

Dear Visitation Family,

Shalom (Peace)!

The message of this Second Sunday of Lent can be summed up in one word: **LISTEN.**

Back in the day, when the preacher's car broke down on a country road, he walked to a nearby roadhouse to use the phone. After calling for a tow truck, he spotted his old friend, Frank, drunk and shabbily dressed at the bar. "What happened to you, Frank?" asked the good reverend. "You used to be rich." Frank told a sad tale of bad investments that had led to his downfall. "Listen," the preacher said, "Go home and open the Bible at random, stick your finger on the page and there will be God's answer. Listen to Him!" Sometime later, the preacher bumped into Frank, who was wearing a Gucci suit, sporting a Rolex watch, and had just stepped out of a Mercedes. "Frank," said the preacher, "I'm glad to see things really turned around for you." "Yes, preacher, and I owe it all to you," said Frank. I listened to you and opened my Bible, put my finger on the page, and there was the answer - Chapter 11."

On a serious note, if there is one lesson we can learn for life from today's liturgy, just remember one word: LISTEN. **Listening to God is not an easy task. What He has to say is often difficult to fathom and, when fathomed, difficult to swallow. But when we listen to Him, the wind will no longer be in our face, but at our back. Today's Scripture readings illustrate that truth.**

In the first reading (*Gen 12:1-4*), we see that Abraham was asked to leave his home and his land and go where he was directed. It was a total uprooting of his belief system, cultural background, geographical and social familiarity. But in listening to God he was blessed with prosperity and posterity, and became a blessing to others with a great name and a nation.

In the gospel (*Mt 17:1-9*), we see that Peter and his companions who remonstrated against Jesus, and who revealed the divine plan of redemption that necessitated His passion and death by crucifixion before resurrection, are asked to listen to Jesus, the beloved obedient Son of God.

In the second reading (*2 Tim 1:8-10*), St. Paul encourages his beloved disciple Timothy and us, to bear our share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God. If life in general is difficult, Jesus' way of moral transformation is even more difficult. The premise on which Christian discipleship begins is to LISTEN.

Let us make today's Responsorial psalm (*Ps 33*) our prayer for this week and for our life: "Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you."

"This is precisely what sets the saints apart from the masses of humanity marching through history. They listened to the voice of God in their lives," -- Matthew Kelly in Rediscover Catholicism (pg 113).

May we pay more attention to listening to God not only with our ears, but more with our heart and will, especially at Mass, in our Bible reading, and in our elders in Church and community! Let us pray for our farmers and for favorable weather!

God bless and Mary protect you and yours, as we together strive to **SEE Jesus in Life and Liturgy and BE Jesus in Family and Community.**

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.)

Wednesday morning Mass (this week) will be at 8:00am.

Fish Fry - Westphalia Ball Association: The Westphalia Ball Association will be selling To Go Fish Plates on March 17th from 4-7 at the pit. Plates will be \$8.00 with all the fixings Fish, Beans, French Fries and Hushpuppies.

BIBLE STUDY: 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 have three volunteers as of today! 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.

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 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!

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 31st.

Dispensation for St. Patrick's Day: Taking into consideration the Irish Catholic population in our diocese, Bishop Joe Vasquez has granted dispensation from the obligation to abstain from meat on St. Patrick's Day (March 17) which falls on a Friday this year. If dispensation is taken, individuals are asked to do an act of charity or penance on another day.

When was the last time you invited someone to be a priest or a religious? Do it today!

DID YOU KNOW?

At every Mass God personally speaks to us through His Holy Word proclaimed by the trained ministers of the Church and explained by His ordained ministers. That is why Holy Mother the Church asks us to *listen* to the Word that is proclaimed. During the liturgy, that what is proclaimed is the Word of God, not what is written in the book. Listening to God's Word is one of the ways that we actively participate in the Mass. We can also hear God outside of Mass as we do private Bible reading, listen to Devotional CDs and Radio, and listen to God-fearing holy people.



Have you plans to make this year's Lent a meaningful one for you and your family? Think of attending Mass besides Sunday, on one or more weekdays during every week of Lent!

Listen to Catholic Radio 98.3 FM in our area.

<i>Second Sunday of Lent</i>		<i>March 12, 2017</i>		
	March 11th <i>Saturday, 6:00pm</i>	March 12th <i>Sunday, 8:00am</i>	March 18th <i>Saturday, 6:00pm</i>	March 19th <i>Sunday, 8:00am</i>
Intentions	+Florene Gudat +Robert Hoelscher +Alois Ketterman +Herman Willberg	Parishioners	+Doug Landry +Albert Michalewicz +Agnes Bernsen Lee Allen Bernsen	Parishioners
Altar Servers	Brenden Doscocil & Helen Gausemeier	Graham Kahlig & Nolan Kahlig	Emma & Preston Hering and Nate Hoelscher	Adam Herwald & Maddie Dach
Lector	Tammy Ryan	Susan Neumann	Shawna Ranly	Ray Rabroker
Gift Bearers	Carl Hubik Family	Jerry Loden Family	Calvin Wilde Family	Jimmy Thornton Family
Ushers	Mike Heise & Michael Heise	Todd Doscocil & Jeff Hering	Bill Reid & Edward Ranly	Johnny Polach & Charles Moeller
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Randy Willberg	Greneta Ordner	Jim Lewis	Cindy Moeller
Money Counters		Chris & Peggy Hrabal and Georgia Ketterman		Louis & Jerlene Vrana and Horest & Bernice Weaver
Rosary Leaders	Geraldine Havran	Edna Spivey & Dorothy Dewey Smith	Geraldine Havran	Edna Spivey & Dorothy Dewey Smith
Vocations Cross Family		Ken & Jenette Driska		Walton Jr. & Belinda Hering
Church Cleaners	3/11 & 3/18	Greneta Ordner, Tammie Frenzel, Cheryl Wilde, Debbie Ordner, Shayne Wilde		
	March 14th <i>Tuesday, 8:00am</i>	March 15th <i>Wednesday, 8:00am</i>	March 16th <i>Thursday, 8:00am</i>	March 17th <i>Friday, 6:00pm</i>
Weekday Mass Intentions	+Connie Smiser	Respect Life by the Knights of Columbus	+Charlotte Ann Thornton +Alois Ketterman	Mass and Stations of the Cross +Mary Cox

Meetings:

Confirmation Class 3/12 after Mass

High School Religious Education 3/12 after Mass

WVFD 3/15 @ 7:00pm

Adult Choir Practice 3/15 @7:00pm

Offerings:

Ash Wednesday \$369.00

Children's Collection \$1.00

Home Missions \$443.00

3/5 \$2,163.00

Children's Collection \$38.00

Building Fund \$696.00

**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

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

03-12-2017

Our Mission is:

TO SEE JESUS
In life and liturgy

&

TO BE JESUS
In family and community