

## God Is Near

[Jesus said,]  
"So too, you also must be prepared,  
for at an hour you do not expect,  
the Son of Man will come."  
MATTHEW 24:44

**B**e prepared! But for what? Since we're entering the season of Advent, we might think that we're called to prepare for the birth of Jesus. Advent is certainly the time to prepare for Christmas, but it's much more than that, for God comes into our lives in many different ways, even today. We see evidence of that when, working together, we rebuild not only cities, as Isaiah describes in the first reading, but relationships in families, parishes, and countries.

Remarkable changes take place in our lives when, as Paul bids us, we "throw off the works of darkness," works of rivalry and jealousy (Romans 13:12). God comes to us every day with the power we need to improve ourselves and our world. God often comes quietly in ways so ordinary we might miss them. That is the point of Jesus' insistence to "stay awake" and "be prepared" (Matthew 24:42, 44).

God certainly came long ago as a human being. That was a one-time-only event. We believe that God will come again at the end. That, too, will happen only once. But God comes more often than this. God comes every day to help us be our better selves. This is what the Advent readings tell us.

What can we do? How are we to prepare for God's coming? Today's readings tell us. We must work for the peace that Isaiah describes; we must throw off the works of darkness, as Paul instructs; and we must do as Jesus tells us: stay awake and be prepared.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

### FOR *Reflection*

- ★ Where do you see people's goodness that tells us God is near?
- ★ What can you do to make that goodness present to others?



Editor's note: Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA, is pleased to join you at Mass over the next three liturgical years, beginning with today's reflection. A sister of St. Agnes, Sr. Dianne earned a master's degree and a doctorate from Saint Louis University, and honorary degrees and accolades from many organizations. She is professor of biblical studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

## 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 1, 2019— FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Jesus exaggerates in today's Gospel when He claims not to know the day or the hour when He will come again. He occasionally makes such overstatements to drive home a point we might otherwise miss (see Matthew 5:34; 23:9; Luke 14:26). His point here is that the exact "hour" is not important. What is crucial is that we not postpone our repentance, that we be ready for Him—spiritually and morally—when He comes. For He will surely come, He tells us—like a thief in the night, like the flood in the time of Noah.

In today's Epistle, Paul too compares the present age to a time of advancing darkness and night. Though we sit in the darkness, overshadowed by death, we have seen arise the great light of our Lord who has come into our midst (see Matthew 4:16; John 1:9; 8:12). He is the true light, the life of the world. And His light continues to shine in His Church, the new Jerusalem promised by Isaiah in today's First Reading. In the Church, all nations stream to the God of Jacob, to worship and seek wisdom in the House of David. From the Church goes forth His word of instruction, the light of the Lord—that all might walk in His paths toward that eternal day when night will be no more (see Revelation 22:5). By your Baptism we have been made children of the light and day (see Ephesians 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:5–7).

It is time we start living like it—throwing off the fruitless works of darkness, the desires of the flesh, and walking by the light of His grace. The hour is late as we begin a new Advent. Let us begin again in this Eucharist.

As we sing in today's Psalm, let us go rejoicing to the House of the Lord. Let us give thanks to His name, keeping watch for His coming, knowing that our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.



**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 December 8**

**Rosary:** Raymond Tomek  
**Offertory:** Tom & Julie Motyka  
**Ushers:** Volunteers

**Eucharistic Minister:** Judy Vaculin  
**Lector:** Suzanne Duskocil



**Altar Servers:** Pat Higgins, Kate Higgins, Claire Kopriva  
**Sanctuary Light:** Dec. 2nd—8th: Robert Moraw by Edward & Kay Moraw

**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: 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.

**MARAK MASSES—December 1-8, 2019**

Date	Time	Intentions
Today- 12/1	10:15am	+ Deceased Members of Henry Litzman Sr. + Frank Plachy Families by Lynne Hornung
12/4- Wednesday	5:30pm	+ John David Thompson by Robert & Debbie Vansa + Lynette Jochec by Veronica Strutz
12/8—Sunday	10:15am	+ Albina Vrazel by Doris Matocha Family + Marcella Dohnalik by Evelyn Richter

