

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

Mailing address: 20120 FM 485, Burlington, TX 76519...

Phone 254 985-2280.

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

Web address: stjcyclone.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.

OCTOBER 18, 2026 TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Gavin Esler, the Scottish journalist, wrote a book almost thirty years ago called "The United States of Anger." It was a prescient book. It seems an atmosphere like what we find in this portion of Matthew's Gospel. It seems like a similar malice. These are enemies; this is war. Those surrounding Jesus, the Pharisees and Herodians in this passage, are not acting in good faith. They are not looking for common ground or for truth at all. Matthew tells us this right away. "The Pharisees went off and plotted how they might entrap Jesus in speech," the passage begins (Mt 22:15). Plotting and entrapping are not what good people do. Pharisees, chief priests and elders had been trying to entangle Jesus in controversy ever since they asked him about John the Baptist (Mt 21:23-27). Now, looping in some Herodians, they try to trip up Jesus again. But again, they're not interested in the truth. They ask him whether it's lawful for Jews to pay the census tax. If Jesus says no, then he could be accused of zealotry and, more dangerously, sedition. For not only was it a matter of taxation, to renounce what the tax symbolized, what the emperor's image on the coin symbolized, was as good as to admit that one was an insurrectionist. It was to renounce Roman authority and power. That's why the Herodians were interested in this question, because they were card-carrying Roman loyalists. Yet if Jesus says yes, then what would the zealots that were following him think? Would they feel let down by Jesus' acquiescence to Roman tyranny and thus leave him? That's what the Pharisees and Herodians were hoping. They think they've got him cornered. They think that to save face he must choose between one or the other, between sedition or selling out. They think they've snared him.

But they're playing a zero-sum game. Jesus isn't. The Pharisees and Herodians can only see one answer or the other, but Jesus sees another. He asks for a coin; significantly, Jesus does not have a coin on him. He asks for a coin and says, "Whose image is this and whose inscription?" They tell him that it is Caesar's image stamped on the coin. "Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God," Jesus answers them (Mt 22:19-21). Jesus is indifferent to the controversy; it's a clever evasion. At the very least, he's not trapped, and so the Pharisees and Herodians quietly leave him with their proverbial tails tucked between their legs for the time being. (Mt 22:22). But what are we to learn from Jesus' clever evasion? First, Jesus is clearly not confined by the hatred and ravings that surround him. He can think outside the narrow categories of the Pharisees and Herodians. Jesus belongs so completely to the kingdom of God, his kingdom, that worldly power struggles and Roman real-politik simply do not count as important to the inauguration of the kingdom of God. That is, Jesus exemplifies what some Church fathers called *apatheia*, spiritual dispassion for the worries of the world, holy indifference.

Yet this is not to suggest that Jesus is teaching us to escape the world. Nor is he teaching us to divide the world between say Church and state, between sacred and secular. He is not teaching us that there are two kingdoms, each with their proper sovereignty, and that we should at one moment obey one and then at other times obey the other. Rather, what Jesus is teaching us is that the kingdom will come by another way. It won't come by our cooperating with evil nor will it come by way of zealotry, terrorism or violence. Both the Herodian compromiser playing political games and the zealot aggressor plotting violence are wrong; they both are playing a game that simply doesn't matter to Jesus, and which shouldn't much matter to Jesus' followers either. What matters to Jesus is love — for the poor, for the outcast, for the sinner, for the Father. That's what should make the Christian a revolutionary, loving like that, not politics or violence but love. And, of course, love doesn't care who Caesar is.

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, October 24, 2026

Communion: Janie Walker
Lector: Steve Walker
Altar Servers: Stumbaugh Family
Ushers: Volunteers

Sunday, October 25, 2026

Communion: Melody Vrana
Lector: Meagan Cox
Altar Servers: D Jahns—C & E Vrana—H Cowen
Ushers: Moody Glasgow & Russell Dolgener

UPCOMING MASSES

10/18 Sunday 8:15 am: + Lucille Stock by Betty Smith
+ Josie Kleypas by Bill & Carol Smetana
10/20 Tuesday 7:00 am: Communion Service
10/22 Thursday 7:00 am: Communion Service
10/24 Saturday Vigil 4:00 pm: + Barbara Macek by Arlene Wegwerth
+ Monica Mikeska by Charlie & Doris Wright
10/25 Sunday 8:15 am: + Darwin Bruggman by Family
+ Jerome Schoppe by Family

WESTPHALIA MASSES

10/18 Sunday 10:15 am
10/21 Communion Service
Wednesday 6:00 pm
10/23 Communion Service
Friday 8:00 am
10/24 Saturday Vigil 6:00 pm
10/25 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—October 11—\$2117 Building Fund—\$981

Sanctuary Light—October 18—24—In Memory of Glenda Hesse by John & Janie Hattemer.

PICNIC RESULTS ARE AVAILABLE IN CHURCH ENTRY.

EXTRA PARISH T-SHIRTS in various sizes are available for purchase. If interested, contact Kristen Parker at 254-258-7618.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 18—St. LukeFest—Temple—St. Luke Church Grounds—10 A—4 P—Food, music, children's games, silent auction, bingo, & more.

October 19—Post picnic meeting—Parish Hall—6:30 pm.

October 20—KC Meeting—7:00 pm.

October 27—Parish Council meeting—6 pm in Parish Hall.

October 28—REP Trunk or Treat—6:00—8:00 pm—Come dressed up saintly or a little spooky. Please come volunteer to bring your vehicle/trunk to give out candy & treats and play games. Nachos, Frito pie and hot dogs with dessert available. We will need dessert donations, please! Come out for a great time and shine Jesus' light.

November 6 & 7—Bell County Extension Education Association Garage Sale—Seaton Community Center—November 6 11:00 am—6:00 pm November 7 8:00 am—4:00 pm—Proceeds benefit 4-H Scholarships.

November 7—Seaton Church Christian Sisters Annual Bake Sale—9:00 am—2:00 pm—Kolaches, cakes, pies, breads, homemade canned goods—Inside garage sale—Sandwiches & soup available for lunch—Free Admission—Cash & checks only.

November 15—19—Holy Trinity Parish in Corn Hill will present a Parish Mission entitled "Work Out Your Salvation! The Theology of Faithfulness to Daily Duty" November 15 - 19. Father of Mercy Wade L.J. Menezes will speak about Being Faithful to Your Daily Duty, Be Other-Centered, Understanding the Reality of Vice and Virtue, Practicing and Living the Sacraments and Live a Trinitarian Spiritually. Sunday will begin with confessions at 5:00 pm, Book signing at 6:00 pm, with Holy Hour & Mission at 6:30 p.m. Monday - Thursday will begin with confessions and a light meal at 5:30 p.m., then the mission at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call the parish office at (512) 863-3020.

Altar Society News

November 8—Altar Society Meeting following mass in the Parish Hall.

We are collecting food items for college care packages—6 students—Donations due at church by November 14 & 15.