

4th Sunday of Lent

Readings:

[1 Samuel 16:1, 6–7, 10–13](#)

[Psalm 23:1–6](#)

[Ephesians 5:8–14](#)

[John 9:1–41](#)

God's ways of seeing are not our ways, we hear in today's First Reading. Jesus illustrates this in the Gospel—as the blind man comes to see and the Pharisees are made blind.

The blind man stands for all humanity. “Born totally in sin” he is made a new creation by the saving power of Christ.

As God fashioned the first man from the clay of the earth (see [Genesis 2:7](#)), Jesus gives the blind man new life by anointing his eyes with clay (see [John 9:11](#)). As God breathed the spirit of life into the first man, the blind man is not healed until he washes in the waters of Siloam, a name that means “sent.”

Jesus is the One “sent” by the Father to do the Father's will (see [John 9:4](#); [12:44](#)). He is the new source of life-giving water—the Holy Spirit who rushes upon us in Baptism (see [John 4:10](#); [7:38–39](#)).

This is the Spirit that rushes upon God's chosen king David in today's First Reading. A shepherd like Moses before him (see [Exodus 3:1](#); [Psalm 78:70–71](#)), David is also a sign pointing to the good shepherd and king to come—Jesus (see [John 10:11](#)).

The Lord is our shepherd, as we sing in today's Psalm. By His death and Resurrection He has made a path for us through the dark valley of sin and death, leading us to the verdant pastures of the kingdom of life, the Church.

In the restful waters of Baptism He has refreshed our souls. He has anointed our heads with the oil of Confirmation and spread the Eucharistic table before us, filling our cups to overflowing.

With the once-blind man we enter His house to give God the praise, to renew our vow: “I do believe, Lord.”

“The Lord looks into the heart,” we hear today. Let Him find us, as Paul advises in today's Epistle, living as “children of light”—trying always to learn what is pleasing to our Father.

Dear Parishioners of the Church of the Visitation,

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, the *deconstruction* and *reconstruction* of our daily lives due to the onset of the Covid-19 is unprecedented in our modern age, and it is no doubt that all of us are experiencing inconveniences and the challenge to keep up with the dynamic changes associated with this pandemic. However, it is important that we continue to pray for the sick, especially for those with the virus, medical and first response personnel, and for those that have lost loved ones due to the virus. For the faithful, one of the most difficult challenges facing the community is how do we remain connected as the Body of Christ and yet practice social distancing? As declared by the decree sent out by Bishop Joe Vasquez this week all public Masses and Lenten Penance Services have been canceled until Holy Week with the possibility of later updates and changes coming. Any changes I receive from Bishop Joe Vasquez, I will put in the bulletin and email to the Knights of Columbus, Altar Society, and on the Church webpage. I also strongly suggest periodically checking the Diocese of Austin website for the latest news concerning this outbreak and its impact on the Church. After speaking with Rev. Richard O' Rourke, the dean of the Temple/Killeen deanery, I have decided to keep the bulletin available to the parish, and the RE building will be open during the day--through the week and weekend. To give you the opportunity to pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament; however, please do not gather in large groups. You can pick up your bulletin from the RE building Saturday afternoon or on Sunday, and at the same time if you want you can drop off your collection envelope by placing it in the slot on the wall that connects to the safe located in the room left of the altar. I would ask that the money counters still continue to count the weekly offering, but please take precautions (gloves and masks if we can find some), and if you are more vulnerable to the virus please find a replacement or contact the office. At this time, I will not videotape the private masses I say; however, there are alternatives to being able to watch the Mass on TV. St. Louis in Waco has their current Sunday Mass on **channel 46 (CW)**, and the previous Sunday Mass on **channel 10**. EWTN normally has Mass televised along with the Catholic TV Network on You Tube, and I expect there will be local churches that televise their Masses on their webpage or on Facebook. Please contact me for the *Sacrament of Reconciliation* or for the *Anointing of the Sick*, and *Funeral Masses* can be done but restricted to the immediate family. I was planning to take vacation next week, but will postpone it until a later date. However, I will not be here for the weekend of the 30th and 31st, but I will move the Mass intentions for that weekend to a later date. I thank you for your prayers and continued support as I continue to pray for you and for the Church of the Visitation, and for the universal Church in this challenging time.

Sincerely, Your Pastor in Christ,
Rev. Darrell Kostiha

MASS INTENTIONS & LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK				
Weekend Mass Intentions	Sat, 3-21 6:00pm RE Bldg	Sun, 3-22 9:00am	Sat, 3-28 6:00pm RE Bldg	Sun, 3-29 9:00am
	4th Sunday of Lent	4th Sunday of Lent	5th Sunday of Lent	5th Sunday of Lent
	NO MASS	NO MASS	NO MASS	NO MASS
Altar Server	<i>Carter Kleypas Tamryn Stock Easton Green</i>	<i>Colton Ranly Grant Meyer Maverick Cannon Jr.</i>	<i>Colton Ranly Grant Meyer Maverick Cannon Jr.</i>	<i>Carson Kahlig Addison Wilde Mason Wilde</i>
Lector	<i>Dawn Willberg</i>	<i>Ray Rabroker</i>	<i>Katherine Kahlig</i>	<i>Shawna Ranly</i>
Psalmist		<i>Katie Wilde</i>		<i>Margaret Arney</i>
Gift Bearer		<i>David Williams Family</i>		<i>Mark Bartek Family</i>
Ushers	<i>Walter Carson Edward Ranly</i>	<i>Marvin & Ed Meyer</i>	<i>Walter Carson Edward Ranly</i>	<i>Gary Frei & Gary Ketterman</i>
EMHC to sick	<i>Doris Wright</i>	<i>Cindy Moeller</i>	<i>Kerri Meier</i>	<i>Kayla Skala</i>
Rosary Leader	<i>Elmer & Geraldine Hoelscher</i>	<i>Edna Spivey & Dorothy Smith</i>	<i>Elmer & Geraldine Hoelscher</i>	<i>Edna Spivey & Dorothy Smith</i>
Money Counter	<i>Doc & Sherry Savage; Caroline Hoelscher; Warren Hoelscher</i>		<i>Horest & Bernice Weaver; Louis & Jerlene Vrana</i>	
Vocation Cross	<i>Ray & Kay Rabroker</i>		<i>Marvin & Jane Meyer</i>	
Church Cleaner	<i>March 21 & 28 Margaret Moeller, Pauline Hoelscher, Darlene Fikes, Jenette Driska, Courtney Hargrove, Jenny Frei April 4th & April 11 Carol Ordner, Jennifer Ordner, Nancy Meier, Kerri Meier, Patsy Green</i>			
Weekday Mass Intentions	Tue 3/24 8:00 am NO MASS	Wed 3/25 7:20 am NO MASS	Thurs. 3/26 8:00am NO MASS	Fri 3/27 6:00 pm NO MASS

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, Gary Herzog, Barron Shoemaker, Skylar (Savage) Wolfe, Amy Drake & Barbara Longmoe

UPCOMING EVENTS:	3-15 OFFERINGS:
	Regular 1,786.10
	3-22 Second Collection Catholic Relief Services
ALL MASSES AND MEETINGS CANCELLED UNTIL WEDNESDAY APRIL 8, 2020	

Church of the Visitation

Westphalia, Texas
Diocese of Austin



144 County Road 3000, Lott, Texas 76656

westphaliaparish@gmail.com

254-584-4983

Rev. Darrell Kostiha, 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

**4th Sunday of Lent
March 22, 2020**