

Dear Visitation Family,

Shalom (Peace)!

Alleluia! Alleluia!! Alleluia!!! Christ is risen! Christ is truly risen indeed! Alleluia!

For forty days of Lent we walked with Jesus and came to the realization that conversion is God's call for all of us sinners. We also understood that *Conversion is not the victory of a moment but a disciple's pilgrimage of a life-time.* After the intense time of encounter with Jesus in His Passion, Death and Resurrection during the Sacred Triduum, **we are now beginning another forty days' walk with the Risen Christ which will hopefully transform us, His intentional and faithful disciples, to become His joyful and faith-filled apostles.**

While the mission of a disciple is to COME & SEE, the mission of an apostle is to GO & BE. The ultimate purpose of our journey on earth is not only to be GROWING DISCIPLES OF JESUS but also to be GROWING DISCIPLES FOR JESUS. *The solemnity of Easter invites us to more than merely experience the great joy of the powerful presence of the Risen Jesus in our life and liturgy but it compels us to generously share the joy, the truth, the life of the Risen Lord in our family and community.*

If Lent called us to SEE Jesus and share in His Passion and His Death, Easter calls us to BE Jesus and to share in His Mission and His Life in the Church. The angel's message to Mary and Martha in the gospel today is: *"Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead'."*(Mt 28:7&8) The Risen Jesus' own message to these first witnesses was: *"Do not be afraid! Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."*(Mt 28:10).

God rolled away the stone from the tomb. Jesus who died is now alive. **The disciples saw the empty tomb. They saw the Risen Christ. They believed (Jn 20:8). So, they were convinced, courageous, and confident to confess that truth.** They were witnesses in the true sense of the word. So, they were apostles in every way, everywhere. God, who alone could and did create the world (*Gen 1:1-2:2*); God, who alone could and did rescue Israel from Egypt (*Ex14:15-15:1*); God, who alone could and did remove stony hearts and give a new heart and a new spirit (*Ez 36:16-28*); God, who alone could and did roll away the stone of death (Mt 28:1-10) can and is willing to roll way the stone of doubt from our hearts, can and is willing to raise us from unbelief to belief, can and is willing to give us new life through Baptism and Sacraments in His Church and make us His disciples and apostles. **Are you willing to let Him in to your tomb, your closed heart, your selfish, dark, sinful life? Say "yes" and join the millions who experience the New Life today and sing with the psalmist: "This is the day that the Lord has made! Let us be glad and rejoice in it"(Ps 118)**

Easter Day is an Octave (eight days). The Church gives fifty days of this joyful season (until the Pentecost). It literally means that the whole year (52 weeks x octave) will be a time of joy with the Risen Lord. Every Sunday of the year will be a mini Easter!

What is the stone, the resistance that keeps you closed from the happiness and life that Jesus wants to give you? *"We all battle resistance daily. Simply naming, defining, and learning to recognize resistance in the moments of our days causes it to lose most of its power over us. We never defeat resistance once and for all. It is a daily battle."* says Matthew Kelly in his book *Resisting Happiness*, given to you as Easter Gift.

May God bless and Mary protect you and yours with the Joy and Hope of Easter always!

Yours in Christ's service,

Fr. Edwin Kagoo

THY WILL, LORD!

Announcements

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

Diocesan Seminarian Collection next weekend.

This collection supports our seminarians by funding the yearly budget of the Office for Clergy Vocations. This budget includes tuition, room, board and other costs associated with the formation of seminarians.

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A Special Thanks to all who assisted with the planning, preparing, coordinating and celebrating the Sacred Triduum with great devotion and faith inspiring participation. To all organizations and individuals whose names though not mentioned here are well remembered in my prayers, I say thank you so much and may the good Lord bless you and your families!

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FREE BOOK FOR EASTER 2017: Matthew Kelly's recent publication RESISTING HAPPINESS is given out to each family as our Easter Gift. We pray that you benefit spiritually by reading it and that you will be able to pass it on to someone else after you have read it so that they too may benefit. If there is an interest in having a book study on the books that are distributed at Christmas and Easter, we can plan on doing it. Please let us know. Although, these books are given to you at no cost, these books are purchased for distribution. So, if you would generously help towards the Free Book Distribution Fund, you are requested to use the envelope marked as such and are available in the narthex. Thank you!

