

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

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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 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.

How many times have we heard Jesus described as “The Good Shepherd”? here it is again in the scriptures for this fourth Sunday of Easter (commonly called “Good Shepherd Sunday”). The image is familiar, poignant, tender; it asks us to think differently about our relationship with the Lord. He is one who guides, prods, leads, protects, with the attention and patience of a shepherd tending his flock, with a firm but gentle hand. As the psalmist put it so famously — and we hear it again this week he guides us through both dark valleys and verdant pastures. We want for nothing.

Countless artists have depicted Jesus the shepherd caring for his flock, and churches around the world have been named for this indelible image. It’s iconic and inspiring. But are we missing something? We pay so much attention to the figure of the shepherd in this Gospel, we might overlook another important detail. Look closely. Or maybe, more accurately, listen closely: The lesson in this passage is about more than herding livestock. It’s not just about the one we see and choose to follow. It’s also about listening. Hearing the shepherd’s voice. Recognizing it. Knowing it. Acting on it.

Jesus mentions it no less than three times. “The sheep hear his voice,” Jesus says, “as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out...the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice. They will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers.” It places a question before all of us. In the ordinary routine of daily life, faced with challenges, choices and decisions to make, are we paying attention? Are we listening? What voice are we hearing? What (or who) is calling us in any direction? What call are we answering? When it matters, do we recognize the call of Christ?

In these first weeks after Easter, we need to remember the unmistakable voice of Jesus and what he had to say to his apostles when he first appeared to them after the Resurrection. His first word to them was “peace.” Significantly, it was the first word that Robert Prevost spoke when he appeared on the balcony last year and greeted the world as Pope Leo XIV. When we recognize the voice of Jesus, it means that we do more than just realize who it belongs to; it’s about more than tone or timbre or volume and, after all, how many of us have actually heard Jesus speak? When we think about recognizing the voice of Christ, recognizing the shepherd guiding our way, it means to understand him, to trust him, to respond to him and to go where he wants us to go.

The voice of Jesus the Good Shepherd leads us in a way of compassion, mercy and hope. It is the way of fulfilling God’s plan for our lives — and as Jesus says so famously in John’s Gospel, he himself is “the way, the truth and the life.” Christ remains the ultimate GPS. He guides us in the direction of repentance and renewal. In this season when we celebrate the Resurrection, the voice of Jesus heralds hope. When we hear the voice of Jesus, it is not a voice of fear or hostility; it is not a call to bitterness or rash judgement or dismissiveness or disdain. Turn down the volume on the chattering voices you hear on social media, cable television and YouTube. You won’t hear Jesus there. Jesus wants us to go in a different direction. Are we listening?

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, May 2, 2026

Communion: Janie Walker
Lector: Steve Walker
Altar Servers: Novosad & Souhrada Families
Ushers: Volunteers

Sunday, May 3, 2026

Communion: Debbie Buckholt
Lector: Cheyenne Jahns
Altar Servers: J, J, A Stumbaugh—R Jahns
Ushers: Lewis Moeller & Jeff Posvar

UPCOMING MASSES

4/26 Sunday 8:15 am: + Linda Hering by Family
+ Darwin Bruggman by Family

4/28 Tuesday 7:00 am: + Monica Mikeska by Pat Balz
+ Leon Hoelscher by Roy & Debbie Buckholt

4/30 Thursday 7:00 am: + Marie Macha by Chris & Peggy Hrabel
+ Pamela Belyeu by Bill & Carol Smetana

5/2 Saturday Vigil 4:00 pm: + Barbara Macek by Raymond & Margaret Moeller
+ Gilbert & Pauline Wilde by Daniel & Linda Wilde

5/3 Sunday 8:15 am: + Maxie Roessler by Smetana Family
+ Jerome Schoppe by Family

WESTPHALIA MASSES

4/26 Sunday 10:15 am
4/29 Wednesday 6:00 pm
5/1 NO MASS
5/2 Saturday Vigil 6:00 pm
5/3 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 19—\$2746 Building Fund—\$35

Sanctuary Light—April 26—May 2—In Memory of Jerome Schoppe by Family.

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 26—First Communion—Breakfast following mass.

April 26—Barclay Community Center Fundraiser—BBQ with trimmings—11:00 AM—? - Silent Auction—Dine-in or Take out.

May 3—May Crowning.

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.

May 17—Senior Recognition Mass—Breakfast following mass—All invited.

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.

May 20—Killeen—Temple Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Deanery Meeting—Holy Family —Copperas Cove—10 AM.