

Dear Visitation Family,

Shalom (Peace)!

This week of the Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time of the year in cycle “A” is also the 4th of July weekend. **Our freedom is a great gift from God. God sends this gift and many others to us through the human instruments He has chosen.** In the Declaration of Independence, dated July 4th, 1776, it is clearly stated that all of us are endowed by our creator with certain unalienable rights among which are life and liberty. And yet, have we stopped to think about how God used our parents to give us life? Do we realize that He used the selfless service and sacrifice of so many patriotic people to give us liberty? **Let us thank God for the various human instruments that God has employed in giving us the best things of life so gratuitously.**

The liturgical readings for this Sunday also shed more light on the same theme of our recognizing and appreciating the instruments of God’s life and love. St. Paul in his sound theological writing to the Church in Rome asserts our faith that **God saved us from sin and death through Jesus Christ** and that through our baptism and our dying with Christ, we also now live as God’s children in Christ. We cannot ever forget this great truth. We must constantly remember and celebrate this new life and freedom (*Rom6:3-11*). That’s why we go to Mass.

The same Lord and savior Jesus Christ chose His apostles and sent them to continue His ministry of salvation through the Sacraments of the Church. He said to them, “Whoever receives you, receives me...Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward” (*Mt 10:37-42*).

The Shulamite woman recognized Elisha the prophet as a holy man of God. Her husband and she gave kind hospitality to Prophet Elisha on his travels. They were therefore richly rewarded by God. The older couple who had no male child was blessed with a son the next year (*2Kings 4:8-16*). If you read further on, you will see that God through Elisha brought the same young child who had died back to life and restored him to the generous woman.

Today we see fewer and fewer honest and decent people who want to take on the noble service to their country through public office. We also see a decline in vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. There may be a myriad of reasons for a dearth of those blessings today. But, **could our lack of sincere acknowledgment and deep appreciation of these people that God calls and gifts with the ministry to serve as His instruments for us to enjoy abundant life and true liberty be a reason for the sad commentary of our modern society?**

This week then, is not merely about fireworks, parades, wearing the stars and stripes, or travels for pleasure. **It is more about having a generous and grateful heart that doesn’t take God’s blessings for granted but takes time and effort to show gratitude concretely to God and God’s ministers and servants.** “*Without gratitude what was extraordinary yesterday becomes ordinary today. Without gratitude a sense of entitlement takes over and begins to rot our soul*” (Resisting Happiness by *Matthew Kelly*, page 184).

God bless and Mary protect you and yours! **Thank you for all you do! I pray for you!**

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.)

DID YOU KNOW?

“8 Modern Errors Every Catholic Should Know and Avoid” by Msgr. Charles Pope

There are many errors in our time that masquerade as wisdom and balance, but they are no such thing. The following list I compile is more phenomenological than philosophical. Thus, as I propose certain fundamental errors of our time that are common, I use language that speaks less to philosophies and logical fallacies, and more to the errors as experienced.

Further, though the errors are common in the world, I present them here as especially problematic because we all too often find them in the Church as well. They are sadly and commonly expressed by Catholics and represent a kind of infection that has set in, which reflects worldly and secular thinking, not Godly and spiritual thinking.

I will give you the list of eight. I hope you will add to the list and define carefully what you identify. But for now consider this eight fold list of modern errors that are common even in the Church. (To be continued)

FORTNIGHT FOR FREEDOM is from June 21st through July 4th. Each year dioceses around the country arrange special events to highlight the importance of defending religious freedom. It started on the vigil of the feasts of St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More, the two great saints who died as martyrs defending religious freedom, and ends on our Independence Day. In this time of polarization in our culture, we can contribute to a better understanding of religious freedom in a way that respects all people through Prayer, Reflection and Action each day.

Peter's Pence Collection this weekend is to provide the Holy Father with the financial means to respond to those who are suffering as a result of war, oppression, natural disaster, disease and others in need of emergency assistance.

Building Fund Collection will be next weekend. Please be generous.

