

Sonship Restored

Strangely enough and discouragingly often, we find the attitude of the older son from the Prodigal Son parable in the Church. The righteous believers who have always belonged can be jealous and look down upon the poor sinner who comes later and gets the same reward.

Yet, the attitude of all of us toward those who are spiritually, morally, or materially needy should be that of the loving father so wonderfully shown in the statue by Francesco Messina.

The sinner comes back in shame, weakness, and obvious failure. His very act of returning is a cry for help, support, and understanding. The father offers his mercy and compassion without questions, without an interrogation. His shoulder is never too proud, too hard, or righteous to be refused as a pillow for the humiliated soul who returns broken, pillaged, and ruined by sin.

Messina chose to show the father and son naked because it symbolizes mankind stripped to its essence. And in this you reveal greatness. Humanity is noblest when admitting its weakness. Humanity is greatest in its ability to show mercy and lift the downtrodden. The father-son relationship is most beautiful when it is being reconciled and restored.

We should always rejoice at the return of a prodigal child, and we should always honor a forgiving parental heart. "We must celebrate and rejoice," said the father. If we are convinced of this, we now have a charge: Go out and find the lost coin and welcome back the lost sheep with humility and joy!

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

For Reflection

Do I have a welcoming spirit about me, always looking to build up and be positive?

Do I live gospel charity and love with all its consequences?



Piece: *Prodigal Son*, 1956

Artist: Francesco Messina

Location: Vatican Museums

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[Jesus said,] "I tell you, in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents...."

Luke 15:7

THANKS TO ALL PARISHIONERS FOR A SUCCESSFUL PICNIC!

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF CYCLONE—MARAK

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

Pastor: Rev. Darrell Kostih

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.

SEPTEMBER 15, 2019 TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

"I will rise and go to my father." Psalm 51

The episode in today's First Reading has been called "Israel's original sin." Freed from bondage, born as a people of God in the covenant at Sinai, Israel turned aside from His ways and fell to worshipping a golden calf. Moses implores God's mercy, just as Jesus will later intercede for the whole human race. Just as He still pleads for sinners at God's right hand and through the ministry of the Church. Israel's sin is the sin of the world. It is your sin and mine. Ransomed from death and made His children in Baptism, we fall prey to the idols of this world. We remain a "stiff-necked people," resisting His will for us like an ox refuses the plowman's yoke (see Jeremiah 7:26).

Like Israel, in our sin we push God away and reject our divine sonship. Once He called us "my people" (see Exodus 3:10; 6:7). But our sin makes us "no people," people He should, in justice, disown (see Deuteronomy 32:21; 1 Peter 2:10). Yet in His mercy, He is faithful to the covenant He swore by His own self in Jesus. In Jesus, God comes to Israel and to each of us—as a shepherd to seek the lost (see Ezekiel 34:11–16), to carry us back to the heavenly feast, the perpetual heritage promised long ago to Abraham's children. "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners," Paul cries in today's Epistle. These are the happiest words the world has ever known. Because of Jesus, as Paul himself can testify, even the blasphemer and persecutor can seek His mercy. As the sinners do in today's Gospel, we draw near to listen to Him. In this Eucharist, we bring Him the acceptable sacrifice we sing of in today's Psalm—our hearts, humbled and contrite. In the company of His angels and saints, we rejoice that He has wiped out our offense. We celebrate with Him that we have turned from the evil way that we might live (see Ezekiel 18:23).



9/8 Stewardship: Regular Offering: \$754.00

9/8 Children's Offering: \$6.00

9/7 Stewardship: Regular Offering: \$548.00

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 September 22

Rosary: Adolph & Dorothy Vansa

Eucharistic Minister: Kelly Laurence

Offertory: REP

Lector: REP

Ushers: REP



Altar Servers: Camryn Green, Colby Green, Garrison Prcin

Sanctuary Light: September 16th—22nd — Special Intention by Ethel Marak

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 put on the prayer chain.

