

# Announcements

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

Dear Visitation Family,

Shalom (Peace)!

Although the gospel for this Fifth Sunday of Lent (*Jn 11:1-45*) is the longest passage (except for the Passion narrative which we will hear next week), ironically, the shortest verse in the whole of the gospels (and arguably in the whole Bible) is found in this passage: **JESUS WEPT** (Jn11:35). This verse so succinctly and so beautifully speaks to our 2017 theme: **to SEE Jesus and BE Jesus**, as well as to our Lenten theme: **CONVERSION. *Jesus can not only inspire us by His humanity but can also empower us with His Divinity. And when we turn from unbelief to real belief in Jesus, we truly begin to live the everlasting life.***

In today's gospel, we see the human side of Jesus that was so moved at the death of His friend Lazarus. But, we also see the Divinity of Jesus that conquers death. Death can not only cut us off from human ties in this world, but Death in the Biblical sense, as the wage of sin, can also separate us eternally from the friendship with God. Jesus as truly Man and truly God weeps not merely for the bereavement we experience in human relationships but more for the loss of heaven that is caused by sin, the Death that Jesus came to save us from. Death is a cruel and imprisoning reality. In all the three stories in the gospels where Jesus brings the dead back to life, He does the impossible. While it is no ordinary feat for the dead to be brought back to life, they were biologically dead again. However, **Resurrection is about a new life that will never end.** It is impossible for anyone but God to resurrect us into a new life which cannot experience Death again. **It is that Life that Jesus came to give us.** This is the gift of the Risen Jesus to us in Baptism obtained through His Paschal mystery of His Passion, Death, and Resurrection. As a friend, Jesus weeps if we should lose it!

At Easter, Jesus our Savior will bring the Elect of the Church awaiting Baptism and us, the baptized, who will renew our baptismal promises, out of the tomb that holds us in darkness and sin, calling us out by name and commanding us with His creative and redemptive power to "Come out!" We will have the bands of death that bind us untied through the Sacraments of Baptism and Confession. This is what was foretold through prophet Ezekiel: "O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them." (*Ez 37:12-14*). This belief is also acknowledged by the psalmist: "Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice! For with You there is mercy and fullness of redemption and You will redeem Israel from all their iniquities" (*Ps 130*). This is the faith that St. Paul proclaims: "If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through His Spirit dwelling in you." (*Rom 8:8-11*). This is the Conversion that we are seeking in Lent. We want to come out of darkness into light; from death to life; from sin to grace.

**What entombs you now? Are you slowly dying or have you been long dead in sin? Do you want to be saved from death? Jesus, our friend and Savior, is waiting and wanting to bring us out of our tomb.** Let us go to Confession and we can experience the walk out of the tomb as we come out of the confessional. Don't miss it! Let us truly be Easter people! "*Confession is a humbling experience of liberation that helps me identify what is holding me back, and encourages me to continue along the way*" says Matthew Kelly in *Rediscovering Catholicism* (pg 144).

God bless and Mary protect you and yours!

Yours in Christ's service,

**Fr. Edwin Kagoo**

**THY WILL, LORD!**

**Building Fund Collection** this weekend. Thank you for your support.

**Thanks to the Ladies of our Altar Society** for their hospitality to the priests of our deanery at their quarterly meeting here in our parish. The delicious lunch and beautiful set up was much appreciated by all!

**Thanks to the Knights of Columbus** for organizing, and others for helping with the Spring clean-up on Saturday.

**Thanks to God**, the confirmands, the sponsors, the teachers and the team from St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in College Station for a fruitful retreat on Saturday.

**BIBLE STUDY:** We intend to start the **8-week Bible Study, "A QUICK JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE"** by Jeff Cavins, beginning after Easter on **Thursdays from 6:30 to 8 pm.** If you plan to attend the study along with the 27 who have already signed up, **please sign up the registration form in the narthex of the Church.** 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 Fry:** this Friday.

**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 March 19th in your box of church envelopes. Orders will be taken through April 9, 2017. You may place your envelopes in the collection plate.

**Parish Lenten Penance Service:** will be at 7 pm next Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.

**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 am 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 11 am. 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.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Next week is known as the HOLY WEEK. Out of all the 52 weeks of the year, this week is called holy because each of the days of this week has a very special importance to our faith as Christians. It begins with the Sunday known as PASSION SUNDAY because on this day the Mass is dominated by the chanting or reading of the Passion—that is, the Gospel narrative of the Lord's capture, sufferings and death. This narrative, so important for the first followers of the Master, is of equal importance for us. We must make it a point to attentively listen, prayerfully meditate, and thoughtfully imitate the Lord in our lives.

On this day, the Church also commemorates Christ's entrance into Jerusalem to accomplish His Paschal mystery. Accordingly, the memorial of the event is included in every Mass, with the procession with the palms before the principal Mass. Hence, the name PALM SUNDAY. These palms are blessed and so become sacramentals and must be used accordingly. These palms will be brought back next Lent to be burnt and the ashes to be used on Ash Wednesday.

