

3rd Sunday of Lent

Readings:

[Exodus 17:3–7](#)

[Psalm 95:1–2, 6–9](#)

[Romans 5:1–2, 5–8](#)

[John 4:5–15, 19–26, 39–42](#)

The Israelites' hearts were hardened by their hardships in the desert.

Though they have seen His mighty deeds, in their thirst they grumble and put God to the test in today's

First Reading—a crisis point recalled also in today's Psalm.

Jesus is thirsty, too, in today's Gospel. He thirsts for souls (see [John 19:28](#)). He longs to give the Samaritan woman the living waters that well up to eternal life.

These waters couldn't be drawn from the well of Jacob, father of the Israelites and the Samaritans, but Jesus was something greater than Jacob (see [Luke 11:31–32](#)).

The Samaritans were Israelites who escaped exile when Assyria conquered the Northern Kingdom eight centuries before Christ (see [2 Kings 17:6, 24–41](#)). They were despised for intermarrying with non-Israelites and worshipping at Mount Gerazim, not Jerusalem.

But Jesus tells the woman that the “hour” of true worship is coming, when all will worship God in Spirit and truth. Jesus' “hour” is the “appointed time” that Paul speaks of in today's Epistle. It is the hour when the Rock of our salvation was struck on the Cross. Struck by the soldier's lance, living waters flowed out from our Rock (see [John 19:34–37](#)). These waters are the Holy Spirit (see [John 7:38–39](#)), the gift of God (see [Hebrews 6:4](#)). By the living waters the ancient enmities of Samaritans and Jews have been washed away, the dividing wall between Israel and the nations is broken down (see [Ephesians 2:12–14, 18](#)). Since His hour, all may drink of the Spirit in Baptism (see [1 Corinthians 12:13](#)).

In this Eucharist, the Lord now is in our midst—as He was at the Rock of Horeb and at the well of Jacob.

In the “today” of our Liturgy, He calls us to believe: “I am He,” come to pour out the love of God into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. How can we continue to worship as if we don't understand? How can our hearts remain hardened?

The Church of The Visitation Religious Education Program is in need of Catechists.

There are several ways one can help; teaching a class, substituting, or as a Catechist Aid. Helping our children become good Catholic Christians is very rewarding work. Being a Catechist is doing God's work, and because of this I am assured that our Lord has called our people to carry out His mission. Please, I ask you to pray and when you feel called, or would like to discern your call, please contact Fr. Darrell or I will be available at the RE Bldg after Mass or just call my cell.

Thank you in advance for your prayers,

Linda Lorenz, DRE

Church of The Visitation

Religious Education Program

254-715-0573

Reverend Joe Vásquez, Bishop of Austin, issued a temporary change to communion protocol last week. The bishop called for the distribution of communion by hand to hand, rather than hand to tongue. Bishop Vasquez also requested a temporary end to the distribution of consecrated wine. Additionally, standing basins of holy water, such as stoups at church doors, should also be removed. Holy water that circulates and filters water can remain operable. Pastors may ask parishioners to forgo holding hands during the Lord's Prayer and to offer the Sign of Peace without handshaking. Parishes will be notified when the temporary measures are lifted.

March 21-22: Special collection

*The **Catholic Relief Services** collection will be taken up on **March 21-22** to support children, women and families around the world. Please be generous in your support of this most worthy cause.*

Friday's during Lent there will be Stations of the Cross at 6:00 pm in the Religion Building followed by Mass.

Westphalia Knights of Columbus Scholarship applications are being accepted until April 13, 2020. Two \$500 Scholarships will be awarded to two Seniors from the Church of the Visitation Parish. Please contact Mark Hoelscher at 254-584-5102 for additional information.

Westphalia Knights of Columbus will be selling Shrimp and Fish plates with beans, slaw and fries at the Parish Hall Pit during Lent each Friday thru April 3rd from 3:30 pm till 7:15 pm (or until sold out) cost is \$10.00 per plate.

The Altar Society will award two \$500 scholarships to high school seniors who are members of our parish. Please visit the http://www.churchofthevisitation.org/Altar_Society.shtm or contact Rita Kleypas for a copy of the application. Deadline is March 31, 2020.

Church Cleaning List and instructions are available for pickup in the back.

