

Dear Visitation Family,

Shalom (Peace)!

As we began Lent, we were reminded that Lent is about CONVERSION. And I remember speaking about my favorite quote: "Conversion from sin is not just the victory of a moment but a pilgrimage of a life time". That's why, baptized Catholics join the candidates who are preparing to join the Church to begin their discipleship journey through the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter, and together spend this special season of Lent, focusing on our own ongoing conversion from sin to a new life of grace in the Risen Lord, by preparing to renew our baptismal promises. *The Scripture readings for this Third Sunday of Lent "A" illustrate beautifully the conversion process.*

Much like the thirsty Israelites in the desert on their exodus journey who grumbled against God and Moses (Ex 17:3-7), we too, complain ever so often on our discipleship walk. Some have sadly retreated or fallen away. But just as then, now too, God, the Rock of our Salvation (Ps 95) provides us with life-saving water. Our hope of God's glory will not disappoint because of our faith in the love of God that has been proved by Christ who died for us while we were yet sinners (Rom 5:1-8). The Gospel (Jn 4:5-42) illustrates God's thirst for souls even more than the human thirst for water. It reveals Jesus as the shepherd who SEEKS the lost, as a Savior who SAVES the soul, and as the Lord who SENDS his disciple on a mission.

I want us to pay attention particularly to the process involved in the conversion from sin to grace in the Gospel. The anonymous person in the story was a Samaritan, an outcast, one of those people who worshipped five or more false gods. She was a woman, deemed to be insignificant, with no status in society. She was a prostitute, a woman of ill-repute who came to the well at noon to avoid being noticed by others. Her walk must have been long, lonely and weary. Her life, like her jar, was empty and dry. She is an image of our own sinful plight in many ways. Notice that it is Jesus who takes the initiative in waiting at the well and beginning the conversation. *The woman first sees Jesus as a man, then as a prophet and finally as the Messiah.* At first she is circumspect, then she opens up, admits her sin, and allows God to fill her soul with the life-giving water. And so eventually, she needs no pitcher or bucket, no man-made well or water from it. Now she is not afraid of the people or what they might say. Now she is not walking with her head down but running back with her head held high. Now she is not hiding but proclaiming from the town square about the Truth, the Joy, the God she had found. Or rather, she was talking about the God who found her while she was still seeking. Her thirst in life is now truly quenched. Now, she is a disciple and an apostle.

We may know Jesus as a good historical person. We may even know Him to be a great prophet. But until we know Him as our Lord and God, we are not His disciples. *We must be GROWING DISCIPLES. Growing disciples OF Jesus and Growing Disciples FOR Jesus!* That is our Baptismal call! Let us KNOW it, LOVE it, and LIVE it. "The essence of Catholicism is dynamic transformation. You cannot become more like Jesus Christ and at the same time stay as you are" says Matthew Kelly in *Rediscover Catholicism* (pg 45).

God bless and Mary protect you and yours to SEE Jesus in Life and Liturgy and BE Jesus in Family and Community.

Yours in Christ's service,

Fr. Edwin Kagoo
Pastor

THY WILL, LORD!

Announcements

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

The Catholic Relief Services (CRS) collection will be next weekend. This diocesan special collection helps children, women and families around the world. The six worldwide organizations supported by the collection provide immediate humanitarian aid, pastoral support and disaster relief to our suffering brothers and sisters around the globe. This collection offers an opportunity for each of us to help Jesus in disguise. Please give generously to the Catholic Relief Services collection. **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 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.

Marriage Recognition Certificates handed out this weekend on the Feast of St. Joseph are for the following: Harvey Richey IV & Sharon (Polach) Richey (15 yrs), Kenny & Bridget Odstrcil and Craig & Debbie Ordner (20 yrs), Mark & Patricia Hoelscher and Scott & Laurie Hoelscher (25 yrs), Gary & Sharon Herwald (30 yrs), Gary & Bernadette Ketterman (35 yrs), Edwin & Yvonne Green (50 yrs), Leon & Shirley Hoelscher (50 yrs), Horest & Bernice Weaver (50 yrs), Elmer & Geraldine Hoelscher (63 yrs), and Ray & Grace Hoelscher (69 yrs). Congratulations to each one of these couples for reaching this milestone in their married life. Hoping each one of you continues to have a blessed and happy marriage. Thanks to Nancy Daskocil for doing the calligraphy on the certificates; she did a beautiful job.

