

The Sincere Prayer of a Sinner

Scholars tell us that no other Gospel talks more about prayer than St. Luke's. Last Sunday's Gospel insisted that we persevere in our prayer; this week we're admonished to pray with humility and

sincerity of heart. The prayer of a humble soul pierces the clouds, rising to the throne of God!

The Pharisee, Jesus' example of pride, doesn't kneel, bow his head, or sit in listening. He lists before God all that he does, almost as evidence of how much he deserves God's blessings. We can almost read in his words his conviction that God is lucky to have a Pharisee like him.

In contrast, the publican, a politician and a public figure considered by the Jews to be a sinner and collaborator in evil, slips in the back of the temple. He won't even lift his eyes up to God, as he is ashamed and keenly aware of his unworthiness. He only recalls his sins, beats his chest in penance, and asks for mercy. This is the power of humility before God. It is the necessary condition of our salvation and justification.

When we observe someone with Pharisaic presumption, it produces in us an interior rejection. Yet when we witness the vulnerability and self-effacement of one who admits weakness, we're moved to compassion and ready to forgive. If we who are imperfect respond like this, how much more will God, knower of the souls of humanity, respond with mercy to even the hardest sinners who pray to him with a sincere heart?

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC



Piece: *Father in Prayer*, 1902
Artist: Edvard Munch
Location: Vatican Museums

For Reflection

Do I sometimes present myself before God as if I were doing him a favor with my faith?

How can I grow in humility toward God and those closest to me?

*[Jesus said,] "But the tax collector...beat his breast and prayed,
'O God, be merciful to me a sinner.'"*

Luke 18:13

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF CYCLONE—MARAK

St. Joseph, Cyclone & Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Marak

Pastor: Rev. Darrell Kostiha

Mailing address: 20120 FM 485, Burlington, TX 76519.....**Phone** 254-985-2280

Email: cyclone.marak@gmail.com **Website:** marakchurch.org

Masses: Cyclone: Sat. 5:30PM & Sun. 8:15AM; Weekdays: Tue, Thurs & Friday: 7AM

Marak: Sundays: 10:15AM and Wednesday 5:30PM(unless otherwise stated)

The Sacraments:

Baptism: On Sundays 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: Before Mass on the weekend and anytime by appointment.

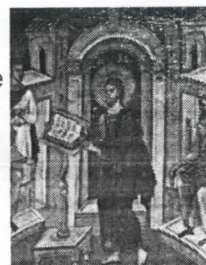
Marriage: Couples planning to be married should contact the pastor at least six months in advance before you set the date of the wedding. Completion of required paperwork and a preparation program needed.

OCTOBER 27, 2019— THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus draws a blunt picture in today's Gospel. The Pharisee's prayer is almost a parody of the thanksgiving psalms (see for example Psalms 30, 118). Instead of praising God for His mighty works, the Pharisee congratulates himself for his own deeds, which he presents to God in some detail. The tax collector stands at a distance, too ashamed even to raise his eyes to God (see Ezra 9:6). He prays with a humble and contrite heart (see Psalm 51:19). He knows that before God no one is righteous, no one has cause to boast (see Roman 3:10; 4:2).

We see in the Liturgy today one of Scripture's abiding themes—that God "knows no favorites," as today's First Reading tells us (see 2 Chronicles 19:7; Acts 10:34–35; Romans 2:11). God cannot be bribed (see Deuteronomy 10:17). We cannot curry favor with Him or impress Him—even with our good deeds or our faithful observance of religious duties such as tithing and fasting. If we try to exalt ourselves before the Lord, as the Pharisee does, we will be brought low (see Luke 1:52). This should be a warning to us—not to take pride in our piety, not to slip into the self-righteousness of thinking that we're better than others, that we're "not like the rest of sinful humanity."

If we clothe ourselves with humility (see 1 Peter 5:5–6)—recognize that all of us are sinners in need of His mercy—we will be exalted (see Proverbs 29:33). The prayer of the lowly, the humble, pierces the clouds. Paul testifies to this in today's Epistle, as he thanks the Lord for giving him strength during his imprisonment. Paul tells us what the Psalmist sings today—that the Lord redeems the lives of His humble servants. We too must serve Him willingly. And He will hear us in our distress, deliver us from evil, and bring us safely to His heavenly kingdom.



Prayer Chain...Please remember in your daily prayers the faithfully departed, those souls in purgatory, those of our community that are in special need of prayer, those who are homebound or in nursing homes, all those in the military and the following: Gerald Beach, Andrea Enga(Cousin of Ethel Marak), JoLeen Cayhill, and Ethel Marak. Prayers are powerful!

Contact Merlene Slavik—254-697-1247 or email—Slavik@farm-market.net to be added to the prayer chain.

10/20 Stewardship: Regular Offering: \$1,144.00

10/20 Children's Offering: \$2.00

10/20 Building Fund: \$5.00

10/20 World Mission: \$210.00

Thank you for Your Generosity!

Bulletin Information: MARAK: Patsy Gaines (254-482-0570) - Email—pagaines2002@yahoo.com

CYCLONE: Nancy Posvar (254-869-2511)

Bulletin deadline : Please call or e-mail info for the bulletin by Wednesday before the weekend!

