

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 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.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026 TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Dorothy Day thought that this parable from Matthew's Gospel, which we hear this Sunday, justified a Catholic's support for the idea of a living wage. She wrote, "He spoke of the living wage, not equal pay for equal work, in the parable of those who came at the first and the eleventh hour." Now aside from this specific suggestive interpretation, her general point was that, by our accounting, God is often inexplicably gracious, and further that God's graciousness should make us gracious too. And in all things, even in matters economic. Which is the fundamental truth, what Jesus Christ revealed in both word and deed, that God is a relentless giver of grace, that he is perfectly gracious. And in all things, not just in matters economic. At the end of this parable in Matthew Jesus says, "the last will be first, and the first will be last" (Mt 20:16). He is not talking about wages here but about Israel, the covenants, the kingdom of God, and who is welcome. Jesus is saying that when it is all said and done, we are going to be surprised by who we see in the kingdom. Because it won't just be those who are conventionally good or conventionally religious or righteous; the kingdom will also include sinners and tax collectors, those with faith and the penitent, whomever they are. Even if they played the game wrong all their lives, or didn't play at all, still it's possible that they just might win in the end. For such is God's generosity. And not just included, such people might even find themselves "first" in the kingdom of heaven. It's best not to be too clear what being first may precisely mean; St. Paul wrote that "star differs from star" in glory, and it's probably better to leave it at that (1 Cor 15:41). But nonetheless we will likely be very surprised by who is in heaven and how it's all arranged.

If the "In Paradisum" is anything to go by, heaven has a homeless man working the door. In heaven as it isn't on earth, that's the point. It's exactly what the self-righteous Mrs. Turpin learned at the end of Flannery O'Connor's short story, "Revelation." In a vision she saw the heavenly procession. At the front of it was a "vast horde of souls...battalions of freaks," people whom she had always looked down on and judged. And only at the end of the line did she see "a tribe of people whom she recognized at once as those who, like herself...always had a little of everything." These latter saints at the back of line, all their lives, were used to being first; but again, in heaven as it isn't on earth. That's why O'Connor ends the story telling us about their "shocked and altered faces" and how all their superficial virtues had to be "burned away." For they had to learn just how differently God saw things. Which is the spiritual and moral challenge of the parable. How differently does God see things? How differently does he see others? And if he sees others differently — say, if he loves them — then why do we hold on to our prejudices and petty hatreds? Wouldn't it be sensible, spiritually and morally speaking, to change how we see things and see other people? Wouldn't it be sensible to try to see the way God sees? For that is what would truly make us gracious. And here we come back to what Dorothy Day was saying about this parable and a living wage. What she was suggesting is that sometimes one's spiritual sense should override one's economic sense, that sometimes, often in fact, one should not just be fair but gracious. For that's exactly how God is; that's exactly what he does. "Graciousness is an old-fashioned word but it has a beautiful religious tradition," Day once wrote. It's to participate in divine life. So, this parable invites us to look at everything differently. It invites us to see everything from God's perspective, to see everything in terms of grace and graciousness. Which is, admittedly, to see things strangely. But it's also to see a better world and maybe the beginning of heaven too.

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, September 26, 2026

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

Sunday, September 27, 2026

Communion: Sherry Kosel
Lector: Cheyenne Jahns
Altar Servers: K & H Hejl—Schneider Family
Ushers: Jimmie Cox & Kyle Kacir

UPCOMING MASSES

9/20	Sunday 8:15 am:	+ Larry Posvar by Family Armor of God Radio Donors Intentions by Armor of God Radio
9/22	Tuesday 7:00 am:	+ Josephine Psencik by Roy & Debbie Buckholt + James Hering by Charlie & Jackie Green
9/24	Thursday 7:00 am:	+ Elsie Jez by Elizabeth O'Brien + Lucille Stock by Margaret Mikeska
9/26	Saturday Vigil 4:00 pm:	+ Monica Mikeska by Robert Macek Family + Rubin & Leona Gottschalk by Clyde Gottschalk
9/27	Sunday 8:15 am:	+ Marietta Brenek by Joe & Beatrice Mallory + Maxie Roessler by Patsy Cofer

WESTPHALIA MASSES

9/20	Sunday 10:15 am
9/23	Wednesday 6:00 pm
9/25	Friday 8:00 am
9/26	Saturday Vigil 6:00 pm
9/27	Sunday 10:15 am

In your charity, please pray for: Homebound: Leora Hering. Good health: A. J. Stermer, Bill Stock, Dorothy Haisler, Evelyn Richter, Al & Lou Buckholt, Mary Jane Underwood, Lindsey Pierce, Rebecca Marek, Margaret Campbell, Barbara Johnson, Fr. Tom Chamberlain, Theresa Klecka, Faye Kolek.

Stewardship—September 13—\$2148 Building fund—\$25 Assumption of Mary—\$20

Sanctuary Light—September 20—26—In Memory of Larry Posvar by Family.

PICNIC INFO

September 24—Thursday—6 pm—cut cabbage, mix slaw slush—light meal served
September 26—Saturday—8 am—set up inside hall & set up booths, clean cook shed, clean hall, mix slaw
September 28—Monday—8 am—clean up trash, kitchen/hall, take down stands, etc.
\$25 for meat purchase (optional), 4 cakes—bring Saturday 9—11 am or Sunday morning—NOT CUT
Homemade items for Country Store, 3-4 hardware items, 1-2 bingo items (NEW), at least 1 auction item.

Parish t-shirts have been ordered for all who are on picnic work list. They will be available on Wednesday, September 23 during CCD, and then for pickup on Saturday, September 26 in parish hall. Extras have been ordered and will be available for purchase.

St. Luke, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and St. Mary's in Temple have been hosting Seasons of Hope, an in person grief group for several years. September 24 they will begin to offer the six session group online utilizing zoom. Cost is under \$10. Can't drive at night or would prefer attending online, contact Judy Hoelscher at judyhoelscher51@gmail.com or call/text at 254-541-1902.

For four years, the Rosebud Ministerial Alliance has come together to make sure no child at Rosebud-Lott Elementary starts the school year without the supplies they need. This year, through the generosity of our churches and the partnership of the Knights of Columbus, backpacks and supplies reached K-5 students once again — lifted up in prayer during a special Prayer Walk at the school before classes began. "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest" (Galatians 6:9). Thank you to every donor and volunteer who made this milestone year possible. May God bless the seeds we've planted together. *—The Rosebud Ministerial Alliance

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 20—Holy Trinity Corn Hill Annual Bazaar—BBQ & Fried Chicken—Adults \$15/Children \$5—Serving begins at 11:00 am—Adult drive thru plates available 11:00 am—12:30 pm—BBQ by the pound 8:am—noon at the pit—Auction 1:30 pm—Raffle—Grand prize \$2,000 Visa card.

September 20—St. Ann's—Rosebud—Festival—Beef tips and sausage plates—\$15 each—Service begins 10:30 am until sold out—Dine in or drive thru—Raffle drawing 1:00 pm.

September 25—FIRST CLASS OF RCIA—PARISH HALL—6:00 PM.
