

Announcements

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

Dear Visitation Family,

Shalom (Peace)!

On this Fourth Sunday of Lent, as violet (purple) gives way to rose (pink), as flowers decorate the plain sanctuary, and as a call to rejoice replaces the more somber Entrance Antiphons, we recognize through these unmistakable signs that **this is *Laetare Sunday***, a little oasis in the midst of the penitential season of Lent, which has hints of the festivities to come. " *O God, grant we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager FAITH, the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come*" is the prayer that the priest prayed on our behalf in the Collect (Opening Prayer) of the Mass.

The content of today's readings and the psalm may be quite familiar to all of us. But the context of these texts especially with relation to our mission to SEE & BE Jesus as we **seek conversion and change during Lent** makes it very interesting. Being physically blind, or being small in this world is not a sin, but seeing and judging others from outer appearance and not seeing their heart as God does, unwilling to recognize and accept Jesus as God because of a biased and closed mind, and choosing to remain in darkness and refusing to live as children of light surely is. That is the SIN that we want to turn away from. **What do I need conversion from: apathy? antipathy? doubt? despair? envy? enmity? fear? falsehood? pride? prejudice? What has truly blinded me?**

We pray for the Light of Faith that will help us see Jesus through our spiritual eyes. In the light of that faith we can, with the beggar born blind, see and worship Jesus as God (*Jn 9:1-41*) and sing with the psalmist, "The Lord is my shepherd and I shall neither fear nor want"(*Ps 23*). In the light of that faith we will be able to see God's favor upon the often overlooked and the least considered Davids of our families and society (*1Sam 16:1-13*). In the light of that faith we can see ourselves and our own inadequacies as means and opportunities to allow God's grace and rays to shine through (*Eph 5:8-14*).

"Enlightenment", a "coming to see" is a name given to Baptism from the early times. To see beyond the natural sight and have insight, and to discover the supernatural truth through the light of faith and live in the joy of a disciple is the gift that Jesus our Lord and Savior wants for all of us through Baptism. That is why we light our candles from the Paschal candle at the Easter vigil. **And so, we, the baptized, along with the catechumens, prepare during Lent for a true conversion from sin and focus on the New Life in Risen Christ in blessed hope and joyful awaiting.**

As Matthew Kelly states in *Rediscover Catholicism*, "It has been believed that the darkest hour is right before the dawn, and that in the hour of greatest darkness the great heroes of the new times are being born. There is a light at the end of it all. My hope comes from my God, who loves me, and from my neighbor who loves me" (pg 310). **So, on this Laetare Sunday, let us rejoice and strive to be GROWING DISCIPLES in Faith and Service seeking to SEE Jesus in Life and Liturgy and to BE Jesus in Family and Community!**

God bless and Mary protect you and yours!

Yours in Christ's service,

Fr. Edwin Kagoo
Pastor

THY WILL, LORD!

The Catholic Relief Services (CRS) diocesan special collection will be this weekend.

Building Fund Collection next weekend.

BIBLE STUDY: We intend to start the **8-week Bible Study beginning after Easter** . If you plan to attend the study, **please sign up the registration form in the narthex of the Church with your preference of the time. We must get the head count before we make important decisions about the program.** We also 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.

Westphalia KC Fish & Shrimp Fries: this Friday, from 4-7pm. \$9 a plate with all fixings.

Easter Lilies: to adorn the altar will be provided by the Altar society. If you would like to donate to the purchase of the flowers please use the envelopes marked "Flower Offering" dated March19th in your box of church envelopes. Orders will be taken through April9, 2017. You may place your envelopes in the collection plate.

Confirmation Retreat: will be held on Saturday, April 1st. All the confirmands and sponsors are expected to attend as per the information already shared at the meeting. The Confirmation Mass will be at 6 pm on Friday, May 5th.

First Holy Communion will be on Sunday, May 7th.

Parish Lenten Penance Service: will be at 7 pm on Sunday, April 9th.

Holy Week Schedule:

PALM SUNDAY: Palms will be blessed in front of the Church and procession to the Church for Mass will follow.

HOLY TUESDAY: No Mass here. The Chrism Mass with the Bishop and the Presbyterate and Laity of the diocese at 10:30am at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Austin.

