

## Practicing Family Values

**"D**o we have to go to Grandma's!"

Children aren't the only ones who sometimes dread the family Christmas gathering. Adults might, too. Why is that? Our family is the cradle that embraced us at birth, nourished us, and helped us grow. At least that's what it was supposed to be. Perhaps we didn't come from such a family. Still, when our time comes, it is within our power to form such a family. How are we to do it?

In today's readings we have two quite different descriptions of family dynamics. The first, from Sirach, focuses on children's respect for and support of parents. The Gospel passage recounts parents' protection of a vulnerable child. Together these readings tell us that every family member, regardless of age or position within the family, owes all the other members concern and care. Paul provides a short list

of what I like to think of as genuine family values: "heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another" (Colossians 3:12–13). Are such values asking too much of us?

It's not by accident that we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family during Christmastime. Some think that this is a season for children. It's actually a season for family, a time when generations—three, sometimes four or five—at least contact each other.

It's a time for us to decide whether or not Paul's list of virtues reflects our own family portrait. How authentic are our smiles? How deep are our family values?

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

### FOR *Reflection*

- ★ Try reaching out in a special way to a family member in the generation before you and one that follows you.

Those who  
respect their  
father will  
live a long life;  
those who  
obey the  
Lord honor  
their mother.

SIRACH 3:6



## THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF CYCLONE—MARAK

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

**Pastor:** Rev. RanJan Cletus

**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.

### DECEMBER 29, 2019— FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Underlying the wisdom offered in today's Liturgy is the mystery of the family in God's divine plan. The Lord has set father in honor over his children and mother in authority over her sons, we hear in today's First Reading. As we sing in today's Psalm, the blessings of the family flow from Zion, the heavenly mother of the royal people of God (see Isaiah 66:7, 10-13; Galatians 4:26).

And in the drama of today's Gospel, we see the nucleus of the new people of God—the Holy Family—facing persecution from those who would seek to destroy the child and His Kingdom. Moses, called to save God's first born son, the people of Israel (see Exodus 4:22; Sirach 36:11), was also threatened at birth by a mad and jealous tyrant (see Exodus 1:15-16). And as Moses was saved by his mother and sister (see Exodus 2:1-10; 4:19), in God's plan Jesus too is rescued by His family.

As once God took the family of Jacob down to Egypt to make them the great nation Israel (see Genesis 46:2-4), God leads the Holy Family to Egypt to prepare the coming of the new Israel of God—the Church (see Galatians 6:16).

At the beginning of the world, God established the family in the "marriage" of Adam and Eve, the two becoming one body (see Genesis 2:22-24). Now in the new creation, Christ is made "one body" with His bride, the Church, as today's Epistle indicates (see Ephesians 5:21-32). By this union we are made God's chosen ones, holy and beloved. And our families are to radiate the perfect love that binds us to Christ in the Church. As we approach the altar on this feast, let us renew our commitment to our God-given duties as spouses, children and parents. Mindful of the promises of today's First Reading, let us offer our quiet performance of these duties for the atonement of our sins.



**12/22 Stewardship: Regular Offering: \$1,902.00**

**12/22 Children's Offering: \$3.00**

**12/24 Christmas Offering: \$2,374.00**

**Thank you for Your Generosity!**

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

**CYCLONE:** Nancy Posvar (254-913-2696)

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



Ministries for January 5

Rosary: Lynne Hornung

Offertory: Brad Vaculin Family

Ushers: Travis Dohnalik & Adam Dohnalik

Eucharistic Minister: Kelly Laurence

Lector: Brad Vaculin

Altar Servers: Volunteers

Sanctuary Light: Dec. 29th—January 5, 2020 : Cyril & Dorothy Vaculin & Lisa Hanel by Tommy & Laura Vaculin



**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: JoLeen Cayhill. Prayers are powerful!

To be added to the prayer chain, please contact:

**Contact Merlene Slavik—254-697-1247 or email—[Slavik@farm-market.net](mailto:Slavik@farm-market.net)**

**MARAK MASSES—December 29, 2019—January 5, 2020**

| Date          | Time    | Intentions  |
|---------------|---------|---|
| Today— 12/29  | 10:15am | + Martha Hertenberger by Margie & Jerry Wade<br>+ Joseph Andrew Tomek by Kevin & Anna Givens  |
| 1/1—Wednesday |         | NO MASS   |
| 1/5—Sunday    | 10:15am | + Julie Motyka Padgett by Robert & Debbie Vansa<br>+ Cyril Vaculin by Mildred Dornak<br>+ Dorothy Vaculin by Laddie & Edith Vaculin |