First Friday on July 7th. Mass at 8am.

No Mass on Tuesday, July 4th.

KC News: Fund Raising Raffle - Tickets \$20 each or 6 for \$100. Sold today after Mass. Drawing for the five prizes on July 2nd. Don't have to be present to win. All sold/unsold tickets should be given to Terry Frenzel or Mark Hoelscher by July 2nd. **Semi-Annual Breakfast and Blood Drive** will be July 9th. All are invited to the pancake and sausage breakfast. The Scott and White crew will be here to accept blood donations that morning. If you can, please sign up to donate - your precious gift could save a life!

Congratulations to Doris and A.T Voltin on their 60th Wedding Anniversary! Thank you for your faithfulness to God and to each other and your many dedicated lives of service to your family and our parish family. God bless you for many more years!

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

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 your daily activities during this summer. Remember, we need God at all times!

LISTEN TO CATHOLIC RADIO LOCALLY ON 98.3 FM

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 2, 2017

	July 1st <i>Saturday, 6:00pm</i>	July 2nd <i>Sunday, 8:00am</i>	July 8th <i>Saturday, 6:00pm</i>	July 9th <i>Sunday, 8:00am</i>
Intentions	+Lewis Hoelscher +Leonard Wilde +Charlotte Ann Thornton	Parishioners	+Robert Hoelscher +Charlotte Ann Thornton	Parishioners
Altar Servers	Emma Hering, Preston Hering, Nate Hoelscher, Elizabeth Ordner	Adam Herwald, Mike Lewis, Helen Gausemeier, James Lorenz	Kolby Kosel, Kelby Kosel, Brenden Doskocil, Kasen Ordner	Nolan Kahlig, Logan Kleypas, Bryce Fikes, Maddie Dach
Lector	Tammy Ryan	Susan Neumann	Shawna Ranly	Ray Rabroker
Gift Bearers	Walton Hering, Jr. Family	Terry Frenzel Family	BA Ranly Family	Perry Petru Family
Ushers	Calvin Wilde & Craig Ordner	Johnny Polach & Charles Moeller	Mike Heise & Michael Heise	Chris Hrabal & Lynwood Kleypas
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Amanda Moeller	Walton Hering, Jr.	Doris Wright	Cindy Moeller
Money Counters		Louis & Jerlene Vrana and Horest & Bernice Weaver		Calvin & Cheryl Wilde and Craig & Debbie Ordner
Rosary Leaders	Elmer & Geraldine Hoelscher	James & Jane Kahlig	Elmer & Geraldine Hoelscher	James & Jane Kahlig
Vocations Cross Family		Randy & Linda Lorenz		Ken & Jenette Driska
Church Cleaners	7/1 & 7/8	Doris Welch, Mandy Arney, Donna Reid, Cindy Hoelscher, Janet Wilde, Katie Wilde, Audra Palmer, Joycelyn Parker		
Weekday Mass Intentions	July 4th <i>Tuesday</i>	July 5th <i>Wednesday, 8:00am</i>	July 6th <i>Thursday, 8:00am</i>	July 7th <i>Friday, 8:00am</i>
	No Mass	+Robert Jones +Larry R. Hoelscher +Ervin Willberg +Lucy Willberg	+Gilbert Wilde +Pauline Wilde	Special Intentions for the 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

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Our Mission is:

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

Sanctuary Candle – in Memory of Charlotte Ann Thornton, Ervin & Lucy Willberg and Special Intentions for the Albert S. and Augusta Arnold Family.

Please pray for the sick & suffering:

Jeff Bernsen, Carla Welch, 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 – Best known author, Matthew Kelly’s recent publication – **Resisting Happiness** If you want a copy, please contact the parish office.

Meetings:
Knights of Columbus 7/3 @ 6:30pm
Historical Society 7/3 @ 7:00pm
Quilt Group 7/5 @ 8:00am

Offerings:
June 25th \$2,173.00
Children’s Collection \$11.00