

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

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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.

Confessions: SATURDAYS 3:00-3:30 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.

JANUARY 11, 2026 THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Our liturgies carry us to Christ; our worship becomes an encounter. What we adore is revealed in sacrament, revealing our intimate God, the God who draws near, who touches us — again, in sacrament. It is what we celebrate this Sunday: the baptism of the Lord. Our Advent longing and our Christmas adoration draw now to a close, and they culminate in this sacramental moment, the baptism of Jesus. In Advent, we sought him; at Christmas, we adored him; on the feast of the Holy Family, we contemplated him; at Epiphany, we paid him homage as Lord of all. And now, we encounter him in sacrament. Baptized because he was first baptized, we can't help but recall our own baptism, the sacrament of death and rebirth in Christ, which is how we encounter the Lord. That's how the birth of Jesus is made relevant, how Christmas comes to us — in the sacraments we celebrate. This Sunday we celebrate the simple yet marvelous fact that the Christ born at Christmas is the same Christ who submitted to baptism "to fulfill all righteousness" (Mt 3:15). Which is the baptism we know, our baptism into Christ Jesus, into his death, so that we can be raised from the dead like him, that "we too might walk in newness of life" (Rom 6:3-4). Christ is born for us in mystery; we encounter him in mystery; the name of that encounter is baptism. And that is how we are born into Christ, how we become Christians; it's how it is no longer we but Christ who lives in us (Gal 2:20).

Which brings us to this passage from Matthew, his account of Jesus' baptism. In it is revealed just who this Jesus is and what he intends to do. In it thus is revealed also something about who we are and what we are to do since by baptism we are now in Christ. Coming out of the water, the "heavens were opened for him" and the Spirit falls upon Jesus; in his baptism earth and heaven are joined; the divine and the created come together (Mt 3:16). Just think what this says about your own baptism, how it opens heaven! But then, pay attention to the voice from the heavens: "This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased" (Mt 3:17). What does this teach us? In calling Jesus "my ... Son," his Davidic kingship is evoked (Ps 2:7). In calling him "beloved," sacrifice is evoked, that is Jesus' likeness to Isaac (Gn 22:2). In saying that in him God is "well pleased," Isaiah is evoked, the idea that Jesus is God's "servant," the prophetic figure meant to establish "justice on earth" (Is 42:4). This is who Jesus is. And in these words from heaven are revealed also what he'll accomplish.

But what does this mean? Now that we've been given some clue as to Jesus' true identity, what comes next? Open your Bible and keep reading. For in the very next verse, Matthew writes, "Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil" (Mt 4:1). After the revelation of God in Christ, the battle begins. After your baptism in Christ, the struggle begins. The mind here already begins to wander toward Lent, soon enough to come. But really, the lesson is more immediately moral, and it's that although baptism is indeed the sacrament of salvation, that doesn't mean it signifies the end of the struggle but rather the beginning. That is, once baptized, now you're ready to take on the devil. Thus, recalling Christ's baptism, we should recall ours. Understanding Christ's identity, we should understand ours. Seeing Christ's battle against the devil and his sacrifice, we should see ours. Doesn't it seem that in the feast of the Baptism of Jesus we begin to turn from Bethlehem to Jerusalem, from the crèche to Calvary? What are we to do with the Christmas we just celebrated but to make our way into the desert, to prepare ourselves, to strengthen ourselves to take up our cross and follow? Because, of course, baptized into Christ, his life is now ours.

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, January 17, 2026

Communion: Kristen Parker
Lector: Letha Novosad
Altar Servers: K & H Hejl
Ushers: Volunteers

Sunday, January 18, 2026

Communion: Christina Brenek—Sherry Kosel—
Debbie Buckholt
Lector: REP
Altar Servers: Glasgow Family & E. Cowen
Ushers: REP

UPCOMING MASSES

1/11 Sunday 8:15 am: + Nancy Hubnik by Bernadette Bruggman
+ Alice Stojanik by Charlie & Jackie Green
1/13 Tuesday 7:00 am: + Barbara Macek by Monica Mikeska
+ Jerome Schoppe by Family
1/15 Thursday 7:00 am: + Living & Deceased Kerrville Flood Victims by Charlie &
Jackie Green
+ Bernadette Ketterman by Charlie & Jackie Green
1/17 Saturday Vigil 4:00 pm: + Monica Mikeska by Rachel Green
+ John Macha by Glenn & Kelly Lawrence
1/18 Sunday 8:15 am: + Linda Hering by Manard & Patsy Moeller
+ Maxie Roessler by Patsy Cofer

WESTPHALIA MASSES

1/11 Sunday 10:15 am
1/14 Wednesday 6:00 pm
1/16 Friday 8:00 am
1/17 Saturday 6:00 pm
1/18 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 4—\$2340 Solemnity of Mary—\$703 Building Fund—\$759

Sanctuary Light—January 11-17—In Memory of Joe & Martha Dubcak by Nancy Posvar.

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

2026 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES ARE IN THE CHURCH ENTRANCE. PLEASE PICK YOURS UP.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 18—REP will be selling breakfast tacos following mass. Please support our youth!

January 20—KC Meeting—7:00 pm.

January 24—The Altar Society of the Church of the Visitation is hosting a Rosary Retreat in the Parish Hall. Wendy Staab, presenter of this retreat, shares her knowledge and boundless energy and will capture your attention. Lunch is included in the \$20 fee. Register and pay online by January 19 at austindccw.org/events or mail check payable to: Westphalia Altar Society, 395 FM 431, Lott, TX 76656.

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 bonifaciorodriguez@yahoo.com.

ALTAR SOCIETY NEWS

January 11—Next Altar Society Meeting TODAY following mass.