

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF CYCLONE-WESTPHALIA
St. Joseph, Cyclone & Church of the Visitation, Westphalia.

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Web address: stjyclone.org

The Sacraments

BAPTISM: Saturday after Mass. Please contact the pastor for scheduling a meeting with him; a preparation program may be needed. Parents must be registered parishioners of St Joseph, Cyclone or Church of the Visitation, Westphalia and there is required paperwork to be completed.

CONFESSIONS: SATURDAYS 3:00-4:00 PM OR BY APPOINTMENT.

MARRIAGE: Couples planning to be married should contact the pastor at least six months in advance before date of wedding. Completion of required paperwork and a preparation program needed.

MAY 24, 2026 PENTECOST SUNDAY

Right about now, in a world torn apart by war and division and unrest in so many places, we need to hear this. Sit up. Listen. Take note. Hear once again the first words Jesus spoke to his gathered disciples after the Resurrection, the very words in this Sunday's Gospel: "Peace be with you. It doesn't get much simpler than that, does it? Above all else, this is what Jesus wanted his friends to know, what he wanted his frightened followers to hear: A kind of one sentence valedictory speech declaring his triumph over death and foretelling a better future for them and for the world. No wonder "they rejoiced when they saw the Lord." Suddenly, everything changed. The pieces came together. Something new had begun. This Gospel makes for a striking counterpoint to the first reading, from Acts, describing the arrival of the Holy Spirit amid wind, tongues of flame and a confounding atmosphere of shock and awe. What are we to make of all this? We can take two things away from these readings this Pentecost: The Spirit is a powerful supernatural force that is also not bashful about using nature — earth, wind, fire — to make a point. He strikes when you don't expect. And he can upend life as we know it.

If that worries you, take a breath and (repeat this phrase often) do not be afraid. Ultimately, if we feel any anxiety or dread, we need to remember Christ's first gift after his Resurrection. Peace. Pope Leo knew that. When he stepped onto the balcony overlooking St. Peter's Square and faced the world for the first time as pontiff, he quoted the Lord after the Resurrection. Christ's first words to his worried and anxious friends became Leo's first words to the world: "Peace be with all of you." The subtle addition of "all" was surprising but appropriate. Leo wasn't just addressing a gathering in the Upper Room. He was speaking to anyone and everyone, believers and unbelievers, disciples and dissenters, even those just passing by who might have wandered into St. Peter's Square out of curiosity. Leo left out no one. That message made the very first Christians rejoice 2,000 years ago. It should have the same effect on us — but it should also revive something that is often missing in our lives today. Hope. Hearing it now, it should give a sense of renewal, relief and regeneration. This Pentecost, it is a declaration of something so basic and true. It's this: what we, as Church, are built on. The very foundation of our faith is supported by all those gifts the Spirit brings: Wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, fear of the Lord. And when we hear the Spirit evoked this Sunday, we need to respond with a spirit of our own — one of generosity, prayer and trust. In short, we need to embrace the Holy Spirit by embracing the spirit of this feast, because it is a spirit of great beginnings. Those gathered in the Upper Room got that. They seemed to grasp that the world had shifted, something unexpected and new was taking place. The climate, literally, was different. Calm became wind. Silence became a roar. And, mysteriously, the message and mission of the Holy Spirit was something that could be understood by everyone. No translators were needed; no subtitles were necessary. In a sense, this was the world the way it was meant to be. We need to carry that idea with us as we mark this "birthday of the Church." We need to work quietly but deliberately to keep Christian fervor growing and thriving — both within ourselves and within our war-torn, peace-challenged world. Doing that, we can't help but keep the flame of Pentecost burning.

Bulletin Information: Cyclone: Nancy Posvar (254 913-2696)

Bulletin Deadline: Please call or send by email all info for the bulletin by Wednesday before the weekend!

