

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

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Email: cyclone.marak@gmail.com. Pastor: Rev. Ranjan Cletus

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.

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.

FEBRUARY 1, 2026 FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

This Sunday we find ourselves hearing the most famous sermon in all history: The Sermon on the Mount. Over the years, the Sermon on the Mount has been called many things. One scholar called it "The Magna Carta of the Church"; another labeled it "the manifesto of the king." But its first words, which we hear this Sunday, are much simpler. They are more of a lesson plan — instruction in how to achieve holiness and happiness by being a disciple of Christ.

A number of years ago, the late Archbishop Pietro Sambi, at the time the apostolic nuncio to the United States, spoke to a group of Catholic teachers in Washington and talked about how everyone who comes to Rome marvels over the Pieta, carved from marble when Michelangelo was just 22 years old. The nuncio said: "Michelangelo...is considered one of the greatest artists in the world. I don't believe it! The greatest artists are teachers — you! — who try to sculpt the best of who you are and what you know, not in a piece of marble, but in living, breathing human beings, who are the glory of God."

This is really what Jesus was doing with the Sermon on the Mount — beginning with this Gospel, the beatitudes. Those words describe what brings happiness and, with it, blessings. (For the curious: Webster's defines "beatitude" as "a state of utmost bliss," and tells us that the word comes from the Latin *beatus*, meaning "happy, fortunate.") Dig a little deeper and you find that the lessons here take us directly back to the source, Jesus himself, the teacher sharing lessons from his own life. In his book "Jesus of Nazareth," Pope Benedict wrote that the beatitudes amount to a self-portrait of Christ. In the meek, the merciful, the clean of heart, the persecuted, Jesus is actually describing himself. Benedict noted in one Angelus address: "The Beatitudes are the transposition of the Cross and Resurrection into discipleship. They mirror the life of the Son of God who let himself even be persecuted and despised until he was condemned to death so that salvation might be given to men and women."

If we are to be followers of Jesus, this is the way. The fact is: The beatitudes give us more than just suggestions on how to be good people. We are given an abiding lesson in how to love as Christ. It requires sacrifice, humility, even suffering. Out of that, we are blessed. That is radical news that flies in the face of everything we are taught to accept in the world. Face it: selflessness is radical. Being poor in spirit is radical. Love — true Christian love — is radical. But absorbing these lessons can be life-changing.

This Gospel is sometimes read at weddings, and for good reason: these words show how love is made manifest. This is about deep, selfless, sacrificial love, that same love Christ has for the world and the same love God has for all His creation. In teaching terms, this is our text, and our homework. What will we learn from it? How hard will we strive to be among those who are blessed? How can we live more intentionally as people who are poor in spirit, meek, merciful? How will we become better at love? Jesus showed us with how he lived — and it took him all the way to the cross. The beatitudes are the lasting lessons of the world's greatest teacher — and, as the papal nuncio might have put it, its greatest artist. We are not only the Lord's students. We are his marble. The great challenge of Christian discipleship is not just to follow Christ, but to make of our lives a true work of art.

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, February 7, 2026

Communion: Sarah Hejl
Lector: Letha Novosad
Altar Servers: Novosad & Souhrada Family
Ushers: Volunteers

Sunday, February 8, 2026

Communion: Ricky Brenek
Lector: Cheyenne Jahns
Altar Servers: J Hoelscher—D Jahns—C Vrana—
H Cowen
Ushers: Michael Jahns & Jake Jahns

UPCOMING MASSES

2/1 Sunday 8:15 am: + Jerome Schoppe by Family
+ Stanley Motl by Charlie Tischler
2/3 Tuesday 7:00 am: + Evelyn Hoelscher by Smetana Family
+ Elsie Jez by Roy & Debbie Buckholt
2/5 Thursday 7:00 am: + Living & Deceased Kerrville Flood Victims by
Charlie & Jackie Green
+ Linda Hering by Manard & Patsy Moeller
2/7 Saturday Vigil 4:00 pm: + Glenda Hesse by Smetana Family
+ Monica Mikeska by Justin Hering
2/8 Sunday 8:15 am: + Denise Posvar by Family
+ Alice Stojanik by Brian & Joan Vanicek

WESTPHALIA MASSES

2/1 Sunday 10:15 am
2/4 Wednesday 6:00 pm
2/6 Friday 8:00 am
2/7 Saturday 6:00 pm
2/8 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, Nickolas Jimenez.

Stewardship—January 25—\$876

Sanctuary Light—February 1—7—In Memory of Denise Posvar by Family.

OFFERTORY STATEMENTS will be printed soon. In order to receive your Annual Contribution statement, please email your request to cyclone.marak@gmail.com in order to have one for your records.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 7—Holy Trinity Catholic High School fundraiser—The Celtic Speakeasy—A Roaring Twenties Gala at the Catholic Activity Center—7:00 pm. Tickets are available at www.holytrinitychs.org/celtic-gala.

MEN OF SAINT JOSEPH CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH—Begins Tuesday, February 10, 2026 for six weeks—6:00 pm—St. Mary's Catholic Church—Temple—All are welcome—For more information call St. Mary's at 254-773-4541 or contact Deacon Barney at bonifaciordriguez@yahoo.com. Signup sheet is in the church entrance.

February 12—The Diocese of Austin and Worldwide Marriage Encounter are partnering to offer couples in our deanery the chance to deepen their sacrament during National Marriage Week with a marriage enrichment program entitled "Together With Purpose" at St. Mary's in Temple in the Rectory from 6:30—8:30 pm. Baby sitting available with pre-registration—\$30/ couple—Pre-registration required and find more info at <http://www.austinme.org>.

February 14—Fourth Degree KC Assembly 3488 (Cyclone, Westphalia, and Temple) is hosting a Valentine fundraiser starting at 5:00 pm (ribeye steak dinner 6:00 pm) at the Westphalia Parish Hall. Sixteen prizes will be awarded by drawing—value of prizes is \$9,000. Four firearms will be given away in a car raffle, as well as approximately 50 smaller prizes in a bucket raffle. Ticket prices are \$125 each (admits two people—beer, wine, and margaritas included). A dance band will play from 7:30—11:30 pm. For more information or to buy a ticket, please call Jason Hoelscher (254-760-6742) or Charlie Tischler (254-913-8546). Deadline January 30.

February 15—Christ the King Catholic Church in Belton second Bingo Extravaganza—1:00—4:00 pm (doors open 11:30 am) - Family Life Center at 210 E. 24th Avenue—Tickets for this Mardi Gras themed event are \$40 each or \$320 for table of 8. Tickets include 12 games with prizes valued at approximately \$500 each including guided fishing trip on Lake Belton, car detailing, housekeeping, 2-night stay in bed and breakfast with dinner in Salado, designer purses, jewelry, luggage, entertainment tree with gift cards. Some snacks and vino will be provided and you may bring your own. For more info email bingofundrais-erctk@gmail.com or call Donna at 254-760-3440.

February 15—Bi-lingual Czech/English Mass Holy Trinity Catholic Church—Corn Hill—5:00 pm—Dinner will be served in the Parish Activity Center following mass. Everyone is welcome to come and celebrate the Feast Day of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, patron saints of the Czech Republic and patron saints of Slavic peoples.

February 17—KC Meeting—7:00 pm.

ALTAR SOCIETY NEWS

February 8—Next Altar Society Meeting following mass.