**CYCLONE MASSES— December 29, 2019 - January 5, 2020**

| Date                | Time   | Intentions  |
|---------------------|--------|---|
| Today — 12/29       | 8:15am | + Clarence Bartek by Richard & Mary Helen Schigut   |
| 12/31—Tuesday       | 7:00am | + Marcus Wilde by Oleta Wilde                       |
| 1/1/2020— Wednesday | 8:15am | + Vernice & Lawrence Green by Gene & Betty Engbrock |
| 1/2—Thursday        | 7:00am | + James Sula by Irlene & Virgil Schneider           |
| 1/3—Friday          | 7:00am | + Robert Dach by David & Cindy Kahlig               |
| 1/4—Saturday Vigil  | 5:30pm | + Albina Vrazel by Daniel & Linda Wilde             |
| 1/5—Sunday          | 8:15am | + Dolores Motl by Mrs. Joe Teakell                  |

**UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION**

- **THANK YOU:** A special thank you to the Adult Choir and Children's Choir and for those children who participated in the manager scene. May God Bless all of you!
- **THANK YOU:** A very sincere thanks to Dennis Marek on installing the night lights on the church and the electrical pole. Thank you Dennis for donating your equipment and time on the installation of these lights. Thanks to Dennis & Monica Marek for donating the supplies for the light pole. May God bless you!
- **END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS:** If anyone would like an statement showing their yearly contributions to the church, please contact Patsy Gaines.
- **JANUARY 11:** A welcome party hosted by St. Joseph's & Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church for Father Ranjan will be held after the 5:30pm mass. Meats will be furnished. All parishioners are asked to either bring a side or a dessert. Please sign up on the sign in sheet in the church entrance, if you plan to attend.
- **2020 CHURCH CALENDARS:** Calendars will arrive next week. Our sponsor sends a sincere apology for the delay. Thank you Marek-Burns Laywell Funeral Home for your generosity.

# Dear Padre,

**I've heard priests tell stories about Jesus' childhood, the Blessed Virgin, St. Joseph, and St. Anne that aren't in the Bible. Where do these stories come from?**

**T**he Bible as we know it—a definitive collection of sacred texts as the word of God—came together in the fourth and fifth centuries. The same God that inspired authors to record his divine word also inspired the books of the Bible to be collected during the first centuries of Christianity. As such, the Bible itself is formed by tradition.

Ancient texts, other than those officially accepted as fulfilling revelation

(like Scripture), existed in the Church's early centuries. These are known as noncanonical sources. Many of the stories you hear, especially about the people you mention, come from those sources.

In the Church's infancy, people were eager to hear as much as they could about Jesus and his family. In response, many stories about Jesus' childhood and family members were collected in a variety of written accounts—including the *Protoevangelium*, or gospel of James from the year 145 (not to be confused with the New Testament's Letter of James). Although they weren't included in the canon of the Bible, they became sources

for stories passed from generation to generation that were accepted as a part of our tradition. For example, information about Mary's parents, including their names, Joachim and Anne, were derived from noncanonical texts. These sources may add color and flavor to our faith and devotion. But ultimately, everything we need for salvation is revealed in the Scriptures.

—*The Redemptorists* | [Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)



NANCY BAUER/SHUTTERSTOCK

## A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*Every family should look to the icon of the Holy Family of Nazareth. Its daily life had its share of burdens and even nightmares, as when they met with Herod's implacable violence. This last was an experience that, sad to say, continues to afflict the many refugee families who in our day feel rejected and helpless.*

—ON LOVE IN THE FAMILY (AMORIS LAETITIA), MARCH 19, 2016



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## Calendar

### Monday

DECEMBER 30

Sixth Day in the  
Octave of Christmas

1 Jn 2:12–17

Lk 2:36–40

### Tuesday

DECEMBER 31

Seventh Day in the  
Octave of Christmas

1 Jn 2:18–21

Jn 1:1–18

### Wednesday

JANUARY 1

Solemnity of Mary,  
the Holy Mother of God

Nm 6:22–27

Gal 4:4–7

Lk 2:16–21

### Thursday

JANUARY 2

Sts. Basil the Great and  
Gregory Nazianzen,  
Bishops and Doctors  
of the Church

1 Jn 2:22–28

Jn 1:19–28

### Friday

JANUARY 3

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 2:29–3:6

Jn 1:29–34

### Saturday

JANUARY 4

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton,  
Religious

1 Jn 3:7–10

Jn 1:35–42

### Sunday

JANUARY 5

Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1–6

Eph 3:2–3a, 5–6

Mt 2:1–12

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