PRAYER FOR OUR NEW PARISH CHURCH

Heavenly Father, author and inspirer of all things holy, hear our prayers for our new church. Send forth Your Spirit that we may humbly be guided by Your Divine Will. Touch our hearts with true generosity to raise up a house of God for the inspiration and renewal of all Your faithful. May it be a home where all are welcomed, nourished, and empowered to be Christ to others.

MASS INTENTIONS & LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK				
Weekend Mass Intentions	Sat, 3-14 6:00pm RE Bldg	Sun, 3-15 9:00am	Sat, 3-21 6:00pm RE Bldg	Sun, 3-22 9:00am
	3 rd Sunday of Lent	3 rd Sunday of Lent	4 th Sunday of Lent	4 th Sunday of Lent
	+Charlotte Ann Thornton +Laurie Hoelscher	Parishioners	+Marvin Wilde	Parishioners
Altar Server	Brooke Skala Madison Skala Parker Peters	Carter Kleypas Tamryn Stock Easton Green	Carter Kleypas Tamryn Stock Easton Green	Colton Ranly Grant Meyer Maverick Cannon Jr.
Lector	Mary Jane Hubik	Mark Bartek	Dawn Willberg	Ray Rabroker
Psalmist		Kathy Thornton		Katie Wilde
Gift Bearer		Ronnie Willberg Family		David Williams Family
Ushers	Walter Carson Edward Ranly	Mike Heise & Michael Heise	Walter Carson Edward Ranly	Marvin & Ed Meyer
EMHC to sick	Amanda Moeller	Marilyn Rudloff	Doris Wright	Cindy Moeller
Rosary Leader	Elmer & Geraldine Hoelscher	Edna Spivey & Dorothy Smith	Elmer & Geraldine Hoelscher	Edna Spivey & Dorothy Smith
Money Counter	Clifford & Susan Neumann; Ronnie & Rita Kleypas		Doc & Sherry Savage; Caroline Hoelscher; Warren Hoelscher	
Vocation Cross	Gary & Bernadette Ketterman		Ray & Kay Rabroker	
Church Cleaner	March 7 & 14 Bernadette Hurta, Ruth Daskocil, Connie Petru, Kathy Hoelscher, Debra Colon, Margaret Arney March 21 & 28 Margaret Moeller, Pauline Hoelscher, Darlene Fikes, Jenette Driska, Courtney Hargrove, Jenny Frei			
Weekday Mass Intentions	Tue 3/17 8:00 am	Wed 3/18 7:20 am	Thurs. 3/19 8:00am	Fri 3/20 6:00 pm Stations of the Cross followed by Mass
	Joyce Greger	+Charlotte Ann Thornton	+Agnes & Lee Allen Bernsen	+Poor Souls in Purgatory

The Sick and the Suffering requesting our prayers: Gary Locklin, John Macha, Eva-Ann Greger, Rachel Rudloff, Charles Thornton, Annette Hoelscher, Layla Grace Evetts, JoeAnn Kalmbach, Pattie Kalmbach, Jeff Bernsen, Josie Kleypas, Dennis Fuchs, Beatrice Arnold, Mike Meyer, Bobby Bulls, Charles Ordner, Don Drake, Al Buckholt, Gene Kreger, Edwin Green, Craig Thornton, Fran Greger, Gary Herzog, Barron Shoemaker, Skylar (Savage) Wolfe, Amy Drake & Barbara Longmoe

Daily Prayer Service begins 6:00 pm R E Building	3-8 OFFERINGS:
UPCOMING EVENTS:	Regular 2,700.08
Sun 3-15 High School Religion	3-22 Second Collection Catholic Relief Services
Wed 3-18 Youth Meeting	
Sun 15 th First Communion Class after Mass	
Tue 17 th Liturgy Committee Meeting 6:00 pm Religious Ed Building	
Wed 18 th Choir Practice 6:30 pm	

Church of the Visitation

Westphalia, Texas
Diocese of Austin



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westphaliaparish@gmail.com

254-584-4983

Rev. Darrell Kostih, Pastor

Deacon Bill Smetana (Retired)

Deacon Charlie Wright

Deacon Julian Tyboroski (Retired)

MASSSES: Saturday – 6:00 pm, Sunday – 9:00 am
Tues 8:00am, Wed 7:20am, Thurs 8:00am, Fri 8:00am

RECONCILIATION: Prior to Weekend Mass

3rd Sunday of Lent
March 15, 2020