

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.

FEBRUARY 22, 2026 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Every year, on the first Sunday of Lent, we hear a version of Jesus's post-baptism sojourn in the desert. The gospels of Matthew and Luke tell us that Jesus was "led by the Spirit into the desert," while Mark's account is more direct. Instead of being gently "led," we read that "At once the Spirit *drove* him out into the desert." The Spirit is not merely accompanying or guiding Jesus into a place where he would like to be—like a divine GPS system leading him to his destination—but instead the Spirit is forcing, prodding, *driving* Jesus into a discomfiting land where he would rather not be. Given what Jesus is about to face over the course of his forty-day journey, Mark's account seems to make more sense. And as we begin our own Lenten journeys of reflection, prayer, and discernment, where we too may confront our own temptations, it's helpful to know that Jesus understands something of our experience. At first glance, today's readings appear to center on the theme of temptation. The reading from Genesis recounts the famous scene of the first humans in the garden, tempted by the serpent to eat the forbidden fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The gospel tells of Jesus facing three prompts from the devil. And while temptation is a key theme across these scripture passages, it's worth revisiting the traditional assumptions about the precise temptations. When it comes to the first humans in Genesis, the general view is that Eve and Adam are tempted by the sin of pride. Their actions lead to disobedience; they reject God's authority and instruction to do what they want. While the sin may indeed be a form of insolence, was the original temptation less to do with human pride and more to do with human insecurity. The serpent's argument centers on the alleged reason God has forbidden the humans from touching, let alone eating, fruit from this tree. The serpent claims that to eat this fruit would result in them becoming more *like God*. The presupposition is that the humans are not sufficient as they are: they could be better, greater, more lovable and respectable. This seems as the first commercial advertisement in human history: the serpent is preying on some internal lingering doubt that Eve and Adam have about their own goodness, knowledge, and worth. Just eat this fruit, buy this car, take this vacation, use this pill, wear these clothes (or fig leaves) and you will be better, smarter, and beloved.

Perhaps the temptation is to believe the lie that we are not good enough as God created us and loved into existence. In an age of nonstop advertising, influencing, and peer pressure, especially across social-media platforms, the temptation the first humans face from the serpent is repeated today in millions of small and large ways—each sponsored ad, each influencer's recommendation, each streaming commercial or product placement is a hidden temptation to doubt ourselves and our inherent goodness and lovability. As Lent begins, perhaps we might take time to examine our hearts and minds to face this ancient-and-modern temptation, reject its premise, and embrace the divine truth that God created us out of love for love. This brings us to the gospel, where Jesus is confronted in the desert by the devil's queries, which seem to test his resolve in the face of temptations related to security (make your own food and you'll never be dependent), power (demonstrate your divine might and reject vulnerability), and greed (you can have it all). In response to these temptations, which play on fundamental human insecurities and aspirations, Jesus does not offer creative or original retorts. Instead, at each turn he points to scripture, which is a source of divine wisdom. It is not the case that the Bible is an answer book for all our challenges and struggles, but it is the repository of God's self-disclosure and guidance. When we find ourselves in Jesus's shoes (or sandals), facing some temptation to sin, we are invited to return to the Bible and become people of scripture. As the medieval theologians were fond of saying, the more we can make God's story our story and internalize the wisdom revealed, the more prepared we will be to respond to adversity in our lives. So, rather than look for some quick fix or the latest fad to respond to our temptations, we might follow Jesus's example and return to what is written.

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, February 28, 2026

Communion: Janie Walker
Lector: John Hattemer
Altar Servers: LaCoure Family
Ushers: Volunteers

Sunday, March 1, 2026

Communion: Cathy Bruggman
Lector: Kayley Hejl
Altar Servers: A-J-J Stumbaugh & R Jahns
Ushers: Moody Glasgow & Russell Dolgener

UPCOMING MASSES

2/22 Sunday 8:15 am: + Nancy Hubnik by Bernadette Bruggman
+ Linda Hering by Manard & Patsy Moeller
2/24 Tuesday 7:00 am: + Monica Mikeska by Francis Reese
+ Barbara Macek by Gary & Marlene Vrazel
2/26 Thursday 7:00 am: + Alice Stojanik by Brian & Joan Vanicek
+ Jerome Schoppe by Family
2/27 Friday 6:00 pm: + Pamela Belyeu by Monica Mikeska
Stations of the Cross & Mass + Maxie Roessler by Smetana Family
2/28 Saturday Vigil 4:00 pm: + Glenda Hesse by Smetana Family
+ John Macha by Alfredo & Marilyn Barrera
3/1 Sunday 8:15 am: + Lucille Stock by Betty Smith
+ Stanley Motl by Charlie Tischler

WESTPHALIA MASSES

2/22 Sunday 10:15 am
2/25 Wednesday 6:00 pm
2/27 Friday 8:00 am
2/28 Saturday 6:00 pm
3/1 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—February 15—\$1856 Building Fund— \$40 Catholic Higher Education—\$490

Sanctuary Light—February 15—21—In Memory of Jerome Schoppe by Family.

Email your request to cyclone.marak@gmail.com in order to receive a 2025 contribution statement for your records.

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.

February 28—Receiving Inner Healing Day Retreat—St. Mary’s Parish Hall—Caldwell, TX—9:00 am—3:30 pm—Check in at 8:30 am—Donation—\$45—Register at mogpc.org/programs—Click on Retreats—Includes light breakfast, lunch, adoration, communal prayer and personal testimonies—Presented by Deacons Dan Lupo and Rod Reyna.

March 1—Ladies Society of St. Monica church in Cameron will host their annual Spring Social from 10:30 am—2:30 pm—Grilled chicken and Greens sausage and all the trimmings—Dine-in or drive through—Silent auction, sweet shop, raffle, cake wheel—English mass at 11:00 am.

The Texas Education Freedom Account (TEFA) application is now open through March 17. This program offers families a valuable opportunity to seek funding for Catholic school tuition and other approved education expenses, helping parents choose the best academic environment for their children—one that aligns with their values and supports the faith taught at home. To support families through the application process, Catholic schools across the diocese are also hosting a series of TEFA Application Clinics. These clinics provide hands-on assistance in both English and Spanish, giving parents the confidence and guidance they need to complete the application successfully. View upcoming application clinics: <https://csdatx.org/tefaapplication>

March 22—Salem Lutheran Church BBQ Fundraiser—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!

ALTAR SOCIETY NEWS

March 8—Next Altar Society meeting following mass.

Spring Fest—March 29—We will toast bread March 5 at 9:00 am in the Parish Hall—Mix dressing March 10 at 8:00 am at Green’s.

Members of the Altar Society include all ladies ages 18-99+. Please join our next meeting today (Feb. 8) following mass. We’re looking for fresh input and ideas as we discuss the Spring Fest and other planning for the remainder of the year. Monthly meetings are generally the second Sunday of the month.