

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.

AUGUST 30, 2026 TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

There Peter was, the appointed leader of the apostles, trying to show his devotion and loyalty to Jesus, his willingness to defend him and protect him. And what did he get in return? Jesus turned around and called him "Satan." But there's a valuable lesson here, for Peter and us. And it's not exactly subtle. It tells us that to follow Christ means carrying a cross. But the cross isn't necessarily made of wood. It's often made of humility, self-sacrifice and obedience. It is constructed from material that can be heavier than we expect, crafted from the willingness to love, a desire to follow God's will, a choice to set aside our own very human interests and desires. Peter found that out the hard way. What does this say to us today? First, let's flip back to last week, and how we got to this point. This reading continues part of Matthew's Gospel that we heard last Sunday, in which Peter fearlessly and passionately tells Jesus, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." To that, Jesus responded by telling him, "You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my church." And now, this? From "rock" to "Satan"? What happened?

After revealing himself to be exactly who Peter said he was, Jesus went on to explain what was to come — persecution, suffering, death and resurrection. That was a shock Peter couldn't bear. But Christ's rebuke carried a lesson, and it's one that we all need to hear at one time or another: Don't settle for the obvious. Don't just see things for what they are. Stop thinking like human beings. Think more like God. And, to begin with, see the example of Christ. Deny yourself. Look at the bigger picture. Consider God's will, not your own. Be prepared to carry a heavy cross — even perhaps paying a price you hadn't calculated. The ambitions of this world are worth less than we may think. "What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world," Jesus asked "and forfeit his life?" There is a better choice. In fact, Jesus' words to Peter — "Get behind me" — could be read as another way of saying "Follow me." Watch what I do. Live as I live. Take this path, not any other. Confronted with this scene, we all might wonder where we fit into the story. Are we living for ourselves or for God? Are we seeing the world through our own eyes, or are we challenging ourselves to see through his? Are we "stumbling blocks" to the work of the Lord? How can we get out of his way? A prayer of Father Mychal Judge, the first fatality of 9/11, sums up how we need to live as people who "get behind" Jesus:

"Lord, take me where you want me to go, Let me meet who you want me to meet, Let me say what you want me to say, And please keep me out of your way."

Living with that spirit of surrender isn't easy. It can take us to unexpected places. Mychal Judge's story reminds us just how hard the journey can be and how heavy the cross can weigh. But the consoling words from Paul's letter to the Romans this Sunday offer guidance and hope the ultimate moral for all followers of Christ. "Do not conform yourselves to this age," he wrote, "but discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect."

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, September 5, 2026

Communion: Sarah Hejl
Lector: Kristen Parker
Altar Servers: K & H Hejl—Carlson Family
Ushers: Volunteers

Sunday, September 6, 2026

Communion: Ricky Brenek
Lector: Monica Jahns
Altar Servers: E Cowen & Glasgow Family
Ushers: Roy Buckholt & Eugene Brenek

UPCOMING MASSES

8/30	Sunday 8:15 am:	+ Dolores Motl by Ted Motl + Darwin Bruggman by Family
9/1	Tuesday 7:00 am:	+ Jim & Joy Litzman by Lynne Hornung + Ricky Litzman & Jan Litzman Krpec by Lynne Hornung
9/3	Thursday 7:00 am:	+ Jerome Schoppe by Family + James Hering by Charlie & Jackie Green
9/5	Saturday Vigil 4:00 pm:	+ Glenda Hesse by B J & Kan Nan Ledger + Albina & Anton Vrazel by Daniel & Linda Wilde
9/6	Sunday 8:15 am:	+ Marietta Brenek by Michael Brenek + Maxie Roessler by Becky Roessler-Mahan

WESTPHALIA MASSES

8/30	Sunday 10:15 am
9/2	Wednesday 6:00 pm
9/4	Friday 8:00 am
9/5	Saturday Vigil 6:00 pm
9/6	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, Faye Kolek.

Stewardship—August 23—\$2649

Sanctuary Light—August 31—September 5—In Memory of Monica Mikeska by Oleta Wilde.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 30—Church of the Visitation is hosting a **BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR FR. RANJAN** after the **10:15 am** mass. They have invited our parish to join them in this celebration. There will be a pot luck meal. Attendees are asked to bring a side dish and/or dessert.

September 13—SS Cyril and Methodius Marak Annual Picnic—Fried chicken and sausage meal—\$15/plate—Serving begins at 11 am until sold out—Dine in or drive thru—Mass 9:30 am—Games 11:30 am—Auction—2:30 pm.

September 15—KC Meeting—7:00 pm.

September 20—Holy Trinity Corn Hill Annual Bazaar—BBQ & Fried Chicken—Adults \$15/Children \$5—Serving begins at 11:00 am—Adult drive thru plates available 11:00 am—12:30 pm—BBQ by the pound 8:am—noon at the pit—Auction 1:30 pm—Raffle—Grand prize \$2,000 Visa card.

September 20—St. Ann's—Rosebud—Festival—Beef tips and sausage plates—\$15 each—Service begins 10:30 am until sold out—Dine in or drive thru—Raffle drawing 1:00 pm.

Altar Society News

September 13—Next Altar Society meeting IN THE PARISH HALL following mass.