

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: stjyclone.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.

MARCH 22, 2026 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

It is the seventh of John's seven signs, the resurrection of Lazarus from the dead. It is a sign that at once tells us about Jesus and ourselves, that he is the resurrection and the life and that such is our destiny. That is, for those of us who believe. As with any masterpiece, it's a story to be discerned from many angles. Within the drama of John itself, the miracle of Lazarus is the controversy which pushes the plot toward the Passion; for after this, John tells us, "the Pharisees gathered the council, and said, 'What are we to do?'" (Jn 11:47). That is, the story points us to Palm Sunday and to the Triduum; it alerts us that the tragedy is soon to unfold. Mystagogically we can also read this story, again recalling the ancient scrutinies, as a parable of the catechumen's journey toward baptism. Desiring the living water of God, receiving the light and sight of faith in Christ, now in death the Christian, the beloved of Jesus, receives resurrected life.

All these stories work as a symbol not only of baptism and life in Christ but of the future transformation of one's earthly death into the gift of eternal life. That is, the Samaritan woman is us; the man born blind is us; Lazarus too is us. This is also a story about the fulfillment of Christ, about how Jesus proves the truth of his words, the truth of who he is, by his deeds. "I am the light of the world," Jesus says, and then in short order he gives the man born blind the light of sight (Jn 8:12; 9:5). "I am the resurrection and the life," Jesus says, and then not long after that he shouts, "Lazarus, come out" (Jn 11:25; 43). What he is he accomplishes; the signs testify. He is the Messiah. He is light and life. Which brings us to consider a spiritual truth. Jesus is resurrection and life; he is light too. That much is clear from what we have read of John's Gospel thus far. But what's beautiful is that the way we draw near to resurrection and life and light is by drawing near to Jesus, by loving him, by becoming his friend. Christianity is not some esoteric cult, some cold pure intellectual philosophy; rather, it's humble friendship with God. It's simply knowing and loving Jesus enough such that you can recognize his voice even from the grave.

The resurrection of Lazarus proves what Jesus said earlier in John's Gospel. Arguing earlier in Jerusalem, Jesus said, "the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live" (Jn 5:25). That's why when Jesus heard of Lazarus' death, he said that it was meant "for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by means of it" (Jn 11:4). Because Jesus knew what he would do, that he would call his friend out from the darkness of the tomb into the light of life. Again, because Jesus and Lazarus were friends. Repeatedly in this story the love between Jesus and Lazarus is underlined; that's not an accident. "See how he loved him!" the onlookers say (Jn 11:36). In fact, over the years many scholars have wondered if Lazarus might have been the mysterious "Beloved Disciple," but that's beside the point. Rather, what matters is that what we see in John 11 is closer to what St. Thomas Aquinas put very simply, and that is that the perfection of charity is man's friendship with God. Which, again very simply, is a friendship possible for each of us.

Are you close enough to Jesus that it makes sense for him to attend your funeral? That's another way to put it. We attend the funerals of friends and acquaintances; sometimes we are close to the deceased while at other times we're merely paying our respects. Family and close friends we honor and console. Who first received the news? Who needs to be there? These are questions of friendship. Who were the dead man's friends? If you were the deceased in question, where would Jesus fit into your funeral? Are you his friend? Is he yours? A close friend? A mere acquaintance? A fruitful meditation, maybe that's a good way to pray about it. For I don't know about you, but I want Jesus to attend my funeral, to call my name in the graveyard. Because I know what it did for Lazarus. I believe what it can do for me.

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, March 28, 2026

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

Sunday, March 29, 2026

Communion: Sherry Kosel
Lector: Patty Glasgow & Michael Jahns
Altar Servers: K & H Hejl—S & L Jahns
Ushers: David Kasner & Kyle Kacir

UPCOMING MASSES

3/22 Sunday 8:15 am: + Alice Stojanik by Charlie & Jackie Green
+ Alfred Schneider by JoAnn Klepac
3/24 Tuesday 7:00 am: + Josephine Psencik by Charlie & Jackie Green
+ Jerome Schoppe by Family
3/26 Thursday 7:00 am: + Monica Mikeska by Ken & Jeanette Driska
+ Eric Wilde by Charlie & Jackie Green
3/27 Friday 6:00 pm: + Alfred Schneider by JoAnne Klepac
Stations of the Cross & Mass Good Health for All by Charlie & Jackie Green
3/28 Saturday Vigil 4:00 pm: + Barbara Macek by David & Janet Kasner
+ Anton & Albina Vrazel by Daniel & Linda Wilde+
3/29 Sunday 8:15 am: + Lucille Stock by KC's
+ Darwin Bruggman by Family

WESTPHALIA MASSES

3/22 Sunday 10:15 am
3/25 Wednesday 6:00 pm
3/27 Friday 8:00 am
3/28 Saturday 6:00 pm
3/29 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.

Stewardship—March 15—\$1882 Catholic Relief Services—\$455 Building Fund—\$100

Sanctuary Light—March 22-28—In Memory of Jerome Schoppe by Family.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 20—March 27—Westphalia Knights of Columbus Council #13902 will sponsor a drive-thru Shrimp & Fish Fry every Friday evening. Plates will be "to go only" starting at 3:30 pm until 7:15 pm (or until sold out). Plates will consist of fried shrimp, fried fish, beans, slaw, and French fries. Cost \$15/plate. Plates can be picked up in drive-thru lane behind Westphalia Parish Hall. Proceeds support KC's charity goals for the year.

March 21 & 22—Altar Society will be collecting money for Easter flowers.

March 22—Salem Lutheran Church BBQ Fundraiser—Star Hall—11:00 am—2:00 pm—BBQ beef, sausage, beans, potato salad, slaw, dessert & tea—\$15/plate—Dine in or drive thru—Proceeds going to the American Cancer Society Relay for Life—Help Fight Cancer!

March 25—"Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary" at special Masses on the Annunciation of the Lord. Rosary & Mass will be offered at St. Mary Cathedral—Austin at 6:00 pm; at St. Paul Church—Austin; at 6:30 pm; at St. Thomas Aquinas Church—College Station at 11:45 am; at Holy Family Church—Copperas Cove at 5:00 pm; at St. John the Baptist Church—Fayetteville at 11:45 am; and St. Helen Church—Georgetown at 11:30am—Visit www.TexasToJesusThroughMary.org for more information.

ALTAR SOCIETY NEWS

April 12—Next Altar Society meeting following mass.

Spring Fest—March 29—Cutting cabbage and making slush for slaw Thursday, March 26 at 6 pm in parish hall. Mixing slaw and preparing roasters Saturday March 28 at 8:30 am. Please pick up your Worklists in church entry. Flyers are also in entry. Distribute to businesses.