

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

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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 date of wedding. Completion of required paperwork and a preparation program needed.

NOVEMBER 30, 2025 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Since ancient times, Romans 13 has been read by Christians at Advent. To wake up spiritually to the reality of Christ's presence is the message: "You know the time; it is the hour for you to awake from sleep." Such is the simple exhortation, given in the church's scriptural voice, heard at the beginning of Advent: Wake up! Now St. Paul here in Romans is talking about the Christian life as such. However, the metaphor, the call to "awake from sleep," calls to mind at once both Easter and Advent, two of the three "comings of Christ," to use St. Bernard of Clairvaux's famous way of putting it.

In the letter to the Ephesians, for example, the writer quotes what is likely an ancient baptismal hymn: "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light" (Eph 5:14). To "wake up" in this verse is to wake up from death, spiritually, morally and ultimately bodily; it is to participate in the Easter event. Which, of course, the meaning of this passage from Romans also includes. However, to read this passage as we do now before Christmas, to contemplate the "light" in this passage, as the days grow shorter and darker, is to begin to think of the light that is Jesus Christ, the light born in the darkness of Christmas night. Basically, the church is saying to us that although the world is dark, look for the light of Jesus. And then act like it. St. Paul is talking about enlightenment, a spiritual illumination that changes people, changes the way they live their lives. "Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves properly as in the day," St. Paul says (Rom 13:12-14).

Leaving behind the works and "desires of the flesh," Christians should live as if Christ is fully present now, reigning now; because, of course, he is, although we see it by faith only in mystery and in the life of the church, in our love for one another. This is the spiritual key to help us understand the other two readings from Isaiah and Matthew. The invitation, for instance, to "climb the Lord's mountain" and to "walk in his paths" in peace is spiritually and morally the same invitation St. Paul offers in Romans (Is 2:3). And Jesus's warning in Matthew not to get distracted or tempted, as "in the days of Noah," by the ordinary and sometimes seemingly benign lure of the world is spiritually and morally the same thing as St. Paul's exhortation to "put on the armor of light" (Mt 24:37; Rom 13:12).

And so the call to "wake up" means at least two things. First, it means that we are called in Christ to action, to Christian acts of charity and hope. St. Benedict begins his Rule quoting Romans 13. He writes, "Let us open our eyes to the light that comes from God." "Run," he says repeatedly in the Rule; when we see the light of God and hear the voice of the Father, we drop what we're doing and run to him. That is, when we encounter Jesus, our lives should begin to change. This call is a call to joy. That's the simple message. Yes, the world is dark, but dawn has already begun. What we need is simply the courage to act like Christians and joy, that pure gift proclaimed by the angels to those who are still watching.

MINISTRIES

Saturday, December 6

Communion: Kristen Parker
Lector: John Hattemer
Altar Servers: Stumbaugh Family
Ushers: Volunteers

Sunday, December 7

Communion: Ricky Brenek
Lector: Cathy Bruggman
Altar Servers: K & H Hejl—S & L Jahns
Ushers: Charles Schneider & Tim Cowen

UPCOMING MASSES

11/30	Sunday 8:15 am:	+ Linda Hering by Marvin Meyer + Lucille Stock by Tammie Sundin
12/2	Tuesday 7:00 am:	+ Josie Kleypas by David & Janet Kasner + Ruth Daskocil by David & Janet Kasner
12/4	Thursday 7:00 am:	+ Clint, Meaghan, & Connor McCaffety by Charlie & Jackie Green + Bernadette Ketterman by Bill & Carol Smetana
12/5	Friday: 7:00 am:	+ Pamela Belyeu by Monica Mikeska + Alice Stojanik by Dennis & Trish Stojanik
12/6	Saturday Vigil 5:30 pm:	+ Gilbert & Pauline Wilde by Daniel & Linda Wilde + Rubin & Leona Gottschalk by Clyde Gottschalk
12/7	Sunday 8:15 am:	+ Thomas Ortega by Rita Motl + Darwin Bruggman by Family

MARAK MASSES

11/30	Sunday 10:15 am
12/3	Wed. 5:30 pm
12/7	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—November 23—\$2466 Campaign for Human Development—\$10 Building Fund—\$10

Sanctuary Light—November 30—December 6—In Honor of Rebecca Mallory Birthday by Joe & Beatrice Mallory.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Rosebud Ministerial Alliance, Rosebud Police Dept., and Café 77 are partnering to bring Christmas joy to local children through the Blue Santa Toy Distribution December 13. Please donate new, unwrapped toys in the box located in the church entrance.

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!

November 29-30—Second Collection for St. Antony's Orphanage in India.

NOTE: Knights of Columbus Members Christmas Gathering will be Dec. 6 at Marak Parish Hall—Socializing starts at 5 pm—Meal 6 pm—Widows of past members welcome. A sign-up sheet will be in church entry through Nov. 30. Appetizers & desserts greatly appreciated.

December 7, 14, 21—Christmas Pageant practice following mass.

December 21—The CYO will be Christmas caroling. If you know of someone who would like for us to visit, please contact Michael Brenek by December 10 at church or by phone at 254-721-8877.

ALTAR SOCIETY NEWS

St. Mary's Altar Society Christmas Party will be held Sunday, December 7 at 4:00 pm. There will be a catered meal with pot-luck desserts for all ladies and their spouses. Ladies can bring a wrapped gift valued under \$20 if they wish to participate in the gift exchange. Sign-up sheet is in the church entrance. Deadline to register is November 30.

January 12—Next Altar Society Meeting.