

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

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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 3, 2026 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

What is that place? Where is it? "I am going to prepare a place for you," Jesus said to his disciples (Jn 14:2). What did he mean? It's Holy Thursday, the night before his crucifixion and death. The Church in this Sunday's gospel reading takes us back to that time. It's a time when maybe the disciples were beginning to worry what they would do in Jesus' absence. Sometimes today even we worry like that. What will we do when Jesus is gone? The anxiety of absence, the absence of God and of Christ: What do we do with that anxiety? Jesus' answer to this question is firm, to the point, commanding. "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me," he tells the disciples (Jn 14:1).

It's possible to translate this as an imperative. Have faith in God, have faith in me; that is, it's possible to hear these words as a command. The disciples are worried that they're about to lose Jesus, about to lose it all. Yet the Lord doesn't wallow in their anxiety; he doesn't share it. Rather, he exhorts them to keep the faith. Jesus is our Lord and Master even in the darkest pits of our anxiety. But then Jesus talks about "a place." Again, what does he mean? Does he mean heaven, the heavenly Jerusalem? Yes, quite possibly, quite probably. But it could mean more than that; it likely does. We know that in John's Gospel the words of Jesus often bear multiple meanings at once. That is, Jesus is speaking in spatial and temporal terms here, but he certainly is not speaking literally. Rather, he speaks mystically, sacramentally. That is, he is talking about a place not limited by the normal measure of space and time. Hence the Lord's exchange with Thomas. "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" he asks Jesus. "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me," the Lord answers (Jn 14:5-6). Ah, now we see that Jesus is not speaking in merely spatial and temporal terms. He is speaking spiritually, mystically, personally, Christologically. Jesus is the "place." The Lord is telling his disciples that they will be with him even after the Passion.

What Jesus is trying to do is to tell them that what they're about to experience, the arrest and death of their Master, will not be the end. He's trying to tell them that what they currently perceive as defeat is in fact glory. He's inviting them to lean into their faith to see the darkness differently. Or as he will say to them in a moment, astoundingly, "be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (Jn 16:33). But think again of Jesus as "place." That's just another way to talk about our union in Christ. That's the way St. Paul so often described our relationship with the risen Lord, that now we are in Christ. It's the same theological reality Jesus was talking about when he called himself the vine and his disciples the branches, saying that his disciples should "abide" in him (Jn 15:1-5). It's what he was talking about at the end of Matthew's Gospel, fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy of Emmanuel, when he said, "behold, I am with you always, to the close of the age" (Mt 28:20). But what does that mean for us? Well, remember the story from Luke's Gospel which we heard a few Sundays back, the story of the two disciples on their way to Emmaus. Remember how they recognized him in the breaking of the bread (Lk 24:30-31). Remember also Jesus' nighttime conversation with Nicodemus, how the Lord told him that no one can enter or even see the kingdom of God "unless one is born of water and the Spirit" (Jn 3:5). These passages, and others like them, clearly point to the sacraments of baptism and the Eucharist. And here, to put it simply, is where we find the place that is Jesus, our union in him. And here further we discover the Church's enduring Easter lesson about where our risen Lord is to be found. He's to be found in the nearest Catholic parish, upon the nearest Catholic altar and in the nearest Catholic font. That is, he's to be found in those innumerable humble and holy places mystically rooted in the place of Christ.

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 9, 2026

Communion: Katherine Pechal
Lector: Kenneth Pechal
Altar Servers: Stumbaugh Family
Ushers: Volunteers

Sunday, May 10, 2026

Communion: Cathy Bruggman
Lector: Meagan Cox
Altar Servers: K & H Hejl—S & L Jahns
Ushers: Bryce Brashear & Steve Bruggman

UPCOMING MASSES

5/3 Sunday 8:15 am: + Maxie Roessler by Smetana Family
+ Jerome Schoppe by Family

5/5 Tuesday 7:00 am: + Donna Pierce by Roy & Debbie Buckholt
+ Lucille Stock by Knights of Columbus

5/7 Thursday 7:00 am: + Monica Mikeska by Charlie & Jackie Green
+ Elsie Jez by Elizabeth O'Brien

5/9 Saturday Vigil 4:00 pm: + Linda Hering by Family
+ Glenda Hesse by Bill & Pat Proctor

5/10 Sunday 8:15 am: + Nancy Hubnik by Terry & Barbara McNeill
+ Alice Stojanik by Rose Lollar & Faye Brantly

WESTPHALIA MASSES

5/3 Sunday 10:15 am
5/6 Wednesday 6:00 pm
5/8 Friday 8:00 am
5/9 Saturday Vigil 6:00 pm
5/10 Sunday 10:15 am

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

Stewardship—April 26—\$2226

Sanctuary Light—May 3—9—In Honor of Stone Shipman Birthday by Beatrice & Joey Mallory.

THANK YOU to LUNDY MASONRY and LEO & BECKY MAKOVY for the work they have done for the church.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 3—May Crowning.

May 6—VBS PLANNING MEETING—6 PM in the Parish Hall—Please attend if you'd like to help with this year's VBS in any way—decorating, teaching, leading—we'd love to have you join us! Theme is Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God (Totally Catholic Edition). Bible School will be held June 13.

May 7—Armor of God—Night of Vision and Prayer—61 N. Gilmer St., Killeen—5:30—8:00 pm—Mission—To stand united in the fight to eradicate homelessness, hopelessness, and loneliness in Bell County. Come connect, be inspired, and take part in something bigger than yourself. Contact JT Haun at 254-630-6944 or armorofgodtx@gmail.com. Visit them at aogoutreach.com.

May 17—Senior Recognition Mass—Breakfast following mass—All invited.

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

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

May 3—Next Altar Society meeting following mass in the Parish Hall.

May 20—Killeen—Temple Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Deanery Meeting—Holy Family —Copperas Cove—10 AM.