

**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.

**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 8, 2026 FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

To understand what Jesus means by calling his disciples “the salt of the earth,” St. Augustine said that we should keep in mind the two immediately preceding verses, the ones about being reviled and persecuted and about being slandered for the sake of Jesus. “Rejoice and be glad,” Jesus said, “for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you” (Mt 5:11-12). That’s what we should recall while reading these words about salt and light, St. Augustine wrote. We should remember Jesus’ strange words about joy and persecution. That is, if through fear of persecution, you shrink from bearing witness — shortsightedly forsaking eternal goods for temporal goods — how afterwards can you be of any use to God or to his kingdom? Why, that is, if you lack the courage of your convictions, would anyone believe anything you say? “But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned?” Jesus asks (Mt 5:13). He is talking about the strength of a disciple’s faith, his or her courage in face of the world’s persecuting hatred and violence. Does the Christian have any courage? Will he or she run away from persecution? Deny the truth? Deny Christ? “Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father,” Jesus will later say (Mt 10:33). That’s what he’s talking about when he talks about the “salt of the earth.”

St. Augustine similarly interprets Jesus’ talk of light and the bushel basket. He thinks about it in terms of preaching. When a preacher, for instance, cares more about bodily comforts than “preaching the truth,” that is, when he worries too much about suffering “annoyances in things physical and temporal,” then that’s exactly what he’s doing, he choosing to be cowardly and unenlightening; he’s hiding the light of truth. He’s doing exactly the opposite of what he was called to do by the light of the world himself (Jn 8:12). But, of course, this isn’t merely a temptation for preachers, is it? Among friends, in the family, or at work, each of us often hides the light of Christ, don’t we? Again, remember he’s talking about courage under persecution. Most of us buckle in silence under far less stress than that. We too are often, as Jesus said to Nicodemus, like those who prefer darkness to light (Jn 3:19). By the measure of salt and light, we all fail at times. The history of Christians is as much a history of valiant holiness and martyrdom as it is also a history of sin and cowardice. In that ancient age of persecution, in the third century, they were called the lapsi, the lapsed. These were they who cowered before the threat of violence, offering sacrifice to the Cap-itoline gods and the other false gods of Rome. These were they who, if they didn’t outrightly deny Christ, thought that they could perhaps at least accommodate Rome’s apostate demands, offering a little pinch of incense for the sake of saving themselves. For what could be the harm in that? For who wants more bloodshed? For why wouldn’t you want to save yourself?

Again, we know these internal negotiations still today. The lapsi remain among us still. Are we the lapsed? What about you? What about me? These words of Jesus about salt and light are still urgent, relevant even today. Still, it’s a question of conviction, of courage. Do we have any? And if we don’t, what good are we? Why would the world believe us? Before he was pope, in the book “Salt of the Earth,” then-Cardinal Ratzinger called this “a big temptation.” “People would sooner put up with false, impure, untruthful, and evil things than cause or have problems,” he said. “There is a willingness to purchase well-being, success, public regard, and approval from the reigning opinion by dispensing with the truth.” Again, just how universally relevant are these words of Jesus. If a future pope identifies this as a “temptation,” then so should we. Are we light? That is, are we willing to preach the fulness of truth? And are we salt? That is, are we willing to suffer it? These, of course, are not simply questions about whether we’re courageous Christians but whether we’re Christians at all.

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**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 14, 2026

Communion: Jackie Green  
Lector: Kristen Parker  
Altar Servers: Stumbaugh Family  
Ushers: Volunteers

### Sunday, February 15, 2026

Communion: Jason Hoelscher—Lacy Jahns—  
Sherry Kosel  
Lector: REP  
Altar Servers: Glasgow Family & E. Cowen  
Ushers: REP

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#### UPCOMING MASSES

2/8 Sunday 8:15 am: + Denise Posvar by Family  
+ Alice Stojanik by Brian & Joan Vanicek  
2/10 Tuesday 7:00 am: + Lucille Stock by Margaret Abel  
+ Monica Mikeska by Derek & Kim Campbell  
2/12 Thursday 7:00 am: + Barbara Macek by David & Lois Skala  
+ John Macha by Donald & Regina Kitten  
2/14 Saturday Vigil 4:00 pm: + Logan Balz by Terry & Pat Balz  
+ Anton Vrazel by SPJST Lodge 24 Flag Hall  
2/15 Sunday 8:15 am: + Darwin Bruggman by Family  
+ Maxie Roessler by Dennis & Carol Maurer

#### WESTPHALIA MASSES

2/8 Sunday 10:15 am  
2/11 Wednesday 6:00 pm  
2/13 Friday 8:00 am  
2/14 Saturday 6:00 pm  
2/15 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—February 1—\$3124

Building Fund—\$970

Sanctuary Light—February 8—14—In Memory of Raymond Daskocil by Oleta Wilde.

Email your request to [cyclone.marak@gmail.com](mailto:cyclone.marak@gmail.com) in order to receive a 2025 contribution statement for your records.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

February 7—8—Catholic Higher Education—Monies donated to this fund will go to Catholic campus ministry in the Diocese of Austin which aims to build a faith community on our college and university campuses, bring the message of Christ to the academic world, a prepare future leaders of society and our church.

February 8—Pines Camp bake sale following mass to help defray costs of REP students attending camp this summer.

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 [bonifacio-rodriguez@yahoo.com](mailto:bonifacio-rodriguez@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 [bingofundraiserctk@gmail.com](mailto:bingofundraiserctk@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.

Members of the Altar Society include all ladies ages 18-99+. Please join our next meeting today (Feb. 8) following mass. We're looking for fresh input and ideas as we discuss the Spring Fest and other planning for the remainder of the year. Monthly meetings are generally the second Sunday of the month.