MINISTRIES

Saturday, May 30, 2026

Communion: Kristen Parker
Lector: Letha Novosad
Altar Servers: Novosad/Souhrada Families
Ushers: Volunteers

Sunday, May 31, 2026

Communion: Jason Hoelscher
Lector: Becky Dolgener
Altar Servers: J, J, A Stumbaugh—R Jahns
Ushers: Matt Jahns & John Jahns

UPCOMING MASSES

5/24 Sunday 8:15 am: + Larry Posvar by Family
+ Maxie Roessler by Patsy Cofer
5/26 Tuesday 7:00 am: + Monica Mikeska by Pauline Marek
+ Donna Pierce by Roy & Debbie Buckholt
5/28 Thursday NO MASS
5/30 Saturday Vigil 4:00 pm: + Anton & Albina Vrazel by Daniel & Linda Wilde
+ Glenda Hesse by B J & Kay Nan Ledger
5/31 Sunday 8:15 am: + Lucille Stock by Anton & Merlene Bravenec
+ Darwin Bruggman by Family

WESTPHALIA MASSES

5/24 Sunday 10:15 am
5/27 NO MASS
5/29 Friday 8:00 am
5/30 Saturday Vigil 6:00 pm
5/31 Sunday 10:15 am

In your charity, please pray for: **Homebound:** Leora Hering. **Good health:** A. J. Stermer, Bill Stock, Dorothy Haisler, Evelyn Richter, Al & Lou Buckholt, Mary Jane Underwood, Lindsey Pierce, Rebecca Marek, Margaret Campbell, Barbara Johnson, Fr. Tom Chamberlain, Theresa Klecka.

Stewardship—May 17—\$1991

Sanctuary Light—May 24-30—In Memory of Jerome Schoppe by Family.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 24 & 31—Final dates for this year's Bible Study. Everyone welcome.

June 6—Westphalia Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a Community-Wide Garage Sale at Westphalia Parish Hall Pavilion—7:00 am—Noon—BOOTH SPACE IS FREE—To obtain a booth space or be placed on a map, contact Brian Wilde at 254-718-6764. Sausage wraps and drinks will be available for purchase from Knights of Columbus.

June 7—Holy Trinity Church—Corn Hill—Annual June Fundraiser—Fried Chicken & Sausage Dinner served with dressing, noodles, and green beans—11:00 am—1:00 pm in the PAC—Adults \$15/Children \$8—Drive-thru plates until 12:30 PM—\$15—Mass times 7:30 am, 9:30 am, 11:30 am—Afternoon dance 1:00—5:00 pm—Music by Jodie Mikula Orchestra (free-will donation).

April 7—June 2—Sacred Heart Church in Lott is sponsoring a faith formation class which consists of a study on the mystery and meaning of the Cross. Tuesdays @ 7P in the Sacred Heart Hall. Contact Chris Lincoln at chris@chrislincoln.com or 559-473-8357.

ALTAR SOCIETY NEWS

The Annual Rural Life Mass, sponsored by the Austin Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, will be held in Westphalia at the Church of the Visitation on Wednesday, July 22, 2026 and will be celebrated by Bishop Daniel Garcia and all attending priests. We hope that you can join us as we appreciate farmers and ranchers in our diocese and recognize an outstanding rural life priest and couple who have contributed to agriculture. Mass will begin at 6:00 pm, followed by a social and dinner in the parish Hall. Everyone is invited. If you need further info, email dccwaustin@gmail.com.

The Altar Society of the Church of the Visitation has started the Millions of Monicas program where ladies meet every week to pray that our children return or stay close to their Catholic faith. It's a one-hour program with meditation, rosary and other prayers. All info is confidential. Meetings are described as an oasis of peace as we strive to grow in holiness and humility, praying together for our children's faithful return to the Catholic Church. You are welcome to join on Mondays 9:00 am on the 1st and 3rd Mondays; 6:00 pm on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Mondays in the Church of the Visitation. You may visit millionsofmonicas.com or call Renae Willberg at 254-760-7831 for more information.