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Third 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 Waco. If you know of any impediment to this marriage please contact the pastor.

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Wall of Honor Military Board: It is time to update the Wall of Honor. If you have any updates or changes, additions, please contact Lou Buckholt at 584-1147 before May 20th.

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Listen to Catholic Radio 98.3 FM in our area.

DID YOU KNOW?

St. Faustina's Diary records 14 occasions when Jesus requested that a Feast of Mercy (Divine Mercy) be observed, for example:

My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the Fount of My Mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment....Let no soul fear to draw near to Me....It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy. (Diary#699).

The novena to the feast began on Good Friday and will continue each day at 3 pm along with praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy for this whole week. Next Sunday, April 23rd we will celebrate the Feast of Divine Mercy with a Special Holy Hour at 3 pm. All are invited to the novena and to the Feast Day celebrations in our parish Church.

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

Our 8-week Bible Study, "A QUICK JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE" by Jeff Cavins begins this Thursday at 6 pm in the Centennial Room of the Parish Hall with a light refreshment. The session will start at 6:30 pm and will end at 8 pm. About 40 people have signed up. A study guide along with some useful tools will be available for purchase at the cost price. Only 35 sets are available. First come, first served.

<i>Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord</i>				<i>April 16, 2017</i>
	April 15th	April 16th	April 22th	April 23rd
	<i>Saturday, 8:30pm</i>	<i>Sunday, 9:00am</i>	<i>Saturday, 6:00pm</i>	<i>Sunday, 8:00am</i>
Intentions	Holy Saturday +Mary Cox Florene Gudat +Marcus Wilde	Easter Sunday Parishioners	+Cecil Wilde +Robert Hoelscher Alois Ketterman Special Intentions for the Joe & Katie Wilde Family	Parishioners
Altar Servers	Mikey Lewis, Brenden Dorskocil, Adam Herwald, Logan Kleypas	Graham Kahlig, Nolan Kahlig, Jason Hoff, Helen Gausemeier	Emma & Preston Hering, Nate Hoelscher and Elizabeth Ordner	Adam Herwald, Mike Lewis, Helen Gausmermeier and James Lorenz
Lector	Laurie Hoelscher	Tammie Frenzel	Tammy Ryan	Susan Neumann
Gift Bearers	Cacie Jackson, Dalton Kahlig & Charla Kahlig	David Williams Family	Leon Hoelscher Family	Ronnie Kleypas Family
Ushers	Bradley Rudloff & Jonathan Frei	Todd Dorskocil & Jeff Hering	Calvin Wilde & Craig Ordner	Johnny Polach & Charles Moeller
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Emily Hering	Geraldine Kahlig	Doris Wright	Walton Hering, Jr.
Money Counters		Chris & Peggy Hrabal and Georgia Ketterman		Louis & Jerlene Vrana and Horest & Bernice Weaver
Rosary Leaders	Georgia Ketterman	Kenneth & Geraldine Kahlig	Georgia Ketterman	Kenneth & Geraldine Kahlig
Vocations Cross Family		Raymond & Margaret Moeller		Scott & Laurie Hoelscher
Church Cleaners	4/22 & 4/29	Jean Herzog, Jacque Herzog, Kay Rabroker, Sylvia Heise, Shawna Ranly		
Weekday Mass Intentions	April 18th <i>Tuesday, 8:00am</i>	April 19th <i>Wednesday, 7:20am</i>	April 20th <i>Thursday, 7:00pm</i>	April 21st <i>Friday, 8:00am</i>
	+Joe Willberg +George Lange	+Charlotte Ann Thornton	+Geraldine Frenzel	Respect Life by the Knights of Columbus

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

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

04-16-2017

Our Mission is:

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

Meetings:

No High School Religious Education Class 4/16
No Outreach Class 4/16
Girl Scouts 4/18 @ 6:30pm
Liturgy Commission 4/19 @ 7:00pm
Confirmation Class 4/19 @ 7:00pm
WVFD 4/19 @ 7:00pm
No Adult Choir Practice 4/19

Offerings:

4/9 \$1,926.00
Children's Collection \$37.00

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.