Ministries for November 1—All Saints Day

Offertory: James & Jeannine Dohnalik

Eucharistic Minister: Volunteer

Ushers: Volunteers

Lector: Merlene Slavik

Altar Servers: Gracie Dorskocil, Carter Dorskocil, Tessa Vaculin

Ministries for November 3

Rosary: Lynne Hornung

Eucharistic Minister: Misty Green

Offertory: Richard & Janice Johnson

Lector: Sarah Goeres

Ushers: Tony Dohnalik & Richard Johnson

Altar Servers: Pat Higgins, Kate Higgins, Claire Kopriva

Sanctuary Light: Oct. 28th– Nov. 3rd: Mary Ann Plachy by Robert & Vickie Plachy



MARAK MASSES—October 27– November 3, 2019

Date	Time	Intentions
Today– 10/27	10:15am	+ Lynette Jochec by Will Anderson, Louis & Mary Frances Vansa + Annie Mae Jochec by Tony & Debbie Dohnalik + Mary Ann Plachy by Beatrice Mallory
10/30– Wednesday	5:30pm	+ Anton Gaas by Matilda Kocurek + Cyril Vaculin by Alfred & Bernice Vrazel + Joe Vansa by Tom & Julie Motyka
11/1—Friday All Saint's Day	5:00pm	+ Lawrence Vrazel by Leroy & Kathy Vansa + Louis Vansa Sr. & Delia Vansa by Richard & Barbara Vansa + Dorothy Vaculin by Mary Stanislaw
11/3—Sunday	10:15am	+ Eugene Tomek by Family + Joseph Andrew Tomek by Kevin & Anna Givens + Joe Vansa by Alfred & Bernice Vrazel

CYCLONE MASSES— October 27– November 3, 2019

Date	Time	Intentions
Today – 10/27	8:15am	+ Joycelyn Litzman by Jim Litzman
10/29– Tuesday	7:00am	+ Ral Wayne Jeske by Nancy Posvar
10/31— Thursday	7:00am	+ Adolph & Anna Smetana by Bill & Carol Smetana
11/1—Friday– All Saints Day	6:30pm	+ Larry Posvar by Family
11/2– Saturday Vigil	5:30pm	+ Jack & Betty Tomasek by Pauline Marek
11/3— Sunday	8:15am	+ Dolores Motl by Skip & Ann Cockrell

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

- **TODAY: ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** Father will administer the anointing of the sick After Mass.
- **OCTOBER 30TH:** St. Joseph's Trunk or Treat from 6:30pm-8pm at St. Joseph's Parish Hall. Nachos, hotdogs, drinks and desserts will be served and provided by the Knights of Columbus. Games, treats given out, wear your costume. Volunteers needed to park, decorate your trunks and pass out candy to the kids. Trick or Treat bags will be available. See flyer on bulletin board in the church entry.
- **NOVEMBER 3:** Election ballots for the parish council will be provided to parishioners.
- **SYMPATHY:** Our deepest sympathy to Tom & Julia Motyka on the loss of their daughter and also to Kelly Laurence and family. May God bless and comfort you during your time of loss.
- **THRIFT SHOP:** KJZT Jrs. will be sponsoring a food drive of non-perishable items for the Cameron Area Thrift Shop. Baskets will be in the church entry from November 3rd—17th.

Calendar

Monday

OCTOBER 28

*Sts. Simon and Jude,
Apostles*

Eph 2:19–22

Lk 6:12–16

Tuesday

OCTOBER 29

Weekday

Rom 8:18–25

Lk 13:18–21

Wednesday

OCTOBER 30

Weekday

Rom 8:26–30

Lk 13:22–30

Thursday

OCTOBER 31

Weekday

Rom 8:31b–39

Lk 13:31–35

Friday

NOVEMBER 1

All Saints

Rv 7:2–4, 9–14

1 Jn 3:1–3

Mt 5:1–12a

Saturday

NOVEMBER 2

*All the Faithful
Departed (All Souls)*

Wis 3:1–9

Rom 5:5–11

Jn 6:37–40

Sunday

NOVEMBER 3

*Thirty-first Sunday
in Ordinary Time*

Wis 11:22–12:2

2 Thes 1:11–2:2

Lk 19:1–10

Dear Padre,

I see hate everywhere these days—in social media, politics, even between religions. Are we helpless to do anything about hatred?

Traditionally, the Church promoted the idea of seven deadly sins. One might assume that hatred is one of these sins, but it's not. Hatred flows out of something else: It's a byproduct of the sins of envy, pride, anger, and avarice. The way to counter hatred is to promote virtues that are the opposite of the deadly sins from which hatred flows.

The virtue opposing the vice of envy is love. In love, we rejoice over our neighbor's good. 1 Thessalonians 5:15 talks about how we seek good for each

person. The opposite of pride is humility. Today's Gospel parable of the Pharisee and tax collector praying together (Luke 18:9–14) speaks of true humility. The tax collector recognized a basic truth: that God is the creator, the source of our life and spirit. The virtue opposing anger is meekness. In meekness, we put aside our feelings to seek reconciliation with our neighbor. Jesus taught that we cannot bring our gift to the altar if we

recall that our neighbor has something against us or vice versa (Matthew 5:23–24). Finally, the virtue that destroys avarice is poverty. Poverty doesn't mean giving away all our money; it means we strive to become rich in what matters to God (Luke 12:20) and to share with those who have less.

Hatred will be no more if we strive to be virtuous in the face of our envy, pride, anger, and avarice.

—Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



PIZZES/SHUTTERSTOCK



A Word from Pope Francis

Sadly, we are witnessing a presentation of religion and religious values in a fundamentalist way, which is used to justify the spread of hatred, discrimination, and violence. The justification of such crimes on the basis of religious ideas is unacceptable, for "God is not the author of confusion, but of peace" (1 Corinthians 14:33).

—Joint declaration with pope of the Armenian Apostolic Church, June 26, 2016