

Dear Visitation Family,

Shalom (Peace)!

We are now in the Third Week of Easter! **Easter is about the New Life in Christ.** With over a hundred thousand people in the United States who joined the Catholic Church at Easter this year, all of us, the baptized, are invited by the Risen Christ to participate in that New Life and to be GROWING DISCIPLES in *Faith and Service*. **The Emmaus story in this Sunday's Gospel (Lk 24:13-35) sums up this New Life in Christ in just two words: COMMUNION & COMMUNITY.**

Cleopas and his companion were doubtful and sad because they were walking away from Jerusalem, where the other disciples had gathered on the first day of the week. Their eyes were prevented from recognizing Jesus who accompanied them on their journey because they lacked faith in their hearts. But as they listened carefully to Jesus as He explained the Scriptures to them, their hearts were burning within them. Finally, when they invited Jesus to stay with them, they recognized Him at the breaking of the bread. Perhaps we too are burdened by sadness or confusion, unable to see God in our midst. And hopefully, Easter gives us a new lens to recognize Jesus at dinner tables with our families and friends. But even more emphatically, Easter magnifies the presence of the Risen Jesus at every Holy Mass as He speaks to us in the Liturgy of the Word, and comes into our lives through Holy Communion. **When we enter into intimate Communion with the Living God through attentive listening to His Word, and through worthy reception of the Eucharist we obtain the New Life in Christ. This is the COMMUNION aspect of Easter.**

The Gospel passage concludes by saying that they (the disciples of Emmaus) set out at once to go back to Jerusalem and recount how Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of the bread. Next to the words of consecration, the most important words in the Mass are the words of the dismissal, "*Ite, Missa est*" which describes the missionary nature of our call as disciples. In the New Roman Missal, these Latin words are translated as "*Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord*" or "*Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life*". Easter not only invites us to a Communion with Jesus but imposes on us a responsibility towards the Community. **When we witness to the truth and the joy of the Gospel and by our Christian love and message transform the culture, truly we live out the New Life in Christ. This is the COMMUNITY aspect of Easter.**

As He did with the two disciples of Emmaus, so can Jesus make of us to be His Easter disciples. "***The one thing God needs from you and me is our AVAILABILITY. It is the only thing He needs from any of us***", says Matthew Kelly in his new book *Resisting Happiness* (pg. 174). **How available are we to God at this time in our life to seek Him, hear Him, invite Him, proclaim Him, and serve Him?**

As we begin the month of May which is dedicated to our Blessed Mother, let us be thankful to God also for Holy Mother the Church and for the Sacramental life that comes to us through her ministry. Let us particularly pray for all our youth who will be confirmed on Friday and all our children who will receive first Holy Communion next Sunday. Pray the Family Rosary, for ***a family that prays together, stays together!*** May St. Joseph, the worker, whose feast is on May 1st, help us and the work we do to the glory of God! Let us continue to strive to ***SEE Jesus in Life and liturgy and BE Jesus in Family and Community.***

May God bless and Mary protect you and yours!

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.)

Confirmation 2017

"Come and See & Go and Be My Witnesses"

Thursday, May 4

5:30pm. Rehearsal with sponsors. Please meet in the church.

Friday, May 5th

This is the first Friday of the month. It is also the day of Confirmation

No morning Mass.

5.15 pm: All confirmands and sponsors will assemble in the Religious Education Building.

6:00pm Mass by Bishop Joe Vasquez, who will confer the sacrament of Confirmation on 18 young men and women. We pray for these confirmands and their families as they prepare for this Sacrament:

John Blake Arndt, Conner Bryant Arney, Emory Jasmine Arney, Ashley Elizabeth Carpenter, Austin Anthony Carpenter, Clara Lynn Coker, Clyde Ryan Coker, Lane Michael Dach, Brenda Alisa Figueroa, Brady Wayne Hering, Nora Hernandez, Jason Timothy Hoff, Graham Benjamin Kahlig, Kelby Faye Kosel, Christa Michelle Niemeyer, Eli Sebastian Puente, Ty Lawrence Stock, and Brooklynne Kate Wilde,

After Mass: Socials with sandwiches, chips, tea, and water hosted by The Altar Society. We appreciate any volunteers to bring cookies.

Building Fund Collection next weekend.

Baptism Class 5/6 at 9:00am. Contact Eileen Lewis at 584-2006 for more information.

First Communion, Sunday, May 7th, Mass will be at **9:00am** followed by a social hosted by the Altar Society. Again, any volunteers who can bring pastries and sweets will be appreciated.

Graduation Mass will be on Sunday, May 21st, at 8:00 am. If you or one of your children is graduating from high school or college, please contact Linda Lorenz at 254-715-0573 so they can be included.

St. Mary's Parish Festival, Temple, 4/30, from 10:30am – 4:00pm, at Columbus Hall.

