

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF CYCLONE-MARAK
St. Joseph, Cyclone & Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Marak.

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Phone 254 985-2280.

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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 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

DECEMBER 14, 2025 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The disciples of John the Baptist were eager to see the Messiah. The story Matthew tells is that John the Baptist was imprisoned, but from prison, he had heard about Jesus, "about the works of the Christ." Thus, he sent his disciples to ask the Lord a simple question: "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another" (Mt 11:2-3)? This is not a casual question. John's disciples aren't merely curious. Their souls burn and yearn for the answer. They have been looking for the Messiah for a long time, everything is at stake. Is Jesus the Messiah? Have I been on the right path? Or was all my seeking simply a mistake? Is John the Baptist a false prophet or true? I've always sensed urgency in their question.

Jesus answers by alluding to Isaiah, mostly to Isaiah 35 which is our first reading, but also to Isaiah 26 and Isaiah 61. The point of Jesus' answer seems to be that since his works are those like the ones prophesied by prophets like Isaiah, then yes, Jesus is indeed "the one who is to come." That is why Jesus must increase and John the Baptist must decrease (Jn 3:30). That's what makes John the Baptist's imprisonment and death the stuff of martyrdom. But why read this in Advent? First, I think we are to appreciate the urgency of the question. These disciples eagerly sought the Messiah; their spiritual search wasn't merely a hobby. Do we search for Christ with similar passion? Do we really seek the Messiah like everything is at stake? Do we seek Christ with a similar urgency? Spiritually? Liturgically? Or do we just kind of yawn as Christmas comes again? But then comes the answer. The advent of Christ is realized wherever there's healing. Wherever the blind are given sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear and the dead are raised, there Christ has come. There, in those beautiful instances of charity and mercy, the Messiah can indeed be found.

Yet this is a truth hidden in a dark world. Another lesson from this scene in Matthew is that it was not obvious to disciples of John the Baptist that Jesus was the Messiah. That is, they had to ask the question. The mystery demanded discernment. The truth of Jesus Christ, the reality of his sovereignty, is not readily visible as other things are readily visible. Theology is a different kind of science. One must learn how to see by faith the truth of God. One must learn how to see by faith that in acts of charity Jesus Christ is present, ready to be found. The whole point is that seeking Christ is an urgent, spiritual, and charitable endeavor. It requires energy both spiritual and even physical. The spiritual life can indeed be tiring; it can be like wandering through the desert or climbing a mountain. Hence the beginning of the passage from James: "Be patient brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord" (Jas 5:7). And hence the exhortation in Isaiah to strengthen feeble hands and weak knees, to "Be strong, fear not!" For God in his vindication will come. He will save us (Is 35:3-4). So, what does this mean just under two weeks until Christmas? Perhaps Advent has slipped away from you a bit, the spiritual opportunity of Advent. Maybe you've been phoning it in these past few weeks; maybe your spiritual search has been anything but urgent. Or, maybe you have been searching intensely for the Lord, and you're tired. Maybe you're even thinking about giving up. The spiritual journey is long; the Christian life can be very difficult. It's understandable to feel tired from time to time, to think about giving up, to tire of waiting for the Lord. But that's precisely when we should take a breath and remember the search, the urgency and beauty of it. That's when we should strengthen our hearts and beg in prayer for the virtue of patience, for spiritual patience. For such patience is how we will gain our souls (Lk 21:19). It's how we'll finally find the Christ this Christmas at last.

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, December 20

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

Sunday, December 21

Communion: Cathy Bruggman—Jason Hoelscher—
Andrew Brenek
Lector: REP
Altar Servers: Glasgow Family—E Cowen
Ushers: REP

UPCOMING MASSES

12/14 Sunday 8:15 am: + Maxie Roessler by Dennis & Carol Maurer
+ Stanley Motl by Rose Marie Schoppe
12/16 Tuesday 7:00 am: + Linda Hering by Marvin Meyer
Good Health for All by Charlie & Jackie Green
12/18 Thursday 7:00 am: + Marcus Wilde by Monica Mikeska
+ Lucille Stock by Betty Smith
12/19 Friday 7:00 am: + Ruth Daskocil by David & Janet Kasner
+ Josie Kleypas by David & Janet Kasner
12/20 Saturday Vigil 5:30 pm: + Deceased Tomasek & Zucha Family Members by
Pauline Marek
+ Monica Mikeska by Pat Armstrong
12/21 Sunday 8:15 am: + Nancy Hubnik by Terry & Barbara McNeill
+ Alice Stojanik by Brian & Joan Vanicek

MARAK MASSES

12/14 Sunday 10:15 am
12/17 Wed. 5:30 pm
12/21 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—December 7—\$2525 Immaculate Conception—\$313 Building Fund—\$735

Sanctuary Light—December 14—20—In Memory of Deceased Tomasek & Zucha Family Members by Pauline Marek.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 17—Confessions—7:00 pm.

CCD Students are collecting canned goods for the Rogers Food Pantry. We will take canned goods and non-perishable food items through Christmas. The class with most collected items gets a pizza party!

December 14, 21—Christmas Pageant practice following mass.

December 21—The CYO will be Christmas caroling. All 6th—12th grade students are welcome to come Christmas caroling. The time that we will meet at the hall will be announced at religious ed class on Wednesday. If you have any questions, please reach out to Michael Brenek at 254-721-8877.

ALTAR SOCIETY NEWS

January 12—Next Altar Society Meeting.