

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

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

JANUARY 5, 2025 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

“We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.” Matthew 2:2

An “epiphany” is an appearance. In today’s readings, with their rising stars, splendorous lights, and mysteries revealed, the face of the child born on Christmas day appears. Herod, in today’s Gospel, asks the chief priests and scribes where the Messiah is to be born. The answer Matthew puts on their lips says much more, combining two strands of Old Testament promise—one revealing the Messiah to be from the line of David (see 2 Samuel 2:5), the other predicting “a ruler of Israel” who will “shepherd his flock” and whose “greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth” (see Micah 5:1-3).

Those promises of Israel’s king ruling the nations resound also in today’s Psalm. The psalm celebrates David’s son, Solomon. His kingdom, we sing, will stretch “to the ends of the earth,” and the world’s kings will pay him homage. That’s the scene too in today’s First Reading, as nations stream from the East, bearing “gold and frankincense” for Israel’s king.

The Magi’s pilgrimage in today’s Gospel marks the fulfillment of God’s promises. The Magi, probably Persian astrologers, are following the star that Balaam predicted would rise along with the ruler’s staff over the house of Jacob (see Numbers 24:17). Laden with gold and spices, their journey evokes those made to Solomon by the Queen of Sheba and the “kings of the earth” (see 1 Kings 10:2, 25; 2 Chronicles 9:24). Interestingly, the only other places where frankincense and myrrh are mentioned together are in songs about Solomon (see Song of Songs 3:6; 4:6, 14). One greater than Solomon is here (see Luke 11:31). He has come to reveal that all peoples are “coheirs” of the royal family of Israel, as today’s Epistle teaches.

His manifestation forces us to choose: will we follow the signs that lead to Him as the wise Magi did? Or will we be like those priests and scribes who let God’s words of promise become dead letters on an ancient page?

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, January 11

Communion: Janie Walker
Lector: Steve Walker
Altar Servers: L & S Jahns
Ushers: Volunteers

Sunday, January 12

Communion: Ricky Brenek
Lector: Andrew Brenek
Altar Servers: J Hoelscher—D Jahns—K Anderson—
A Ledford
Ushers: Jake Jahns & Michael Jahns

UPCOMING MASSES

1/5 Sunday 8:15 am: + Don Mikeska by Monica Mikeska
+ Maxie Roessler by Deborah Dokupil
1/7 Tuesday 7:00 am: + Barbara Valley by Monica Mikeska
+ Jerome Orsag by Smetana Family
1/9 Thursday 7:00 am: + John Macha by Marie Macha
+ Jerome Schoppe by Dennis & Monica Marek
1/10 Friday 7:00 am: + Nancy Hubnik by Bernadette Bruggman Family
+ Lucille Stock by Margaret Abel
1/11 Saturday Vigil 5:30 pm: + Albina Vrazel by Daniel & Linda Wilde
+ Zachary Schneider by Pat Armstrong
1/12 Sunday 8:15 am: + Shirley Schneider by Family
+ Linda Hering by Francis Ranly Reese

MARAK MASSES

1/5 Sunday 10:15 am
1/8 Wednesday 5:30 pm
1/12 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, Amanda Beltran, Holly Knecht, Rebecca Marek.

Stewardship—December 29 —\$3772 Christmas—3017 Feast of Holy Family—\$554

Sanctuary Light—January 5—11—In Memory of Zachary Schneider by Pat Armstrong.

OUR CHRISTMAS BOOK GIVEAWAY is titled “The Three Ordinary Voices of God, written by Matthew Kelly from Dynamic Catholic. They are at entrance of church. Please take one and take one to give to a friend.

2025 Offertory Envelopes and Calendars are available in the church entry.

UPCOMING EVEN

January 5 & 19—Bible Study group will meet following mass.

January 21—KC Meeting—7 pm.

ALTAR SOCIETY NEWS

January 12—Altar Society Meeting following mass.

St. Mary’s Altar Society has copies of the original cookbook edition for sale. These are great for wedding, hostess, birthday, or Christmas gifts. They are \$10 each. Contact Linda Machicek at 254-718-2909 for your gifting needs.