DID YOU KNOW?

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI celebrated his ninetieth birthday this past week. *Speaking of Encounter that leads to Transformation this is what he said on Sep.3,2008: "We are only Christians if we encounter Christ...We can encounter Christ in reading Sacred Scripture, in prayer, in the liturgical life of the Church. We can touch Christ's Heart and feel him touching ours. Only in this personal relationship with Christ, only in this encounter with the Risen One do we truly become Christians...Therefore let us pray to the Lord to illumine us, to grant us an encounter with His presence in our world, and thus to grant us a lively faith, an open heart and great love for all, which is capable of renewing the world."*

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

A Quick Journey Through the Bible, an eight-week Bible Study by Jeff Cavins, is currently being attended by about 40 people from 6:00 to 8:00pm on Thursdays at the Centennial Room in the Parish Hall. We will continue with its third session this Thursday. Our thanks to the team and the class for making it exciting!

Free Book for Easter - Have you picked up your parish Easter gift : Best known author Matthew Kelly's recent publication – *Resisting Happiness*? If you haven't, contact the parish office.

Thanks to all those who attended the daily novena and special Holy Hour on the feast day in honor of the Divine Mercy last Sunday. It was heartening to see so many of you participate!

Thank you – to all who helped with the church spring clean-up and repair. May God bless and reward you!

Parish of the Visitation Westphalia, Texas



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

www.churchofthevisitation.org
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

Third Sunday of Easter
04-30-2017

Our Mission is:

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

<i>Third Sunday of Easter</i>		<i>April 30, 2017</i>		
	April 29th <i>Saturday, 6:00pm</i>	April 30th <i>Sunday, 8:00am</i>	May 6th <i>Saturday, 6:00pm</i>	May 7th <i>Sunday, 9:00am</i>
Intentions	+Katie Willberg +Leonard Wilde +Erwin Kahlig +Gladys Kahlig	Parishioners	+Charlotte Ann Thornton +Vince Tana +Leona Brenek	Parishioners First Communicants
Altar Servers	Kolby Kosel, Kelby Kosel, Brenden Dorskocil, Kasen Ordner	Nolan Kahlig, Logan Kleypas, Bryce Fikes, Maddie Dach	Emma Hering, Preston Hering, Nate Hoelscher, Elizabeth Ordner	Brenden Dorskocil, Logan Kleypas, Bryce Fikes, James Lorenz
Lector	Shawna Ranly	Ray Rabroker	Laurie Hoelscher	Shawna Ranly
Gift Bearers	Charles Wright Family	Dennis Stojanik Family	Edwin Green Family	Melvin Ranly Family
Ushers	Mike Heise & Michael Heise	Chris Hrabal & Lynwood Kleypas	Bill Reid & Edward Ranly	Paul Dorskocil & Chris Hrabal
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Greneta Ordner	Randy Willberg	Jim Lewis	Cindy Moeller
Money Counters		Calvin & Cheryl Wilde and Craig & Debbie Ordner		Ronnie & Rita Kleypas and Clifford & Susan Neumann
Rosary Leaders	Georgia Ketterman	Kenneth & Geraldine Kahlig	Calvin & Cheryl Wilde	Jr. & Belinda Hering
Vocations Cross Family		Perry & Connie Petru		Ed & Debby Meyer
Church Cleaners	5/6 & 5/13	Bernadette Hurta, Ruth Dorskocil, Connie Petru, Kathy Hoelscher, Debra Colon		
	May 2nd <i>Tuesday, 8:00am</i>	May 3rd <i>Wednesday, 7:20am</i>	May 4th <i>Thursday, 8:00am</i>	May 5th <i>Friday, 8:00am</i>
Weekday Mass Intentions	+Ronnie Ranly	+Ello Dorskocil +Rosie Dorskocil	+Gilbert Wilde +Pauline Wilde	Special Intentions for the Boeselt Family

Meetings:

High School Religious Education Class 4/30 after Mass
Outreach Class 4/30 after Mass
Confirmation Class 4/30 after Mass
Knights of Columbus 5/1 @ 6:30pm
Girl Scouts 5/2 @ 6:30pm
Adult Choir Practice 5/3 @ 7:00pm
Quilt Group 5/3 @ 8:00am
Historical Soc. 5/3 @ 7:00pm
Bible Study 5/4 @ 6 pm in Centennial room in the Parish Hall

Please pray for the sick & suffering:

Josie Kleypas, Dennis Fuchs, 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, Hudson John Halfmann, George Wright, Charles Ordner, Edwin Green, Craig Thornton, and Grace Hoelscher.

Offerings:

4/23 \$1,651.00
Children's Collection \$23.00
Seminarian Collection \$845.00

Sanctuary Candle in memory of:

Robert & Leona Brenek
Ben & Zita Kahlig