Westphalia KC Fish & Shrimp Fries: The Westphalia Knights of Columbus will host the Lenten Fish Fries on the following Fridays during lent: March 24th, March 31st and April 2nd. The plate will consist of catfish, shrimp, French fries, beans and coleslaw. The plates will cost \$9.00 each and can be picked up at the Westphalia hall pit from 4:00pm until 7:00pm (or until sold out).

Highway & Church Grounds Cleanup on Saturday, April 1st will be sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. ALL members and parishioners are encouraged to participate. Any & all help is appreciated.

Lott & Rosebud Food Pantries: KCs are asking for donations of non-perishable food items to stock the empty shelves at our local food pantries. Thanks for your consideration.

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

Baptism Class for the month of April will be conducted on Saturday, April 1st. Contact Eileen Lewis at 254.584.2006 if you are interested in attending.

Thank you, Hoelscher Families for hosting this month's parish social!

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

DID YOU KNOW?

"The Fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally known as LAETARE Sunday, so called from the first word of the antiphon at the Introit (Entrance Antiphon). *Laetare* ("Rejoice"), taken from the Latin translation of Isaiah 60:10-11, sets a tone of joyful anticipation of the Easter mystery, as does the permitted use of rose-colored vestments. Likewise, instruments may also be played at Mass, which otherwise during Lent are not used, and the altar which is bereft of flowers during Lent, may on this day be decorated with flowers."(Taken from the Ordo 2017).



Do you have 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!

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Third Sunday of Lent

March 19, 2017

	March 18th <i>Saturday, 6:00pm</i>	March 19th <i>Sunday, 8:00am</i>	March 25th <i>Saturday, 6:00pm</i>	March 26th <i>Sunday, 8:00am</i>
Intentions	+Doug Landry +Albert Michalewicz +Agnes Bernsen Lee Allen Bernsen	Parishioners	+Vince Tana +Connie Smiser	Parishioners
Altar Servers	Emma & Preston Hering and Nate Hoelscher	Adam Herwald & Maddie Dach	Kolby Kosel & Kelby Kosel	Bryce Fikes & Logan Kleypas
Lector	Shawna Ranly	Ray Rabroker	Laurie Hoelscher	Rena Willberg
Gift Bearers	Calvin Wilde Family	Jimmy Thornton Family	Don Culp Family	Terry Frenzel Family
Ushers	Bill Reid & Edward Ranly	Johnny Polach & Charles Moeller	Red Carson & Joey Hoelscher	Chris Hrabal & Lynwood Kleypas
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Jim Lewis	Cindy Moeller	Gary Ketterman	Connie Petru
Money Counters		Louis & Jerlene Vrana and Horest & Bernice Weaver		Calvin & Cheryl Wilde and Craig & Debbie Ordner
Rosary Leaders	Geraldine Havran	Edna Spivey & Dorothy Dewey Smith	Geraldine Havran	Edna Spivey & Dorothy Dewey Smith
Vocations Cross Family		Walton Jr. & Belinda Hering		James & Jane Kahlig
Church Cleaners	3/25 & 4/1	Helen Ranly, Lonnie Ranly, Janice Ranly, Cheryl Sell, Charla Kahlig, Kayla Skala		
	March 21st <i>Tuesday, 8:00am</i>	March 22nd <i>Wednesday, 7:20am</i>	March 23rd <i>Thursday, 8:00am</i>	March 24th <i>Friday, 6:00pm</i>
Weekday Mass Intentions	+John Lingnau +Helen Lingnau	+Alois Ketterman	+Charlotte Ann Thornton	Stations of the Cross & Mass +Mildred Bruggman +Kenneth Slagh

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
03-19-2017

Our Mission is:

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

Meetings:

Girls Scouts 3/21 @ 6:30pm
Liturgy Commission 3/21 @ 7:00pm
Adult Choir Practice 3/22 @ 7:00pm

Offerings:

3/12 \$2,051.00
Children's Collection \$17.00

Sanctuary Candle is burning in 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.