

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.

Easter changes everything of course. The resurrection of Jesus sets everything on its head. One must get used to Easter, adjust to it, to the very idea of it, much less the consequences of it. Inaugurating a whole new kingdom, a whole new universe, a new horizon and a new life, centuries removed from the historical fact of Jesus' resurrection, we can sometimes forget just how discomfiting news of the resurrection was at first. Sometimes even today we forget just how radical it all is. Easily we forget just how much, having changed everything, Easter should also change us. If you read the stories of Jesus's resurrection in the Gospels, you'll find bewilderment. That is, it's clear from the Gospels that the disciples at first really didn't know what to make of the news that the tomb was empty. For instance, when Mary Magdalene and the other women told the disciples what they had witnessed, Luke writes that the disciples thought it all an "idle tale, and they did not believe them." Even after Peter saw things for himself, he didn't know quite what to make of it. Seeing the empty tomb and the folded linen, it just says that Peter "went home wondering at what had happened". But that's not all. Matthew writes how in Galilee when the disciples saw him, "they worshipped him; but some doubted". Even Mary Magdalene's experience, as recorded in John's Gospel, was full of uncertain vision and awkwardness. Mistaking him initially for a gardener, when she finally recognized him, Jesus had to tell her, "Do not hold me". Even after seeing the risen Lord, Mary Magdalene still had to adjust to a new reality she didn't immediately comprehend.

And now to Luke's Gospel, to this famous story about the two disciples on their way to Emmaus. To note the general phenomenon of Easter bewilderment helps us better understand this story; and likewise, it helps us begin to think about how we can make sense of Easter in our own lives. Everyone knows the story. Two men on their way to Emmaus come upon a man on the road that they do not recognize is the risen Jesus himself. A conversation begins and the two men tell Jesus about "the things" that had just happened in Jerusalem. Jesus asks them, "What sort of things?" The things about "Jesus the Nazarene...a prophet mighty in deed and word," they answer. And then they admit their bewilderment. "Some women from our group, however, have astounded us," they say to their unrecognized Lord. Like all the others in those other stories, they too don't really know what to make of it. But that's when Jesus begins his loving catechesis. His truth gently assuages their bewilderment. Walking with them, not leaving them — Jesus begins to open their minds and set their hearts on fire. By now almost every detail in this story is full of spiritual significance. "Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the Scriptures," the story goes. By means of his teaching, and by the gift of his even unrecognized presence, the Lord brings the two bewildered disciples not just to knowledge but to desire. "Stay with us," they ask the Lord. "Were not our hearts burning within us," they say to each other.

And then Jesus breaks the bread. And then they recognize him. They see the risen Lord. Which is just what the Lord does with bewildered disciples, and not just these two on their way to Emmaus, but also us. Bewildered, Jesus gently leads us into sacramental reality, to sacramental sight. The allusions here obviously point to the Eucharist. For that, Luke is telling us is what will assuage our bewilderment, replacing it with illumination: the sacramental Body and Blood of Jesus, the Holy Eucharist. For the newer rite is here. So, what does it mean for us? What it means is that if you're wondering just how Easter applies to you, wondering what difference it makes, then the best thing to do would be to read your Bible and go to Mass. What's amazing about this story from Luke is that it describes something that we can do today, every day and Sunday after Sunday. Your hearts can burn with Christ's truth too. You can recognize him too. Which, before one can begin to embrace the tremendous moral change the resurrection demands of us — for example, to love without fear of death — is where one ought to begin, begging for the illumination that is the gift of word and sacrament, the necessary truth and food of Easter people.

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, April 25, 2026

Communion: Pat Armstrong
Lector: John Hattemer
Altar Servers: LaCoure Family
Ushers: Volunteers

Sunday, April 26, 2026

Communion: Sherry Kosel
Lector: Moody Glasgow
Altar Servers: H & E Cowen—A Stumbaugh—E Eixman
Ushers: Kosel Family

UPCOMING MASSES

4/19 Sunday 8:15 am: + Denise Posvar by Family
+ Dolores Motl by Ted Motl
4/21 Tuesday 7:00 am: + Josephine Psencik by Charlie & Jackie Green
+ Lucille Stock by KC's
4/23 Thursday 7:00 am: + Monica Mikeska by Robert Macek Family
+ Glenda Hesse by Bill & Pat Proctor
4/25 Saturday Vigil 4:00 pm: + Nancy Hubnik by Monica Mikeska
+ Anton Vrazel by SPJST Lodge 24 Flag Hall
4/26 Sunday 8:15 am: + Linda Hering by Family
+ Darwin Bruggman by Family

WESTPHALIA MASSES

4/19 Sunday 10:15 am
4/22 Wednesday 6:00 pm
4/24 Friday 8:00 am
4/25 Saturday Vigil 6:00 pm
4/26 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, Theresa Klecka.

Stewardship—April 12—\$2495 Good Friday—\$85 Building Fund—\$145

Sanctuary Light—April 19—25—In Memory of Jerome Schoppe by Family.

SPRINGFEST INFO: 1811 plates sold—Meat money received \$930—Ladies Booth \$1265—Leftover Food Sales \$286—Donations \$200—Net Profit \$19,432.51. THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO HELPED AND MADE OUR EVENT A SUCCESS.

CALL TO SERVE! St. Joseph's Vacation Bible School 2026 is Saturday June 13. Part of our call to our faith is being active participants in our church. Adults and our older youth (7th grade and up) please contact Crystal Cowen if you could volunteer some of your time to make this year's VBS a success. We need class leaders and helpers for all or part of the day and/or to help decorate the week prior. Text or call Crystal at 254-721-5104.

SCHOLARSHIPS—The Burlington-Cameron Branch of Catholic Life Insurance is sponsoring a scholarship to graduating seniors from our parish and other parishes represented by our Branch. See Shirley Hoelscher, REP coordinator for applications.

St. Mary's Altar Society is sponsoring 2—\$1000 scholarships. Applications are in church entry—Due April 26.

2026 Patriotism Scholarship—Sponsored by KC 4th Degree #3488—Deadline April 30—Applications in church entry—More information on bulletin board.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 19—Spring Festival—St. Mary's Temple—10:00 am—4:00 pm—1018 S. 7th St—Food, games, live music, carnival rides, bingo, and fun for the whole family—Learn more at stmarys-temple.org/spring-festival.

April 21—KC Meeting—7:00 pm.

April 23—Pet Vaccination—5:00 pm—7:00 pm—Parish Hall—Dr. Johnnie Richter, DVM—CYO will be selling their delicious hamburgers—Get your pets vaccinated and support our Cyclone Youth Organization—Questions contact Ricky Brenek at 254-721-5011 or Michael Brenek at 254-721-8877.

April 26—First Communion—Breakfast following mass.

May 7—Armor of God—Night of Vision and Prayer—61 N. Gilmer St., Killeen—5:30—8:00 pm—Mission—To stand united in the fight to eradicate homelessness, hopelessness, and loneliness in Bell County. Come connect, be inspired, and take part in something bigger than yourself. Contact JT Haun at 254-630-6944 or armorofgodtx@gmail.com. Visit them at aogoutreach.com.

April 7—June 2—Sacred Heart Church in Lott is sponsoring a faith formation class which consists of a study on the mystery and meaning of the Cross. Tuesdays @ 7P in the Sacred Heart Hall. Contact Chris Lincoln at chris@chrislincoln.com or 559-473-8357.

ALTAR SOCIETY NEWS

May 3—Next Altar Society meeting following mass in the Parish Hall.

Altar Society is collecting for college care packages through April 18/19. We have 3 students that will receive packages.