

**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 you set the date of wedding. Completion of required paperwork and a preparation program needed.

**MAY 21, 2023 ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

**“Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.” Matthew 28:20**

In today’s First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles, St. Luke gives the surprising news that there is more of the story to be told. The story did not end with the empty tomb, or with Jesus’ appearances to the Apostles over the course of forty days. Jesus’ saving work will have a liturgical consummation. He is the great high priest, and He has still to ascend to the heavenly Jerusalem, there to celebrate the feast in the true Holy of Holies. The truth of this feast shines forth from the Letter to the Hebrews, where we read of the great high priest’s passing through the heavens, the sinless intercessor’s sacrifice on our behalf (see [Hebrews 4:14–15](#)).

Indeed, His intercession will lead to the Holy Spirit’s descent in fire upon the Church. Luke spells out that promise in the First Reading for the feast of the Ascension: “in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit” ([Acts 1:5](#)). The Ascension is the preliminary feast that directs the Church’s attention forward to Pentecost. On that day, salvation will be complete; for salvation is not simply expiation for sins (that would be wonder enough), but it is something even greater than that. Expiation is itself a necessary precondition of our adoption as God’s children. To live that divine life we must receive the Holy Spirit. To receive the Holy Spirit we must be purified through Baptism.

The Responsorial Psalm presents the Ascension in terms familiar from the worship of the Jerusalem Temple in the days of King Solomon: “God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord” (Psalm 47). The priest-king takes his place at the head of the people, ruling over the nations, establishing peace. The Epistle strikes a distinctively Paschal note. In the early Church, as today, Easter was the normal time for the baptism of adult converts. The sacrament was often called “illumination” or “enlightenment” because of the light that came with God’s saving grace (see, for example, [Hebrews 10:32](#)). Saint Paul, in his Letter to the Ephesians, speaks in terms of glory that leads to greater glories still, as Ascension leads to Pentecost: “May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened,” he writes, as he looks to the divinization of the believers. Their “hope” is “his inheritance among the holy ones,” the saints who have been adopted into God’s family and now rule with Him at the Father’s right hand. This is the “good news” the Apostles are commissioned to spread—to the whole world, to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem—at the Ascension. It’s the good news we must spread today.



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**Bulletin Information: Marak: Patsy Gaines (254 482 0570) – 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, May 27

Communion: Jackie Green  
Lector : Letha Novosad  
Altar Servers: Novosad Family  
Ushers: Volunteers

### Sunday, May 28

Communion: Sherry Kosel  
Lector: Moody Glasgow  
Altar Servers: R. J. Dolgener—S. Glasgow—J. Stumbaugh  
Ushers: Charles Castillo & Jason Hoelscher

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### MASSES THIS WEEK

5/21 Sunday 8:15 am: + Vertis Mesecke by Family  
+ Darwin Bruggman by Bill & Carol Smetana  
5/23 Tuesday 7:00 am: COMMUNION SERVICE  
5/25 Thursday 7:00 am: COMMUNION SERVICE  
5/26 Friday 7:00 am: + Doris Beach by Charlie & Jackie Green  
+ Josie Kleypas by Charlie & Jackie Green  
5/27 Vigil Mass 5:30 pm: + Albina Vrazel by Daniel & Linda Wilde  
+ Justin Everett by Daniel & Linda Wilde  
5/28 Sunday 8:15 am: + Wilbert Mikeska by Arlene Wilde Family  
+ Zachary Schneider by Charlie & Jackie Green

### MARAK MASSES

5/21 Sunday 10:15 am:

5/28 Sunday 10:15 am

In your charity, please pray for: Homebound: Leora Hering.  
Good health: A. J. Stermer, Bill Stock, Lawrence Stermer, Dorothy Haisler, Evelyn Richter, Deacon Bill Smetana, Buddy Roessler, Georgia Stermer, Madeline Lambert, Lucille Stock.

Stewardship—May 14—\$2357

Sanctuary Light—May 21—27—In memory of Jerome Schoppe by Family.

JUNE 17—VBS day! Please register by May 26. The link to register online is on the CCD Facebook page and also on the church website home page. It is <https://bit.ly/StJoeSTELLAR2023>. We will be learning about our Lord and Savior. His coming into the world as a human baby, accepting Zacchaeus, caring for His mother during the Crucifixion, and many other miracles! Shine Jesus' Light!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

May 28—Senior Sunday—Breakfast to follow in Parish Hall. See and read about our graduates using the link on the church website home page.

June 3—Garage Sale—Westphalia Parish Hall—7:00 am—12:00 noon—Sponsored by Westphalia KC's—To reserve a space, contact Brian Wilde at 254-718-6764.

June 4—Holy Trinity Catholic Church—Corn Hill—Fried Chicken & Sausage Lunch—11:00 am—1:00 pm in the PAC—Adults \$15—Children \$7—Drive thru plates until 12:30—\$15—Afternoon dance featuring Jodi Mikula Orchestra—Mass at 10:30 am.

### ALTAR SOCIETY NEWS:

- August 13—Next Altar Society Meeting following mass.