

Dear Visitation Family,

Shalom (Peace)!

Today we celebrate *the solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord*. This often neglected glorious mystery of our Faith can be compared to the passing on of the baton in a relay race. Many a relay race has been won or lost at that moment than at any other. While all the evangelists do mention about this event in the life of Jesus, none is more descriptive than St. Luke who in the second part of his book writes: "*As the apostles were looking on, Jesus was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight*" (Acts 1:1-11).

The words "*lifted up*" were frequently used in the Old Testament to refer to "*royal enthronement*". Therefore, **Ascension clearly refers to the manifestation of God's Kingship over all, through Jesus, the crucified and risen Son of God** (Eph 1:17-23). Thus with the psalmist we sing, "*God mounts His throne to shouts of Joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord*" (Ps 47).

The word "*cloud*" evokes the symbol of God's glory that was hovering over the tent of the tabernacle in the Old Testament, as well as the cloud at the baptism and transfiguration of Jesus from where the Father's voice was heard saying "This is my beloved Son, listen to Him". "*Jesus wrapped up in the cloud*" has the same meaning as "*He is now seated at God's right hand*". Thus, **in Christ's Ascension, humanity has found room in heaven through Jesus.**

St. Matthew who had begun His gospel with the promise of "God-with-us" (*Emmanuel*) in Mt 1:23 now concludes it with the reassurance of Jesus: "*And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age*" (Mt 28:20). Therefore, **the Christ, crucified, risen and ascended, has not left us abandoned but continues to be present with us in a different way: through the Spirit and the Church, His Mystical Body on earth.** That's why "*the apostles returned to Jerusalem with great joy*" (Lk 24:52). We, the Church, experience the presence of that living God especially in the Sacraments and particularly in the Holy Eucharist.

God, who created, redeemed and sanctifies the world manifested and communicated to mankind in varied ways, finally revealed Himself to us in the most perfect way through Jesus Christ at the fullness of time. And now, He continues His salvific work through us, His Church. **The last two thousand years and the time to come until the end of the world is the age of the Holy Spirit and the Church to whom is now entrusted the mission of "Growing Disciples" through Faith in the Presence of God with us, and through Service to all humanity, beautifully expressed in Jesus' great commission:** "*Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.*" (Mt.28:19).

"You are here for a reason. God has a mission for you" says Matthew Kelly in *Resisting Happiness* (pg.149). On this **Memorial Day weekend** we remember gratefully our brave soldiers who have completed their mission to their motherland with the ultimate sacrifice of their lives. Let us **also remember our own mission as Christians to reach our "patria"** (fatherland, heaven) as St. Thomas Aquinas calls it, **and bring others to that glory.** On a personal note, **please pray for me as I begin my 38th year in the priesthood of Christ today,** that I may be a faithful minister of God and you. Thank you!

God bless and Mary protect you 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.)

Special collection this weekend for the Archdiocese for the Military Services which provides access to the sacraments, the spiritual guidance of a Catholic chaplain, and authentic Catholic education to all those who serve, wherever they are. Please be generous.

Building Fund Collection next weekend. Please be generous.

No Mass on Wednesday & Thursday this week since all priests in the diocese, along with the bishops, will be attending their annual summer gathering from Tuesday through Thursday. Mass intentions of these two days will be exonerated there by Fr. Edwin.

First Friday, June 2nd, Mass at 8am.

Baptism Class 6/3. For more information contact Eileen Lewis.

A Community-Wide Garage Sale will be hosted by Westphalia Knights of Columbus at the Westphalia Parish Hall Pavilion on Saturday, June 3, 2017 from 7am-noon. Booth space is free. To obtain a booth space or be placed on a map - contact Ken or Teresa Jezicek @ 254-584-5840. Sausage wraps and drinks will be available for purchase from the KCs.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

"Required Day of Prayer and Ongoing Formation for Commissioning" on Tuesday, June 6th. All current and new EMHCs are required to do the following:

1. Be compliant with the diocesan Ethics and Integrity in Ministries policy (contact Linda Lorenz to check your status).
2. Attend the Day of Prayer and Formation for EMHC in the parish (the Spring session is Tuesday, June 6th from 6-8pm).
3. Be present at the commissioning ceremony at the Corpus Christi procession on Sunday, June 18th.

On meeting these requirements you will be commissioned by the diocese through the local pastor to serve as EMHC in our parish for the year 2017-18.

Holy Trinity Parish in Corn Hill: Annual fundraiser June 4th. Fried chicken and sausage will be served from 11am – 1pm. Drive-through plates are available.

