

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.

JULY 5, 2026 FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

In an age when it seems everyone wants to have more, be more, say more, achieve more, we're introduced this week to another idea that some might consider radical. It's about the virtue of less. This Gospel celebrates humility and "the little ones." Looked at another way: We're reminded that there is greatness in smallness. Sometimes, less is more. The reading from Zechariah introduces the idea, referencing the savior we saw on Palm Sunday: "Rejoice heartily, O daughter Zion, shout for joy. See your king shall come to you, a just savior is he, meek and riding on an ass." And then in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus himself praises his Father, for revealing great things to "the little ones," who accept a kind of wisdom and learning that "the wise and the learned" — the scholars and Pharisees — just don't get. Understanding the message of Jesus doesn't require a fancy education or exalted title. The "little ones" may be the wisest of all. So just who are these "little ones"?

Flipping back through the earlier chapters of Matthew's Gospel, we get an idea. Just two chapters earlier, Christ healed a desperate woman who touched the hem of his garment; he gave sight to two blind men crying out for pity; he healed a mute man possessed by a demon; and he brought back to life the young daughter of a local official. These are people who were neglected, overlooked, victimized, pushed aside — the weak, the desperate, the small. These were the ones whose lives were miraculously transformed by an encounter with Christ. There is comfort here, and inspiration. Christ sees the ones that others don't. And he wants them to know something they may have forgotten. They matter. Not only that, he wants them to know he did not enter their world to make their lives harder. "Come to me," he says, "all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart...my yoke is easy and my burden light." This man from Nazareth who works miracles and changes lives declares to anyone who will listen that he can bring them what they need. He doesn't boast. He doesn't thump his chest or offer a magical tonic to cure what ails them. He offers, simply, rest. Peace. Hope.

He makes it plain and lets them know it's not as hard as they might think. "My yoke is easy," he says, "and my burden light." One commentator has speculated that Christ's reference to a yoke may harken back to his days in Nazareth's carpenter shop. Did Jesus once make yokes for livestock? We can't know. But he clearly understood his audience. He knew they would get it. His own roots were disarmingly humble and his message relatable, beautiful and clear. Preachers, take note! This is a shining example of how Jesus so often used the ordinary objects of everyday life — a coin, a grain of sand, some hardware for a beast of burden to make a powerful point. In our own day, when burdens are weighing on us all — everything from paying the rent to worrying about war on the other side of the world — Jesus offers this reassuring message: let it go. Let me help. You need rest? Take my yoke. Let me show you another way, a way of trust and fidelity and mercy. A way of healing and dignity for those who are wounded, suffering or ignored. Christ reminds a brutalized, overburdened world that there really is greatness in smallness. The little ones have a place at the table. And he is extending his hand in welcome.

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, July 11, 2026

Communion: Pat Armstrong
Lector: Kim Campbell
Altar Servers: K & H Hejl
Ushers: Volunteers

Sunday, July 12, 2026

Communion: Ricky Brenek
Lector: Cheyenne Jahns
Altar Servers: J-J-A Stumbaugh—R Jahns
Ushers: Landeros Family

UPCOMING MASSES

7/5 Sunday 8:15 am: + Stanley Motl by Ted Motl
+ Darwin Bruggman by Family
7/7 Tuesday 7:00 am: + Josephine Psencik by Roy & Debbie Buckholt
+ Dean Mikeska by Charlie & Jackie Green
7/9 Thursday 7:00 am: + Marie Macha by Chris & Peggy Hrabel
+ Elsie Jez by Charlie Tischler
7/11 Saturday Vigil 4:00 pm: + Anton & Albina Vrazel by Daniel & Linda Wilde
+ Don & Monica Mikeska by Charlie & Jackie Green
7/12 Sunday 8:15 am: + Linda Hering by Family
+ Maxie Roessler by Smetana Family

WESTPHALIA MASSES

7/5 Sunday 10:15 am
7/8 Wednesday 6:00 pm
7/10 Friday 8:00 am
7/11 Saturday Vigil 6:00 pm
7/12 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—June 28—\$1284 Peter's Pence—\$713

Sanctuary Light—July 5—11—In Honor of Jared Shipman Birthday by Beatrice & Joey Mallory.

HELP KEEP THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNING! To be the light in memory of your loved ones for a week is \$10.

Picnic News: Picnic Raffle donation items are being accepted by Steve & Patricia Pechal or leave a message at 254-217-6622.

New Ministry Lists are available in the church entry and on the church website.

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY – It is time to book your appointment for your photo shoot. Photographer will be at the Parish Hall on Tuesday, JULY 28 and Wednesday JULY 29. See the flyer that was included with the bulletin June 21 for instructions on how to Book Your Appointment or go to the church website for the link. Church website is www.stjyclone.org.

The July/August issue of the Word Among Us is in the church entry. Please take one.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Have you ever opened the Book of Revelation and thought, "I have no idea what's going on?" You're not alone. You are invited to join us for "Revelation: The Kingdom Yet to Come", an 11-session Bible study. Together we'll discover how Revelation reveals God's plan for His Church, the incredible connection between Revelation and the Holy Mass, and the hope we have in Christ's ultimate victory. Sign-up sheet will be located in the church entry. Our first session will be August 2 following mass.

October 29—November 1—Austin Cursillo Women's Weekend at Eagle's Nest Eagle's Wings Retreat Center—2805 Ranch Road 2341, Burnet, TX.

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 dcwaustin@gmail.com.