With the solemn and somber beginning of the PASSION SUNDAY we will enter into the silence and the sacredness of this holiest week of great mystery of our faith.

Our Parish also has the Penance Service on Sunday night, to add to the already significant events. Let us get ready and delve deep into God's redemptive love for us!

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Easter Sunday** after the 9 AM Mass, the Westphalia Historical Society and Branch #3 Catholic Life will sponsor the Parish Social and Easter Egg Hunt for youngsters, infants thru 8 years of age. Bring your Easter baskets and enjoy the fun.

**First Banns of Marriage** for Britnee Paige Ward of Hewitt, daughter of Ricky and Pam Ward of our parish, and James Michael Chane of Hewitt, son of Alvin and Jessica Chane of Bremond. If you know of any impediment to this marriage please contact the pastor.



*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!*

| <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i>                      |  |  |  | <i>April 2, 2017</i>   |
|--|--|--|--|--|
|  | <b>April 1st</b><br><i>Saturday, 6:00pm</i>                      | <b>April 2nd</b><br><i>Sunday, 8:00am</i>            | <b>April 8th</b><br><i>Saturday, 6:00pm</i>                              | <b>April 9th</b><br><i>Sunday, 8:00am</i>  |
| <b>Intentions</b>                                | +Gilbert Wilde<br>+Pauline Wilde<br>+Connie Smiser<br>+Ed Ordner | Parishioners   | +Connie Smiser<br>+Ronnie Ranly<br>+Leonard Ranly<br>+Evelyn Lehman Zeig | <b>Palm Sunday</b><br>Parishioners   |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                             | Elizabeth Ordner & Kasen Ordner                                  | Mikey Lewis & Helen Gausemeier                       | Brenden Daskocil & Adam Herwald  | Graham Kahlig & Nolan Kahlig   |
| <b>Lector</b>                                    | Tammy Ryan   | Jerry Loden  | Shawna Ranly   | Ray Rabroker   |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                              | Paul Daskocil Family   | Perry Petru Family                                   | Walton Hering, Jr. Family  | Gary Frei Family   |
| <b>Ushers</b>                                    | Walton Hering, Jr. & Carl Hubik                                  | Allen Frei & Randy Frei                              | Paul Daskocil & Randy Lorenz   | Louis Vrana & Hagen Hoelscher  |
| <b>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</b> | Keri Meier   | Debby Meyer  | Amanda Moeller   | Janet Loden  |
| <b>Money Counters</b>                            |  | Ronnie & Rita Kleypas and Susan & Clifford Neumann   |  | Lonnie Ranly and Bill & Kitty Reid   |
| <b>Rosary Leaders</b>                            | Georgia Ketterman  | Kenneth & Geraldine Kahlig                           | Georgia Ketterman  | Kenneth & Geraldine Kahlig   |
| <b>Vocations Cross Family</b>                    |  | Al & Lou Buckholt                                    |  | Curtis & Catherine Kahlig  |
| <b>Church Cleaners</b>                           | 4/8 & 4/15   | Vonnie Green, Jet Kleypas, Tammy Ryan, Jill Williams |  |  |
|  | <b>April 4th</b><br><i>Tuesday, 8:00am</i>                       | <b>April 5th</b><br><i>Wednesday, 7:20am</i>         | <b>April 6th</b><br><i>Thursday, 8:00am</i>                              | <b>April 7th</b><br><i>Friday, 6:00pm</i>  |
| <b>Weekday Mass Intentions</b>                   | +Otto Wilde<br>+Dorothy Wilde                                    | +Charlotte Ann Thornton                              | +Alois Ketterman<br>+John E. Tobola                                      | <b>Stations of the Cross &amp; Mass</b><br>Special Intentions for the Boeselt Family |

# Parish of the Visitation Westphalia, Texas



144 County Road 3000, Lott, Texas 76656  
254-584-4983

[www.churchofthevisitation.org](http://www.churchofthevisitation.org)  
[westphaliaparish@gmail.com](mailto: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

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**04-02-2017**

*Our Mission is:*

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

## Meetings:

**High School Religious Education class** 4/2 after Mass  
**Confirmation Class** 4/2 after Mass  
**Outreach Classes** 4/2 after Mass  
**Girl Scouts** 4/4 @ 6:30pm  
**Altar Society** 4/2 after Mass  
**Knights of Columbus** 4/3 @ 6:30pm  
**Adult Choir Practice** 4/5 @ 7:00pm  
**Quilt Group** 4/5 @ 8:00am

## Offerings:

**3/26** \$2,204.00  
**Children's Collection** \$23.00  
**Catholic Relief Services** \$789.00

Sanctuary Candle is burning during April  
*in memory of Reverend Reinhold Schmitt and Lucille Kennedy*

## Please pray for the sick & suffering:

Beatrice Arnold, 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.