

Dear Visitation Family,

Shalom (Peace)!

We have begun the holy season of Lent! We did so with the observance of Ash Wednesday, when through a special rite, the ashes were imposed on our foreheads. As I mentioned in my homily, the ash on my forehead teaches me **three truths about me which demands of me to live out the age-old Lenten practices of Fasting, Alms-giving and Prayer.** The Scripture readings for this First Sunday of Lent reiterate that message.

The first truth is about my **mortality**: The ash on my forehead speaks to me saying: "*Remember, you are dust, and to dust you shall return!*" It reminds me of the creation story (*Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7*). I am called, therefore, to pay more attention to the immortal soul in me. The practice of **Fasting helps me to overcome the temptation of the flesh that would lead to the sin of sensual PLEASURE.**

The second truth is about my **sinfulness**: The ash on my forehead tells others that I am a sinner. The Biblical symbol of a penitent sinner was the wearing of the sackcloth with ashes on his head. My sin not only offends God but hurts others as well (*Rom 5:12-19*). The practice of **Alms-giving helps me make amends with works of mercy and do reparation for the social dimension of my sins of worldly PRESTIGE.**

The third truth is about my **dependence on God**: The ash on my forehead reminds me to turn to God in order to live and to love (*Mt 4:1-11*). In the creation story it was the breath of God that brought human life into the lump of clay. In Baptism, man, who by disobeying God, had lost the divine life and the dignity of being the child of God by disobedience is once again given the breath of life and made to be God's beloved child. The practice of **Prayer allows me to humbly surrender myself into the hands of the divine potter, who can mold me into clay of life and love, thus enabling me to resist the sin of self-glorifying POWER.**

On this First Sunday of Lent, called the "**Temptation Sunday**" the Scripture readings show us that from Adam to Jesus, and to you and me, ***all are led by the Spirit to be tempted by the devil to seek sinful pleasure, worldly prestige and wealth, evil power to vain glory. But we are also given sufficient grace and strength through God's Word and promise, with God's providence and care, to know our identity and God's Will, to trust God and remember His promise, and to reject Satan and his deceitful lures.*** While the first man Adam failed, the New Adam, Jesus, won the test of temptations. Now it is our turn! ***We once said 'Yes' to God and 'No' to the devil at our baptism. Lent is a time in the desert to remember the baptismal promise and the voice of God as Jesus did, so that at Easter with the victorious Christ we can once again renew our covenant with God our Father, in the Spirit.***

As we observe the Lenten practices, let us remember the words of St. Augustine echoed by Pope Paul VI and mentioned by Matthew Kelly in *Rediscover Catholicism*: "**Do you wish your prayer to fly towards God? Give it two wings: Fasting and Alms-giving.**" (*Pg 245*)

Have a Blessed Lent! God bless and Mary protect you and yours! SEE Jesus & BE Jesus!

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.)

Building Fund Collection will be this weekend. Please be generous!

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

Fish Fry - Westphalia Ball Association: To Go Fish Plates on March 10th from 4-7 at the pit. Plates will be \$8.00 with all the fixings Fish, Beans, French Fries and Hushpuppies.

BIBLE STUDY: 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.** A meeting of the volunteers will take place on March 16th at 6:30pm in the Religious Education Building. **Daylight saving time 2017** will start on March 12 at 2am. On March 11 before you go to bed, you'll need to set your clocks ahead by an hour.

Milestone Anniversary of Marriage: Since the Feast of the Holy Family in 2016 was not observed on the Sunday following Christmas as it was the Solemnity of Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, the certificates honoring those who celebrated milestone anniversaries of their marriage in increments of 5 years could not be given out. We would like to do that on **Sunday, March 19th**, which is the Feast of St. Joseph, husband of Mary. Couples who celebrated special anniversaries (5, 10, 15 etc.) of their SACRAMENTAL MARRIAGE in **2016** and desire to receive a certificate of honor will please **print your names, completed years of marriage, and the Mass you will attend on the weekend of March 19th** on the signup sheet in the narthex. Thank you!

DID YOU KNOW?

