

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF CYCLONE-MARAK

St. Joseph, Cyclone & Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Marak.

Mailing address: 20120 FM 485, Burlington, TX 76519...

Phone 254 985-2280.

Email: cyclone.marak@gmail.com. Pastor: Rev. Ranjan Cletus

Web address: stjcyclone.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 Sts Cyril & Methodius, Marak.

Confessions: SATURDAYS 4:00-5:00 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.

DECEMBER 28, 2025 THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

Always on the Sunday after Christmas we keep the feast of the Holy Family. In this feast, the church, I think, simply wants our Christmas adoration, our meditation, to linger. The church wants simply to hold us there, to keep us, in mind and heart, close to the newborn Christ and to his Blessed Mother, to Joseph too. The feast of the Holy Family is a feast of meditation. Not rushing on, not quitting Christmas too soon, the feast of the Holy Family draws our attention again and perhaps more deeply into the mystery of the Incarnation, into the beauty and truth of Christ's advent and birth. But what is the object of our meditation? It is, of course, the living and present mystery of the incarnate Christ presented to the world liturgically in the word of God and in the Eucharist. Our prayer, our worship, our willingness to listen to the Scripture: all of it together draws us into the mystery of Christ. That's why going to Mass, praying the rosary, reading the Bible and more, are all important, because these things act upon the soul in concert; they conspire to show us the real Christ who comes to us only in mystery.

And so, looking at the Scripture, particularly at these excerpts from Matthew, what do we see? We see that this Christ whom we learned in Matthew 1 is the descendent of both Abraham and David, also miraculously the son of Mary and adoptively the son of Joseph, is also part of an even larger story. That is, we learn that what's important is not merely from whom Jesus is descended, what matters even more is the saving drama God has begun in this Christ, the future and not merely the past. Yes, Jesus is descended from patriarchs and kings, but now magi from the East come to worship him. That is, through Jesus all Gentiles, all the nations, will be drawn to God, fulfilling God's promise to Abraham (Gn 15:5). Yes, the story of Moses echoes throughout. Preserved from mass massacre, like Moses, Jesus too will save his people through the water, the waters of Baptism now, your baptism and mine.

These connections between Moses and Jesus illumine God's constancy, the fact that he has always worked to save his people — from Egypt, from sin. By evoking God's saving works from the past, Matthew underlines God's saving works in the present, that is among the Gentiles. Which suggests God's saving work remains ongoing. That is, Christmas is not a past thing. But back to the Holy Family. All this talk about Moses and Gentiles and salvation history should not tempt us to forget salvation's intimate beginning in the womb of the Virgin, in the small cloister of the crèche, and in the littleness of a family. And here we come to the reflected truth of this feast, that is, truth reflected from the Holy Family upon us, revealing a truth about our families — the truth that they are holy too. The idea is simple. God saw fit to save us all by means of a mission that included the goodness and sanctuary of the family. Mary conceived her divine Son, cared for him in utero and as a babe in her arms. Joseph cared for Mary and her Son; he protected them and provided for them. And what does this mean but that the Holy Family reveals the purpose of the family as such, all families? That is, we learn in this feast that the family is meant to be a sanctuary of love meant to foster life. And more, we learn that life, born and raised within the family, may also become life in Christ. If, that is, we seek to allow the grace of God to make our families holy families too. For maybe that's why the church wants us to continue a few days longer to meditate on the beauty of Christmas, so that we might begin to practice the virtues we contemplate, the lowliness of the blessed and the dutifulness of St. Joseph, and then to see Christ born again. This time in our own homes.

Bulletin Information: Cyclone: Nancy Posvar (254 913-2696) Marak: Anna Givens 512 809-9889

Bulletin Deadline: Please call or send by email all info for the bulletin by Wednesday before the weekend!

MINISTRIES

Saturday, January 3, 2026

Communion: Jackie Green
Lector: Kim Campbell
Altar Servers: Novosad & Hoelscher Family
Ushers: Volunteers

Sunday, January 4, 2026

Communion: Debbie Buckholt, Lacy Jahns, Jason Hoelscher
Lector: Patty Glasgow
Altar Servers: K & H Hejl—L & S Jahns
Ushers: Andrew Brenek & Steve Pechal

UPCOMING MASSES

JANUARY 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY

Communion: Pauline Marek
Altar Servers: LaCoure Family

Lector: Michael Jahns
Ushers: Volunteers

12/28 Sunday 8:15 am:

+ Rubin & Leona Gottschalk by Clyde Gottschalk
+ Darwin Bruggman by Family

12/30 Tuesday 7:00 am:

+ Alice Stojanik by Matt & Trish Stojanik
+ Living & Deceased Victims of Kerrville Flood by Charlie & Jackie Green

1/1 Thursday 8:00 am:

+ Monica Mikeska by Rose Marie Schoppe
+ Clint, Meaghan, & Connor McCaffety by Charlie & Jackie Green

1/2 Friday 7:00 am:

+ Jerome Schoppe by Family
+ Pamela Belyeu by Monica Mikeska

1/3 Saturday Vigil 4:00 pm:

+ Linda Hering by Family
+ Zachary Schneider by Pat Armstrong

1/4 Sunday 8:15 am:

+ Lucille Stock by Anton & Merlene Bravenec
+ Stanley Motl by Charlie Tischler

MARAK MASSES

12/28 Sunday 10:15 am

12/31 Wednesday 5:30 pm

WESTPHALIA MASSES

1/3 Saturday 6:00 pm

1/4 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—Dec. 21—\$2171 Retired Clergy—\$100 Christmas—\$100

Sanctuary Light—Dec. 28—Jan. 3—In Memory of Logan Balz by Terry & Pat Balz.

2026 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES ARE IN THE CHURCH ENTRANCE. PLEASE PICK YOURS UP.

NEW SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 3, 2026

Saturday—St. Joseph 4:00 pm Westphalia—6:00 pm
Sunday—St. Joseph—8:15 am Westphalia—10:15 am

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 28—Bible Study following mass.

January 20—KC Meeting—7:00 pm.

January 24—The Altar Society of the Church of the Visitation is hosting a Rosary Retreat in the Parish Hall. Wendy Staab, presenter of this retreat, shares her knowledge and boundless energy and will capture your attention. Lunch is included in the \$20 fee. Register and pay online by January 19 at austindccw.org/events or mail check payable to: Westphalia Altar Society, 395 FM 431, Lott, TX 76656.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE COUPLES WHO CELEBRATED SPECIAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES IN 2025 WHO WILL BE HONORED THIS WEEKEND

65 years—M/M Bobby Hoelscher
45 years—M/M Ernie Urbantke
30 years—M/M Steve Pechal
15 years—M/M Manuel Cazares
5 years—M/M Brandon Sellears

50 years—M/M Marvin Green 45 years—M/M Stuart Eixman
40 years—M/M Don Alford 40 years—M/M Eugene Brenek
30 years—M/M Shawn Simmone 25 years—M/M Jeffery Souhrada
15 years—M/M Chris Vrana 5 years—M/M Nicholas Keaton

ALTAR SOCIETY NEWS

January 12—Next Altar Society Meeting.