MAUNDY THURSDAY: Mass with the Washing of the Feet at 7 pm. Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until midnight.

GOOD FRIDAY: The Stations of the Cross at 11am. The Celebration of the Lord's Passion with the Liturgy of the Word, Adoration of the Cross and Holy Communion will take place at 6 pm. There will be a special collection for the Holy Land.

EASTER VIGIL: with the Liturgy of the Light will commence outside the Church in the dark at 8.30 pm. Then we will proceed into the Church for the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of Baptism, and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

EASTER SUNDAY: Mass will be at 9 am.

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.

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.

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

DID YOU KNOW?

The terms Adoration and Exposition are often used interchangeably. **Eucharistic Exposition is the public liturgical ritual whereby the Blessed Sacrament is exposed in the monstrance or ciborium for the veneration of the faithful.** By its nature as a liturgical ritual, **Eucharistic Exposition consists of the liturgical rites of Exposition, Adoration, Benediction, and Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament.** The period of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament within the Rite of Eucharistic Exposition **includes song, prayers, and readings to mark the time and to help direct the attention of the faithful. Suitable periods of silence are also required. A homily or reflection is also appropriate.**

The rite presumes a number of people to be **present before this liturgy is appropriately celebrated. Exposition is not permitted when only two or three are present.** When sufficient numbers are not present, the Blessed Sacrament is reposed. Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament may not occur more than twice in a day. The exposed Blessed Sacrament must never be left unattended, even briefly. It is also never permitted to simply cover the Blessed Sacrament with a veil when unattended or to lock the Blessed Sacrament in a closet or room.

-- From the bishops of Austin diocese



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>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>		<i>March 26, 2017</i>		
	March 25th <i>Saturday, 6:00pm</i>	March 26th <i>Sunday, 8:00am</i>	April 1st <i>Saturday, 6:00pm</i>	April 2nd <i>Sunday, 8:00am</i>
Intentions	+Vince Tana +Connie Smiser	Parishioners	+Gilbert Wilde +Pauline Wilde +Connie Smiser +Ed Ordner	Parishioners
Altar Servers	Kolby Kosel & Kelby Kosel	Bryce Fikes & Logan Kleypas	Elizabeth Ordner & Kasen Ordner	Mikey Lewis & James Lorenz
Lector	Laurie Hoelscher	Renae Willberg	Tammy Ryan	Jerry Loden
Gift Bearers	Don Culp Family	Terry Frenzel Family	Paul Daskocil Family	Perry Petru Family
Ushers	Red Carson & Joey Hoelscher	Chris Hrabal & Lynwood Kleypas	Walton Hering, Jr. & Carl Hubik	Allen Frei & Randy Frei
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Gary Ketterman	Connie Petru	Kerri Meier	Debby Meyer
Money Counters		Calvin & Cheryl Wilde and Craig & Debbie Ordner		Ronnie & Rita Kleypas and Clifford & Susan Neumann
Rosary Leaders	Geraldine Havran	Edna Spivey & Dorothy Dewey Smith	Georgia Ketterman	Kenneth & Geraldine Kahlig
Vocations Cross Family		James & Jane Kahlig		Al & Lou Buckholt
Church Cleaners	3/25 & 4/1	Helen Ranly, Lonnie Ranly, Janice Ranly, Cheryl Sell, Charla Kahlig, Kayla Skala		
Weekday Mass Intentions	March 28th <i>Tuesday, 8:00am</i> +Cecil Wiulde	March 29th <i>Wednesday, 7:20am</i> +Charlotte Ann Thornton	March 30th <i>Thursday, 8:00am</i> +Larry R. Hoelscher +Alois Ketterman	March 31st <i>Friday, 6:00pm</i> Stations of the Cross & Mass +Hulda Frey

Meetings:
High School Religious Education class after Mass
 CYO 3/29 @ 7:00pm
Adult Choir Practice 3/29 @ 7:00pm
Altar Society 4/2 after Mass

Offerings:
3/19 \$1,900.00
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.

Parish of the Visitation Westphalia, Texas



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westphaliaparish@gmail.com

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
03-26-2017

Our Mission is:

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