We have a RELIC OF THE HOLY CROSS of Our Lord Jesus in our church! A tiny chip of the wood of the cross of Christ in the middle of a metal cross is preserved in the reliquary on the wall to the right of the large crucifix by St. Mary's altar in our church. The certificate of authentication from the Vatican issued to Msgr. Ed Rabroker on the feast of the Holy Cross on September 14th 1954 is in a frame under the reliquary. Many people undertake pilgrimages to go visit holy places and to venerate the relics of holy people. On Good Friday one of the liturgical rites that we celebrate is the Adoration of the Holy Cross. How blessed are we to have a sacred relic of the Holy Cross here with us!

RCIA

Lenten season is a special time especially for those who are seeking New Life in Christ through baptism. It is a time of immediate preparation to the sacraments of initiation through particular rites. The "Rite of Election" takes place on the First Sunday of Lent. Catechumens will be sent from their respective parishes through a "Rite of Sending" to the Bishop who will induct them into the "Book of the Elect". In the coming weeks of Lent they will go through scrutinies and will prepare for the Sacraments with a deeper awareness of God's mercy and care. We have one catechumen from our parish. Please pray for Cacie Lynn Jackson during these days of Lent that she will continually prepare herself for the sacrament at Easter.

<i>First Sunday of Lent</i>		<i>March 5, 2017</i>		
	March 4th <i>Saturday, 6:00pm</i>	March 5th <i>Sunday, 8:00am</i>	March 11th <i>Saturday, 6:00pm</i>	March 12th <i>Sunday, 8:00am</i>
Intentions	+Connie Smiser +Charlotte Ann Thornton	Parishioners	+Florene Gudat +Robert Hoelscher +Alois Ketterman +Herman Willberg	Parishioners
Altar Servers	Elizabeth Ordner & Kasen Ordner	Mikey Lewis & James Lorenz	Brenden Daskocil & Helen Gausemeier	Graham Kahlig & Nolan Kahlig
Lector	Laurie Hoelscher	Tammie Frenzel	Tammy Ryan	Susan Neumann
Gift Bearers	Mike Heise Family	A.T. Voltin Family	Carl Hubik Family	Jerry Loden Family
Ushers	Craig Ordner & Calvin Wilde	Mark Hoelscher & Matthew Hoelscher	Mike Heise & Michael Heise	Todd Daskocil & Jeff Hering
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Doris Wright	Walton Hering, Jr.	Randy Willberg	Greneta Ordner
Money Counters		Lonnie Ranly and Bill & Kitty Reid		Chris & Peggy Hrabal and Georgia Ketterman
Rosary Leaders	Geraldine Havran	Edna Spivey & Dorothy Dewey Smith	Geraldine Havran	Edna Spivey & Dorothy Dewey Smith
Vocations Cross Family		Randy & Linda Lorenz		Ken & Jenette Driska
Church Cleaners	3/11 & 3/18	Greneta Ordner, Tammie Frenzel, Cheryl Wilde, Debbie Ordner, Shayne Wilde		
	March 7th <i>Tuesday, 8:00am</i>	March 8th <i>Wednesday, 7:20am</i>	March 9th <i>Thursday, 8:00am</i>	March 10th <i>Friday, 6:00pm</i>
Weekday Mass Intentions	+Gilbert Wilde +Pauline Wilde	+Connie Smiser +Larry R. Hoelscher	+Ronnie Ranly	Mass and Stations of the Cross +Charlotte Ann Thornton

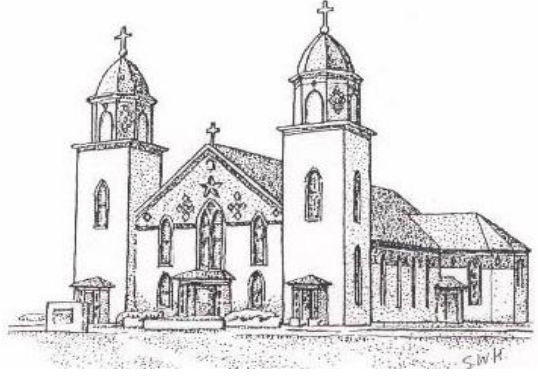
Meetings:
Altar Society 3/5 after Mass
High School Religious Education 3/5 after Mass
Girls Scouts 3/7 @ 6:30pm
Adult Choir Practice 3/8 @ 7:00pm

Offerings:
2/26 \$1,819.00
Children's Collection \$8.00

**Sanctuary Candle is burning the month of March
in memory of Manard & Margaret Moeller and Joe Kaminski**

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
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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 03-05-2017

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