Fajita Supper & Dance sponsored by Rosebud KCs, June 17th, \$50.00/couple. For more info contact Delores Zipperlen.

Calendar for Summer Vacation: Please include daily Mass, visits to the Blessed Sacrament, regular confessions, Family Rosary, Scripture readings, and Works of Mercy as part of daily activities during this summer. Remember, we need God at all times!

DID YOU KNOW?

Four men will be ordained as priests for the diocese of Austin at 10.30 am on Saturday, June 3, 2017 by our Bishop Joe Vasquez at St. William's Parish in Round Rock. They are: *Rev. Jared Cooke* (St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Austin), *Rev. Joseph Daheim* (St. Luke's Parish, Temple), *Rev. Jesse Martinez* (Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Caldwell), *Rev. Brian Phillips* (St. Joseph's Parish, Bryan). You are all invited! Please pray for these new presbyters that God may bless them and their ministries! Please pray also for more vocations to the Priesthood, especially from our own families.

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

Holy Spirit Novena

Dearest Holy Spirit, confiding in Your deep, personal love for me, I am making this novena for the following request, if it be Your Holy Will to grant it: (mention your request).
Teach me, Divine Spirit, to know and seek my last end; grant me the holy fear of God; grant me true contrition and patience.

Do not let me fall into sin.
Give me an increase of faith, hope and charity, and bring forth in my soul all the virtues proper to my state in life.
Make me a faithful disciple of Jesus and an obedient child of the Church.

Give me efficacious grace sufficient to keep the Commandments and to receive the Sacraments worthily.
Give me the four Cardinal Virtues, Your Seven Gifts, Your Twelve Fruits.

Raise me to perfection in the state of life to which You have called me and lead me through a happy death to everlasting life.
I ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Listen to Catholic Radio 98.3 FM in our area.

<i>The Ascension of Our Lord</i>		<i>May 28, 2017</i>		
	May 27th	May 28th	June 3rd	June 4th
	<i>Saturday, 6:00pm</i>	<i>Sunday, 10:00am</i>	<i>Saturday, 6:00pm</i>	<i>Sunday, 8:00am</i>
Intentions	+Florene Gudat +Robert Hoelscher +Leonard Wilde +Leonard Buxkemper Special Intentions - Henry and Nettie Beach Family	Parishioners Memorial Day	+Gilbert Wilde +Pauline Wilde +Ervin Willberg +Lucy Willberg	Parishioners
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	Adam Herwald Mike Lewis Helen Gausemeier James Lorenz
Lector	Laurie Hoelscher	Susan Neumann	Tammy Ryan	Ray Rabroker
Gift Bearers	Mike Heise Family	Veterans	Cark Hubik Family	Edward Meyer Family
Ushers	Mike Heise & Michael Heise	Gary Frei & Gary Ketterman	Bill Reid & Edward Ranly	Bradley Rudloff & Jonathan Frei
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Amanda Moeller	Janet Loden	Amanda Moeller	Connie Petru
Money Counters		Louis & Jerlene Vrana and Horest & Bernice Weaver		Cheryl & Calvin Wilde and Craig & Debbie Ordner
Rosary Leaders	Calvin & Cheryl Wilde	Jr. & Belinda Hering	Mike & Sylvia Heise	Kay Rabroker & Jane Kahlig
Vocations Cross Family		Georgia Ketterman		Gary & Bernadette Ketterman
Church Cleaners	6/3 & 6/10	Carol Ordner, Jennifer Ordner, Nancy Meier, Kerri Meier, Patsy Green, Charlotte Stock		
Weekday Mass Intentions	May 30th	May 31st	June 1st	June 2nd
	<i>Tuesday, 8:00am</i>	<i>No Mass</i>	<i>No Mass</i>	<i>Friday, 8:00am</i>
	Special Intentions - Lyn Smith	+Charlotte Ann Thornton	+Robert Jones	Special Intentions - Boeselt Family

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

The Ascension of Our Lord
05-28-2017

Our Mission is:
TO SEE JESUS & **TO BE JESUS**
In life and liturgy & *In family and community*

Sanctuary Candle – in Memory of Robert & Leona Brenek and Ben & Zita Kahlig

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.

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, please contact the parish office.

Bible Study – This week is the seventh session of the 8-week *Quick Journey Through the Bible* by Jeff Cavins. It is exciting to see so many of you showing great interest in the study of the Word of God. All are welcome.

Meetings:

Adult Choir Practice 5/31 @ 7:00pm

Bible Study 6/1 @ 6 pm in Centennial Room, Parish Hall

Offerings:

May 21 \$1,772.00

Children's Collection \$9.00