

**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.

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.

JANUARY 25, 2026 THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The gospel readings this week focus on the beginning of Jesus' ministry: how he left Nazareth, where he was raised, and moved to Galilee to start his public preaching in order to fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah. "When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee," the author of Matthew tells us. "From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'" The Gospel of Matthew doesn't tell us why John was arrested. It doesn't say very much about the arrest at all. It doesn't tell us if there is a trial or if people protest his arrest: He simply disappears from the narrative. The previous chapter is all about John's ministry and his baptism of Jesus, but in Matthew 3 Jesus starts his ministry, and for the rest of the gospel, he is the focus of the story.

We have to look outside of Matthew for more clues about John's arrest. The Gospel of Luke, which follows a very similar timeline to Matthew—John the Baptist preaches, Jesus is baptized, then goes into the wilderness to be tested for 40 days, then returns and starts his public ministry after John's arrest—gives us a few more details. In Luke 3, the author tells us that John had been public about his criticism of Herod, both for marrying his brother's wife and for "all the evil things that Herod had done," and, as a result, Herod had shut John in prison. Mark 6 goes into even more detail about John's imprisonment and death: It is here we read about Herod's wife, Herodias, having a grudge against John and manipulating her daughter into having him put to death. But in today's reading, we aren't even told that Herod was behind it.

Matthew's silence is striking compared to the other two gospels. The author could have named Herod. He could have explained why John went to prison—for speaking against the evils of a political leader. But instead, he quickly moves on: John is arrested, and Jesus begins to preach. The focus is not on how a ruler silenced a prophet, but rather how another prophet—Jesus Christ—stood up and called out that unjust act. "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

When Jesus did this—when the arrest of his cousin inspired him to enter the public ministry he knew his purpose in life—he didn't go to the doors of Herod's palace. He didn't call for merely Herod to repent. Instead, his message was to an entire society. For it is not merely one man's actions that caused John's death; an entire society and culture allowed this governance to continue and create a world where innocent people could disappear into prison.

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 31, 2026

Communion: Katherine Pechal
Lector: Kenneth Pechal
Altar Servers: LaCoure Family
Ushers: Volunteers

Sunday, February 1, 2026

Communion: Lacy Jahns
Lector: Moody Glasgow
Altar Servers: K & H Hejl—S & L Jahns
Ushers: Jimmie Cox & Kyle Kacir

UPCOMING MASSES

1/25	Sunday 8:15 am:	+ Lucille Stock by Margaret Abel + Logan Balz by Terry & Pat Balz
1/27	Tuesday 7:00 am:	+ Josie Kleypas by David & Janet Kasner + Ruth Doskocil by David & Janet Kasner
1/29	Thursday 7:00 am:	+ Monica Mikeska by Roy & Debbie Buckholt + Nancy Hubnik by Terry & Barbara McNeill
1/31	Saturday Vigil 4:00 pm:	+ Barbara Macek by Monica Mikeska + Zachary Schneider by Pat Armstrong
2/1	Sunday 8:15 am:	+ Jerome Schoppe by Family + Stanley Motl by Charlie Tischler

WESTPHALIA MASSES

1/25	Sunday 10:15 am
1/28	Wednesday 6:00 pm
1/30	Friday 8:00 am
1/31	Saturday 6:00 pm
2/1	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 18—\$2539

Sanctuary Light—January 25—31—In Memory of Jerome Schoppe 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.

NEW MINISTRY LISTS ARE IN THE CHURCH ENTRY AND ON THE CHURCH WEBSITE.

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 bonifaciorodriguez@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.

ALTAR SOCIETY NEWS

February 8—Next Altar Society Meeting following mass.