MARAK MASSES—September 15-22, 2019

Date	Time	Intentions
Today— 9/15	10:15am	+ Albina Vrazel by Mary Ann Ring + Joseph Andrew Tomek by Kevin & Anna Givens
9/18- Wednesday	5:30pm	+ Martha Hertenberger by Christa Wade + John David Thompson by Leroy & Kathy Vansa
9/22—Sunday	10:15am	+ Mary Ann Plachy by Katherine Hubnik + Marcella Dohnalik by Evelyn Richter

CYCLONE MASSES— September 15-22, 2019

Date	Time	Intentions
Today – 9/15	8:15am	+ Dolores Motl by Raymond & Gayle Schmiedekamp
9/17– Tuesday	7:00am	+ Robert Dach by Mallory & Barbara Miller
9/19— Thursday	7:00am	+ Lucille Greener by Monica Mikeska
9/20—Friday	7:00am	NO MASS
9/21– Saturday Vigil	5:30pm	+ Randolph Green by Family
9/22— Sunday	8:15am	+ Larry Posvar by Family

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

- **THANK YOU:** Father Darrell would like to express his sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone who helped to make our annual Picnic a great success. Thanks for your hard work, dedication, monetary donations before, during and after the Picnic. May God Bless all of you!
- **TODAY:** Holy Trinity Church Annual Bazaar—Fried Chicken Dinner—11am-1pm—Adults \$10.00—Children \$5.00—Games, raffle, auction, polka music—BBQ by the pound—8am-Noon.
- **ATTENTION: EIM CLASSES:** EIM classes will be held at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish Hall on Saturday, September 28th from 9am-11am. If you plan to attend, please register 24 hours before the class. If you have any questions, please contact Patsy Gaines. Please consider taking the class especially those who took it 2 years ago at Marak because we will not offer another class until 3 years later.
- **CHURCH DIRECTORY:** Please mark your calendar that Lifetouch Company will be taking family portraits for a new church parish directory. The dates are October 14th, 15th, & 16th. Today, after Mass and on September 22nd and 29th, we will be making appointments for the photography session.
- **SEPTEMBER 17:** KC Meeting—St. Joseph's Parish Hall—7:30PM
- **PICNIC MEETING:** There will be a wrap up meeting on Wednesday, September 18th after Mass. All boot chairpersons are asked to attend and the parishioners.

Calendar

Monday

SEPTEMBER 16

*Sts. Cornelius, Pope, and
Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs*

1 Tm 2:1-8

Lk 7:1-10

Tuesday

SEPTEMBER 17

Weekday

1 Tm 3:1-13

Lk 7:11-17

Wednesday

SEPTEMBER 18

Weekday

1 Tm 3:14-16

Lk 7:31-35

Thursday

SEPTEMBER 19

Weekday

1 Tm 4:12-16

Lk 7:36-50

Friday

SEPTEMBER 20

*Sts. Andrew Kim
Tae-gön, Priest,
Paul Chông Ha-sang,
and Companions,
Martyrs*

1 Tm 6:2c-12

Lk 8:1-3

Saturday

SEPTEMBER 21

*St. Matthew,
Apostle and Evangelist*

Eph 4:1-7, 11-13

Mt 9:9-13

Sunday

SEPTEMBER 22

*Twenty-fifth Sunday
in Ordinary Time*

Am 8:4-7

1 Tm 2:1-8

Lk 16:1-13

Dear Padre,

How do I respect my young teenager's privacy in using social media without compromising parental protection?

There are more Facebook accounts than Catholics worldwide, reports the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (uscgb.org/about/communications/social-media-guidelines.cfm). Social media—blogs, social networks, text messaging, and more—is the fastest-growing form of communication in the United States, particularly among youth and young adults. How can we take charge of it rather than let it control us?

While both adults and children need to protect themselves from their own thoughtless impulses in posting opinions and photographs online that may affect their reputations and careers, children need added protection from online predators. It's advisable for parents to set parameters with their children and convey the idea that technology use is a privilege, not a right. If parents intend to follow their kids on social media or monitor their phone, texting, and internet activity, transparency is better than spying and snooping. This helps prevent violating the privacy that young people desire and the trust needed between parents and their children. It's also prudent for parents to communicate the dangers of today's digital world and be vigilant in detecting warning signs exhibited by their children. These include changes in a child's personality and behavior, attempts to conceal their use of computers and handheld devices, and a decline in academic performance.

"Social media can be powerful tools for strengthening community, although social media interaction should not be viewed as a substitute for face-to-face gatherings," wrote the US Bishops. This applies to essential family interaction as well.

—Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



NEW AFRICA/SHUTTERSTOCK



A Word from Pope Francis

Emails, text messages, social networks, and chats can also be fully human forms of communication....Social networks can facilitate relationships and promote the good of society, but they can also lead to further polarization and division between individuals and groups. The digital world is a public square...where we can either encourage or demean one another. —Fiftieth World Communications Day, January 24, 2016



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