

**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!

**New Church cleaning list** is in the narthex. Please pick one up so you know when it is your time to clean.

**"Corporate Communion"** for the Knights of Columbus members will be on Sunday February 19th. All K of C members are encouraged to sit as a unified group in the front of church.

**"February is Food for Families Month"** Please bring your non-perishable food items to mass Sunday morning February 26th. The Knights of Columbus will collect all donated foods & deliver to local food pantries.

**Scholarships:** The Altar Society will award two \$500 scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are members of the parish. Application for the scholarship can be found on the church website, Church of the Visitation.org. Completed applications are due March 31<sup>st</sup>.

**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.

**Rosebud Knights of Columbus** will be serving breakfast on February 19, 2017 at St. Ann Center from 7:00 to 10:00 a.m. Donations accepted.

## *Did you Know?*

Flowers, candy, red hearts and romance. That's what Valentine's day is all about, right? Well, maybe not. The origin of this holiday for the expression of love really isn't romantic at all—at least not in the traditional sense. The real story of the man behind the holiday is St. Valentine, a Roman Priest at the time when the Roman emperor Claudias persecuted the church and had an edict that prohibited the marriage of young people. This was based on the hypothesis that unmarried soldiers fought better than married soldiers because married soldiers might be afraid of what might happen to them or their wives or families if they died.

Polygamy at that time would have been much more popular than just one woman and one man living together. And yet some of them seemed to be attracted to Christian faith. But obviously the church thought that marriage was very sacred between one man and one woman for their life and that it was to be encouraged. And so it immediately presented the problem to the Christian church of what to do about this. The idea of encouraging them to marry within the Christian church was what Valentine was about. And he secretly married them because of the edict. Valentine was eventually caught, imprisoned and tortured for performing marriage ceremonies against command of Emperor Claudius the second. There are legends surrounding Valentine's actions while in prison.

One of the men who was to judge him in line with the Roman law at the time was a man called Asterius, whose daughter was blind. He was supposed to have prayed with and healed the young girl with such astonishing effect that Asterius himself became Christian as a result."

In the year 269 AD, Valentine was sentenced to a three part execution of a beating, stoning, and finally decapitation all because of his stand for Christian marriage. The story goes that the last words he wrote were in a note to Asterius' daughter. He inspired today's romantic missives by signing it, "from your Valentine."

St. Valentine, pray for us! Feast day, **February 14th.**

†††

Listen to KYAR Catholic Radio FM 98.3

**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**February 12, 2017**

	<b>February 11th</b> <i>Saturday, 6:00pm</i>	<b>February 12th</b> <i>Sunday, 8:00am</i>	<b>February 18th</b> <i>Saturday, 6:00pm</i>	<b>February 19th</b> <i>Sunday, 8:00am</i>
<b>Intentions</b>	+Mildred Bruggman +Robert Hoelscher +Herbert F. Hoelscher +Fred Hoelscher	Parishioners	+Doug Landry +Mary Cox +Helen P. Hoelscher +Viola F. Ranly	Parishioners
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Brenden Dorskocil & Helen Gausemeier	Graham & Nolan Kahlig	Emma & Preston Hering and Nate Hoelscher	Adam Herwald and Clare Palmer
<b>Lector</b>	Laurie Hoelscher	Susan Neumann	Tammy Ryan	Ray Rabroker
<b>Gift Bearers</b>	Edwin Green Family	Ken Driska Family	Lynnwood Kleypas Family	Neal Ryan Family
<b>Ushers</b>	Bill Reid & Edward Ranly	Marvin Meyer & Edward Meyer	Red Carson & Joey Hoelscher	Gary Frei & Gary Ketterman
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	Kerri Meier	Debby Meyer	Amanda Moeller	Janet Loden
<b>Money Counters</b>		Louis & Jerlene Vrana and Horest & Bernice Weaver		Calvin & Cheryl Wilde and Craig & Debbie Ordner
<b>Rosary Leaders</b>	Patricia Simecek	Marilyn & Bradley Rudloff	Patricia Simecek	Marilyn & Bradley Rudloff
<b>Vocations Cross Family</b>		Marvin & Jane Meyer		Deacon Julian & Rosalis Tyboroski
<b>Church Cleaners</b>	2/11 & 2/18	Kitty Reid, Misty Stock, Donna Heese, Becki Price, Cindy Moeller, Amanda Moeller		
	<b>February 14th</b> <i>Tuesday, 8:00am</i>	<b>February 15th</b> <i>Wednesday, 7:20am</i>	<b>February 16th</b> <i>Thursday, 8:00am</i>	<b>February 17th</b> <i>Friday, 8:00am</i>
<b>Weekday Mass Intentions</b>	+Charlotte Ann Thornton +Larry R. Hoelscher +Calvin Dorskocil	+Helen Lingnau +Alois Ketterman	+Cecil Wilde +Connie Smiser	+John Lingnau +Helen Lingnau

**Meetings:**  
**High School Religious Education** 2/12 after Mass  
**Adult Choir Practice** 2/15 @ 7:00pm  
**WVFD** 2/15 @ 7:00pm

**Offerings:**  
**February 5, 2017** \$2,074.00  
**Children's Offerings** \$36.00  
**Building Fund** \$1,071.00

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



144 County Road 3000, Lott, Texas 76656  
 254-584-4983

Website: [www.churchofthevisitation.org](http://www.churchofthevisitation.org)  
 Email: [westphaliaparish@gmail.com](mailto:westphaliaparish@gmail.com)  
 Diocese website: [www.austindiocese.org](http://www.austindiocese.org)

**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

## Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time 02-12-2017

*Our Mission is:*  
**TO SEE JESUS & TO BE JESUS**  
**In life and liturgy In family and community**