

# 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.

### AUGUST 24, 2025 21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, says the Lord, and I will raise him up on the last day." John 6:54**

The promise of God is a promise innumerable repeated in the Scripture, that God would gather us in — all of us. It's a promise perfected in Christ; a promise still being made. Early on the promise was made to Abraham. God told him he would make of him a "great nation" (Gn 12:2). "Look toward heaven, and number the stars," God would later say. "So shall your descendants be," God promised him (Gn 15:5). This was a beginning, repeated throughout the Scripture, the promise of God's gathering.

Pay close attention and you'll hear this promise over and over again. Isaiah calls out to "islands" and "peoples from afar" (Is 49:1). Gloriously, the prophets declare, the promise is made not only to the Jewish people but to others too. "Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered" (Is 56:8). This — to cut simply to the chase — is us; this promise includes us. Such is the message ending the whole of Isaiah, that God "is coming to gather all nations and tongues." The nations "shall come and see my glory," God says through the prophet (Is 66:18).

Again, God is talking about us; he's talking about you, epochs before you were even born. Our salvation is part of the primeval plan; he knew we would need him ages before we knew we would need him. There is something beautiful about that, comforting, this notion of God's foreknowing care. This promise is perfected in Christ. Christ and his Church is the "sign" set among the nations (Is 66:19). It fits well with what Jesus said and did, like when he said, "I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself" (Jn 12:32). Jesus said this after some Greeks had asked to see him; the Lord here is simply repeating the promise made to Abraham, repeated through the prophets. It's just that now the promise is embodied in Jesus himself; now the promise is incarnate. Which is the sign, what demands faith. It's the challenge of this passage from Luke. "Lord, will only a few people be saved?" somebody asks him. At first it seems that Jesus insists only very few will be saved; "many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough" (Lk 13:23-24). But he isn't talking about numbers; he isn't inviting into the kingdom these and not those. Rather, Jesus is saying that to enter the kingdom of heaven is not fundamentally a matter of inheritance but instead a matter of faith. Jesus is saying that if you think you have a right to inherit the kingdom of heaven simply because you were born Jewish or, say — to extend the argument — Catholic, then you're in for a rude awakening.

When you see Abraham and all the prophets at table in the kingdom with those from east and west and north and south, those you assumed would come last as confidently as you assumed you would come first, it will be so painful and shocking, Jesus said, that you will weep and grind your teeth (Lk 13:28-30). Because you thought the kingdom was the reward for an accident of birth. Because you didn't realize instead that it was the reward for faith. The call of the Gospel is for faith, that we may have faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God. The promise made to Abraham, repeated through the prophets, comes to perfection in Christ's advent — his advent in the world, in the church, standing now mystically right in front of you in your crisis of faith. What do you make of Jesus? That's the pressing question. Is your faith not really faith but instead just an inherited cultural form? If so, this passage should frighten you very much. Jesus isn't impressed too much by credentials. He doesn't care where you went to school. Pray then and beg for faith. Seek out the face of Christ in the Scripture and in prayer. Seek out Christ's touch in the sacraments. Seek out his love in community and in neighbor and in the poor. At some point the door will be locked and only faith will determine what side of that door you'll be on.

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**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, August 30

Communion: Jackie Green  
Lector: Kim Campbell  
Altar Servers: LaCoure Family  
Ushers: Volunteers

### Sunday, August 31

Communion: Andrew Brenek  
Lector: Cathy Bruggman  
Altar Servers: K & H Hejl—S & L Jahns  
Ushers: Roy Buckholt & Eugene Brenek

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### UPCOMING MASSES

8/24 Sunday 8:15 am: + Alice Stojanik by Brian & Joan Vanicek  
+ Nancy Hubnik by Bernadette Bruggman  
8/26 Tuesday 7:00 am: + Josie Kleypas by David & Janet Kasner  
+ Ruth Dorskocil by David & Janet Kasner  
8/28 Thursday 7:00 am: + Marvin Wilde by Monica Mikeska  
Special Intention—Monica Mikeska for Health by Oleta Wilde  
8/29 Friday 7:00 am: + Linda Hering by Marvin Meyer  
+ Jerome Schoppe by Family  
8/30 Saturday Vigil 5:30 pm: + Lucille Stock by Betty Smith  
+ Anton Vrazel by SPJST Lodge 24 Flag Hall  
8/31 Sunday 8:15 am: + Dolores Motl by Ted Motl  
+ Stanley Motl by Ted Motl

### MARAK MASSES

8/24 Sunday 10:15 am  
8/27 Wednesday 5:30 pm  
8/31 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, Monica Mikeska, Holly Knecht, Rebecca Marek, Margaret Campbell, Barbara Johnson, Fr. Tom Chamberlain, Nickolas Jimenez.

Stewardship—August 17—\$1803 Assumption of Mary—\$510

Sanctuary Light—August 24-30—In Memory of Jerome Schoppe by Family.

### REP News

Registration forms are available in church entrance, on church website as well as being on the REP Facebook page.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

August 28—Rural Life Mass—St. Monica Church—Cameron—6:00 pm—Meal will follow.

September 6—BBQ Cook-off St. Joseph Church—Marlin—See bulletin board for details.

September 7—St. Joseph Church—Marlin Fall Festival—BBQ plate dinner—Serving 11 am—1 pm ( or sold out)—\$16/plate—BBQ brisket & sausage, new potatoes, green beans & dessert—Auction 2 pm—More info on bulletin board.

September 14—Picnic—Marak—Fried chicken & sausage—\$15/plate—Master Card & Visa accepted—Serving begins 11:00 am—Dine in & drive through—continuous serving while food lasts—Games 11:30 am—Auction 2:30 pm.

### Altar Society News

September 14—Next Altar Society Meeting following mass.