

Dear Visitation Family,

Shalom (Peace)!

On this Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, cycle "A", the Scripture readings speak about love, and especially the love of one's enemies. That reminds me of a story about little Johnny. *After hearing his priest preach on a Sunday on how God wants us to love everyone, little Johnny wrote to his pastor: "Dear Father, I know God wants us to love everybody, but He surely never met my sister. Sincerely, Johnny".* Every one of us can relate to Johnny in the sense that there is someone in our life who is so difficult to live with or whom we may consider as an enemy. In the face of such a reality, we now turn to God's Word to SEE Jesus and BE Jesus. The Gospel (*Mt 5: 38-48*) which is once again taken from the Sermon on the Mount asks us as God's children to do three things for our enemies:

**1. Pray 2. Forgive 3. Love**

Our first reaction to our enemy is to hit back at him/her or talk about him/her to others with unkind or uncharitable words. That can seldom help us or effect a positive change in the enemy. On the other hand, it can only make matters worse for both. Jesus tells us to pray for those who persecute us. Because, when we PRAY for that person as Jesus did from the Cross for those who persecuted Him, God's grace can touch that person and transform the people and the situation. We must pray for that person not just for him/her to be good to us but for that person to turn to God and find mercy. Our Father God does not desire the death of any sinner but conversion to Life in Christ. ***Our prayer for an enemy may not only help save a sinner but will certainly help us to BE Jesus in family and community.***

The hardest thing in life is to forgive someone, especially our worst enemy. And that is what God has demanded of all His children: "You shall not bear hatred for your brother or sister in your heart. Though you may have to reprove your fellow citizen, do not incur sin because of him. Take no revenge and cherish no grudge against any of your people...I am the Lord."*(Lev 19:1-2, 17-18)*. ***If prayer is the best gift you can give to your enemy, forgiveness is the best gift you can give to yourself. Nothing brings you peace in your heart like when you FORGIVE your enemy.***

It is easy for us to love those who are good to us. But, like little Johnny, it is difficult to love those who are not so nice to us. That is natural. But the supernatural God, whose children we are, expects of us something more than the natural. "If you love those who love you, what recompense will you have? Do not the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brothers only, what is unusual about that? Do not the pagans do the same? So, be perfect, just as your Heavenly Father is perfect."*(Mt 5: 38-48)*. ***Christian LOVE is more than justice; it is mercy. It is defined by turning the other cheek, giving away the cloak with the tunic, and walking the extra mile. We must remember that our enemy is also God's child who is loved by Him (1Cor 3:16-23).***

**As we are blessed to SEE Jesus in the Scriptures as Love-incarnate, may we ask for the grace to BE Jesus through the Eucharist in Life and Community.**

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.)*

**ASH WEDNESDAY**, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> Masses will be at 7:00am and 6:30pm. There will be a special collection for Catholic Home Missions. Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence. The norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal. Two smaller meals may also be taken, but not to equal a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding from age 14 onwards.

**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!

**"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.

**Fish Fry- Westphalia Ball Association**: The Westphalia Ball Association will be selling To Go Fish Plates on March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 4-7 at the pit. Plates will be \$8.00 with all the fixings Fish, Beans, French Fries and Hushpuppies.

**Westphalia Ball Association and Celebration Park are hosting a Fundraiser on March 4<sup>th</sup>**. Tickets are \$100 and include a ribeye steak dinner, dance with a drawing for prizes and also a silent auction & a stretch raffle. Proceeds will be used for upcoming projects for the park and fields. If you would like a ticket or to make a donation please contact Suzanne Dorskocil [254-482-0006](tel:254-482-0006), Kayla Skala [254-217-0143](tel:254-217-0143), Shawna Ranly [254-721-0475](tel:254-721-0475), or Alicia Fikes [254-537-2775](tel:254-537-2775).

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

**"We should try not to forget that when Jesus was on the cross, he didn't turn to the man next to him and say, 'You did the crime, now pay the price.' No, He offered him a better life. That is the responsibility that now falls on our shoulders as followers of Christ" says Matthew Kelly in 'Rediscover Catholicism' (pg 308-9). We should return blessing for hatred!**

***DID YOU KNOW?***

We are praying and planning on starting a Bible Study in our parish soon. The first course will be of eight sessions. We are thinking of offering one session per week. The suggestion is to have the same session twice a week, one during the day and one in the evening to make it convenient for all to attend. We intend to start the 8 week Bible Study beginning the Easter week and going through the beginning of June. We need volunteers to assist with facilitating the program. If you would like to assist with this great mission in our parish, please contact Fr. Edwin. We appreciate very much your help and any suggestions! It will be an exciting journey! Please look forward to hearing more about it in the coming weeks.

**Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**February 19, 2017**

	<b>February 18th</b> <i>Saturday, 6:00pm</i>	<b>February 19th</b> <i>Sunday, 8:00am</i>	<b>February 25th</b> <i>Saturday, 6:00pm</i>	<b>February 26th</b> <i>Sunday, 8:00am</i>
<b>Intentions</b>	+Doug Landry +Mary Cox +Helen P. Hoelscher +Viola F. Ranly	Parishioners	+Florene Gudat +Larry R. Hoelscher Respect life by the Knights of Columbus +Leonard Wilde	Parishioners
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Emma & Preston Hering and Nate Hoelscher	Adam Herwald and Clare Palmer	Kolby Kosel & Kelby Kosel	Bryce Fikes, Maddie Dach & Logan Kleypas
<b>Lector</b>	Tammy Ryan	Ray Rabroker	Shawna Ranly	Renaë Willberg
<b>Gift Bearers</b>	Lynnwood Kleypas Family	Neal Ryan Family	Charles Moeller Family	Bernard Ordner Family
<b>Ushers</b>	Red Carson & Joey Hoelscher	Gary Frei & Gary Ketterman	Walton Hering, Jr. & Carl Hubik	Bradley Rudloff & Jonathan Frei
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	Amanda Moeller	Janet Loden	Emily Hering	Geraldine Kahlig
<b>Money Counters</b>		Calvin & Cheryl Wilde and Craig & Debbie Ordner		Ronnie & Rita Kleypas and Clifford & Susan Neumann
<b>Rosary Leaders</b>	Patricia Simecek	Marilyn & Bradley Rudloff	Patricia Simecek	Marilyn & Bradley Rudloff
<b>Vocations Cross Family</b>		Deacon Julian & Rosalis Tyboroski		Deacon Bill & Carol Smetana
<b>Church Cleaners</b>	2/25 & 3/4	Renaë Willberg, Meagan Willberg, Randy Willberg, Emily Hering		
<b>Weekday Mass Intentions</b>	February 21st <i>Tuesday, 8:00am</i>	February 22nd <i>Wednesday, 7:20am</i>	February 23rd <i>Thursday, 8:00am</i>	February 24th <i>Friday, 8:00am</i>
	+Vince Tana +Alois Ketterman	+Charlotte Ann Thornton +Marie Tana	+Connie Smiser	+Anita Book

**Meetings:**

**High School Religious Education** 2/19 after Mass

**Outreach Classes** 2/19 after Mass

**Girl Scouts** 2/21 @ 6:30pm

**Liturgy Commission** 2/21 @ 7:00pm

**Adult Choir Practice** 2/22 @ 7:00pm

**CYO** 2/22 @ 7:00pm

**Finance Council** 2/23 @ 7:00pm

**Offerings:**

**February 12, 2017** \$2,201.00

**Children's Offerings** \$46.00

**Higher Education** \$543.00

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

**Rev. Edwin Kagoo, Pastor**

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

## Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

**02-19-2017**

*Our Mission is:*

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