**CYCLONE MASSES— December 1-8, 2019**

Date	Time	Intentions
Today - 12/1	8:15am	+ Dolores Motl by Skip & Ann Cockrell
12/3—Tuesday	7:00am	+ Lucille Bruggman by Larry & Pauline Hoelscher
12/5—Thursday	7:00am	+ Alice Gerngross by Carol & Georgia Stermer
12/6—Friday	7:00am	+ Clarence Bartek by Cheryl Arldt
12/7—Saturday Vigil	5:30pm	+ Albina Vrazel by Beatrice Mallory
12/8—Sunday	8:15am	+ Randolph Green by Family

**11/24 Stewardship: Regular Offering: \$1,226.00**

**11/24 Children's Offering: \$3.00**

**11/24 Catholic Campaign for Human Development: \$198.00**

**Thank you for Your Generosity!**

**UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION**

- **TODAY:** Second Collection for Building and Maintenance Fund
- **DECEMBER 8:** Second Collection for Retired Clergy
- **DECEMBER 15:** Parish Christmas Party after Mass. Meat will be provided. Please bring a side dish and/or dessert. All Parishioners are invited to celebrate with good fellowship, food and a Christmas program.
- **PENANCE SERVICE:** St. Joseph's in Cyclone on December 4th at 7pm and December 11th at Sts. Cyril & Methodius in Marak at 7pm. Please check the bulletin board in the church entry for more information.

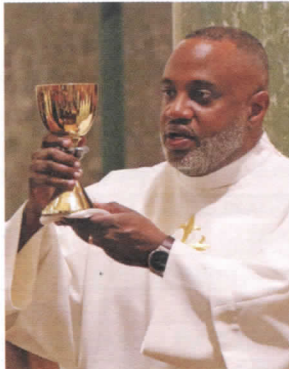
# Dear Padre,

**A eucharistic minister at a parish we were visiting refused my eight-year-old granddaughter Communion from the cup. Her father asked if this was parish policy, and the minister replied, "No, I refuse!" My grandchild receives both species in our home parish. Can a eucharistic minister refuse the Blood of Christ to anyone?**

**A**ccording to the United States Conference of Catholic bishops, "It is the choice of the communicant, not the minister, to receive from the chalice. Children are encouraged to receive Communion under both kinds, provided they are properly instructed and that they are old enough to receive from the chalice" (*Norms for the Distribution and Reception of Holy Communion Under Both Kinds*, 46–47). Children who have reached the age of reason—normally about age seven—are usually advised on this matter of reception by their parents or guardians before they step up to the chalice at Mass. In addition, first-Communion instructions provide adequate preparation on the proper and reverent reception of holy Eucharist.

Essentially, children eligible to receive this sacrament are entitled to participate in the same manner as other members of the ecclesial community. "Sacred ministers cannot deny the sacraments to those who seek them at appropriate times, are properly disposed, and are not prohibited by law from receiving them" (*Code of Canon Law*, 843). While this canon specifically pertains to ordained ministers, it's applicable for all ministers at the service of the faithful who have a right to receive holy Communion by reason of their baptism.

—Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR  
[Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)



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## A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*We can ask ourselves: Is this sacrament fulfilled in me? More concretely: Do I just like to be served at the Lord's table or do I get up to serve like the Lord?...And as a Church let us ask ourselves: After receiving Communion many times, have we become people of communion?*

—EUCCHARISTIC CONCELEBRATION, APRIL 20, 2018

## Calendar

### Monday

DECEMBER 2  
Advent Weekday  
Is 4:2–6  
Mt 8:5–11

### Tuesday

DECEMBER 3  
St. Francis Xavier,  
Priest  
Is 11:1–10  
Lk 10:21–24

### Wednesday

DECEMBER 4  
Advent Weekday  
Is 25:6–10a  
Mt 15:29–37

### Thursday

DECEMBER 5  
Advent Weekday  
Is 26:1–6  
Mt 7:21, 24–27

### Friday

DECEMBER 6  
Advent Weekday  
Is 29:17–24  
Mt 9:27–31

### Saturday

DECEMBER 7  
St. Ambrose,  
Bishop and  
Doctor of the Church  
Is 30:19–21, 23–26  
Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6–8

### Sunday

DECEMBER 8  
Second Sunday  
of Advent  
Is 11:1–10  
Rom 15:4–9  
Mt 3:1–12

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