

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: 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 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 21, 2025 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

It sounds so simple. This Sunday, we hear St. Matthew's account of the events leading up to Christ's birth and it begins with an almost matter-of-fact declaration: "This is how the birth of Jesus came about." A few sentences later, it concludes with Joseph awakening from a dream and doing what he was told to do: "He named him Jesus." That's it. But is it? Of course, we all know there was more to the story. While this bare-bones narrative seems to skip over some of the most memorable details — it is another evangelist, Luke, who provides us with things like the Annunciation, the inn with no room and a manger for a bed — what Matthew offers us is an abridged version of something urgent and important. There's a message here for all of us, and not just for Christmas. Put simply: Matthew's account shows us what it takes to bring Jesus into our world. Hearing this brief passage, we realize that this gospel is much more than a history lesson in "how the birth of Jesus came about." It's also a lesson in how we can not only get ready for Christmas, but how we can continue to bring Christ into our world, especially in this troubled time.

First, we need to be able to believe. Be willing to take a leap of faith. Set aside skepticism and be open to wonder. This passage begins with a miracle, a virgin conceiving a child. Understand that our God is the God of astonishment and possibility. Expect the unexpected. The Holy Spirit can spark amazement and miracles — and even bring about something as improbable as a virgin being with child. In our cynical, materialistic age, when Christmas is dominated by consumerism and consumption, here is a reminder that this feast begins with mystery and is fueled by love — God's love for our fallen world. This is how faith takes root and grows. Secondly, we need to be fearless — and, of course, be open to the advice of angels. What does Joseph hear in his dream? An angel speaks to him the same words Gabriel spoke to Mary at the Annunciation: "Do not be afraid." If we want to welcome Christ, if we want him to come into our world, we need to be brave enough and bold enough to let it happen. Defy cynicism and fear and doubt. We can all benefit from taking time to do what Joseph did and make room for God to do his work. Embrace the consoling truth of the Messiah's name, "God is with us." That's a welcome message for this season and any season. Finally, we need to be awake. Joseph was only able to do what the angel told him after he'd awakened from sleep. He welcomed a new day and saw the path before him with fresh clarity and focus. And from that moment on, he quietly, purposefully set out to do what God wanted and he surrendered to the Lord's will for his life.

Likewise, we need to shake off our slumber and welcome Jesus as we would a new day. Joseph gave his child the name by which he'd be known; in a similar way, we're also called to make known the name of Jesus. That means more than just singing "Away in a Manger" on Christmas Eve. It means making that name matter, announcing it to the world in what we do, how we live and how we love — not just in late December, but all year long. The birth of Jesus that came about 2,000 years ago involved faith, courage and a willingness to see the world with new eyes and new hearts. And it was all rooted in God's boundless love for his broken world. Matthew was telling us more than a story. He was offering us a lesson in how to bring Jesus into our world again and again — to make every day, every moment, Christmas.

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 27

Communion: Pauline Marek
 Lector: Letha Novosad
 Altar Servers: Novosad & Hoelscher Family
 Ushers: Volunteers

Sunday, December 28

Communion: Ricky Brenek
 Lector: Becky Dolgener
 Altar Servers: J,J,A Stumbaugh & R Jahns
 Ushers: Bryce Brashear & Steve Bruggman

UPCOMING MASSES

CHRISTMAS EVE 5:30 PM

Communion—Christina Brenek & Cathy Bruggman Lector—Kristen Parker
 Altar Servers—D,R,C Jahns & L Schneider Ushers—Volunteers

CHRISTMAS EVE 11:00 PM

Communion—Pat Balz Lector—Michael Jahns
 Altar Servers—L & S Jahns Ushers—Volunteers

12/21 Sunday 8:15 am: + Nancy Hubnik by Terry & Barbara McNeill
 + Alice Stojanik by Brian & Joan Vanicek

12/23 Tuesday 7:00 am: + Bernadette Ketterman by Bill & Carol Smetana
 + Evelyn Hoelscher by Bill & Carol Smetana

12/24 Wednesday 5:30 pm: + Barbara Macek by Charlie & Jackie Green
 + Maxie Roessler by Patsy Cofer

12/24 Wednesday 11:00 pm: + Logan Balz by Terry & Pat Balz
 + Larry Posvar by Family

12/25 Thursday 9:00 am: + Monica Mikeska by Flo Mikeska
 + Jerome Schoppe by Family

12/26 Friday: NO MASS

12/27 Saturday Vigil 5:30 pm: + Marvin Wilde by Oleta Wilde
 + Albina Vrazel by Daniel & Linda Wilde

12/28 Sunday 8:15 am: + Rubin & Leona Gottschalk by Clyde Gottschalk
 + Darwin Bruggman by Family

MARAK MASSES

12/21 Sunday 10:15 am
 12/24 Wed. 9:00 pm
 12/28 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. 14—\$1789 Dorskocil Found.—\$5000 Immaculate Conception—\$30 Bldg Fund—\$70 Retired Clergy—\$541

Sanctuary Light—Dec. 21—27—In Honor of Dennis Mallory & Rebecca Mallory belated birthdays by Joe & Beatrice Mallory.

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

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 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. We will meet in the Parish Hall at 12:45 pm. If any questions, please reach out to Michael Brenek.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE COUPLES WHO CELEBRATED SPECIAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES IN 2025—

65 years—M/M Bobby Hoelscher	50 years—M/M Marvin Green	45 years—M/M Stuart Eixman
45 years—M/M Ernie Urbantke	40 years—M/M Don Alford	40 years—M/M Eugene Brenek
30 years—M/M Steve Pechal	30 years—M/M Shawn Simmone	25 years—M/M Jeffery Souhrada
15 years—M/M Manuel Cazares	15 years—M/M Chris Vrana	5 years—M/M Nicholas Keaton
5 years—M/M Brandon Sellaers		

These couples are requested to attend Saturday December 27 or Sunday December 28 mass on Holy Family Weekend. Fr. Ranjan will have a certificate for you signed by the Bishop.

ALTAR SOCIETY NEWS

January 12—Next Altar Society Meeting.