

The Joyful Family

Mancini paints the realistic details that make this scene as ordinary as any family playing with their child in a park. Mary has a bowl of water in her hand, perhaps ready to offer a drink to Jesus after he tastes the strawberry or to clean his stained fingers. A silver bowl of food for the baby rests on a white baby blanket. Perhaps it was just placed there by Joseph, for Jesus has finished his vegetables and now Dad offers dessert! A traveling basket sits in front of a water jug. These instruments show that they are a pilgrim family, and the Egyptian obelisk in the background indicates their destination.

The circumstances are precarious yet joyful, even playful, in their following of God's path. This was just one of the trying times for the Holy Family, which would eventually include losing the Child Jesus in the temple. As their whole focus in this painting is on Jesus, imagine their fear when they can no longer find the heart of their family.

This is a fantastic image of the joys and challenges of family life. There is joy in having Jesus in our midst, and no sacrifice is too great when he is present. But when he is lost from the center, fears and anxieties enter.

The words of Colossians sum up this attitude, making one think that Paul had a good idea of what virtues family life require! Let's work in our families to have Jesus at the center, and once he is there, to "put on" all the virtues that his presence inspires.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC



Piece: *Rest on the Flight Into Egypt, The Holy Family*, 1725
Artist: Francesco Mancini
Location: Vatican Museums

For Reflection

Does one of the virtues mentioned by St. Paul catch my attention?

Should I pray for and practice that virtue a little more?

*And Jesus advanced [in] wisdom and age and favor before God and man.
Luke 2:52*

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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.

DECEMBER 30, 2018 FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

"Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways." Psalm 128

Why did Jesus choose to become a baby born of a mother and father and to spend all but His last years living in an ordinary human family? In part, to reveal God's plan to make all people live as one "holy family" in His Church (see 2 Corinthians 6:16–18). In the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, God reveals our true home. We're to live as His children, "chosen ones, holy and beloved," as the First Reading puts it. The family advice we hear in today's readings—for mothers, fathers and children—is all solid and practical. Happy homes are the fruit of our faithfulness to the Lord, we sing in today's Psalm. But the Liturgy is inviting us to see more, to see how, through our family obligations and relationships, our families become heralds of the family of God that He wants to create on earth.

Jesus shows us this in today's Gospel. His obedience to His earthly parents flows directly from His obedience to the will of His heavenly Father. Joseph and Mary aren't identified by name, but three times are called His "parents" and are referred to separately as His "mother" and "father." The emphasis is all on their familial ties to Jesus. But these ties are emphasized only so that Jesus, in the first words He speaks in Luke's Gospel, can point us beyond that earthly relationship to the Fatherhood of God. In what Jesus calls "My Father's house," every family finds its true meaning and purpose (see Ephesians 3:15). The Temple we read about in the Gospel today is God's house, His dwelling (see Luke 19:46). But it's also an image of the family of God, the Church (see Ephesians 2:19–22; Hebrews 3:3–6; 10:21). In our families we're to build up this household, this family, this living temple of God. Until He reveals His new dwelling among us, and says of every person: "I shall be his God and he will be My son" (see Revelation 21:3, 7)



12/23 Stewardship: Regular Offering: \$1,119.00

12/23 Children's Offering: \$18.00

12/23 Christmas Offering: \$25.00

12/24 Christmas Offering: \$2,235.00

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 January 6
JANUARY 1: Volunteers for all Ministries

Rosary: Lynne Hornung

Offertory: Brad Vaculin Family

Ushers: Travis Dohnalik & Adam Dohnalik

Altar Servers: Camryn & Colby Green and Brady Barton

Eucharistic Minister: Bernice Vrazel

Lector: Brad Vaculin



Sanctuary Light : Dec. 31st—January 6th —Larry Green by Family

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: Albina Vrazel, Julius Dubcak, JoLeen Cayhill, and Ethel Marak. Prayers are powerful and with God nothing shall be impossible.

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

MARAK MASSES—December 30, 2018—January 6, 2019

Date	Time	Intentions
Today— 12/30	10:15am	+ Martha Hertenberger by Robert & Vickie Plachy
1/1—Tuesday Holy Day of Obligation	10:15am	+ Cyril & Dorothy Vaculin & Lisa Hanel by Anton & Albina Vrazel, Mary Ann & Billy Seaton & Christa Wade
1/6—Sunday	10:15am	+ Larry Green by Carol & Georgia Stermer

CYCLONE MASSES— December 30, 2018—January 6, 2019

Date	Time	Intentions
Today – 12/30	8:15am	+ Larry Posvar by Family
1/1– Tuesday—Holy Day	8:15am	+ Douglas Daskocil by Nancy & Dale Pechal
1/3– Thursday	7:00am	+ Alton Moraw by Bernadette & Darwin Bruggman
1/4—Friday	7:00am	+ Robert Dach by Fritz & Betty Hodde
1/5– Saturday Vigil	5:30pm	+ Marietta Brenek by Alfred & Bernice Vrazel
1/6— Sunday	8:15am	+ Dolores Motl by Raymond & Gayle Schmiedekamp

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

- **TODAY—DECEMBER 30:** Second Collection—Feast of the Holy Family—For Maternity homes in the Diocese of Austin —Our Lady of the Angels Maternity Shelter in Temple, Annunciation Maternity Home in Georgetown and Pro-Life Activities Office of Austin Diocese.
- **THANK YOU:** Special thanks to the Adult Choir (especially the Czech songs) —the Children's Choir and the Children participating in the Nativity Scene. Thank you for your dedication and also for continuing the Christmas tradition and making the birth of Jesus a special and joyous occasion.
- **JANUARY 1:** Solemnity Mary Mother of God—Holy Day of Obligation—Mass at 10:15am
- **JANUARY 2:** NO MASS at Marak.
- **JANUARY 6 & 13:** Cemetery Board Nomination ballots will be passed out on these two Sundays. Please place ballots in the ballot box at the church entrance. Raymond Jochec and Carl Hubnik will be going off the board and cannot be re-elected.
- **ALTAR SOCIETY:** Membership is open to all women of the parish—dues are \$5.00—Reminder to pay cleaning dues of \$20.00. Memorial Vigil candles for your loved ones are available to schedule for one week for \$5.00. If you have any questions, please contact Merlene Slavik. Make checks payable to St. Anne's Altar Society.

Calendar

Monday

DECEMBER 31

Seventh Day in the
Octave of Christmas

1 Jn 2:18-21 • Jn 1:1-18

Tuesday

JANUARY 1

Solemnity of Mary
the Holy Mother of God

Nm 6:22-27

Gal 4:4-7

Lk 2:16-21

Wednesday

JANUARY 2

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

1 Jn 2:22-28

Jn 1:19-28

Thursday

JANUARY 3

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 2:29-3:6

Jn 1:29-34

Friday

JANUARY 4

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton,
Religious

1 Jn 3:7-10 • Jn 1:35-42

Saturday

JANUARY 5

St. John Neumann,
Bishop

1 Jn 3:11-21 • Jn 1:43-51

Sunday

JANUARY 6

The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6

Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

Mt 2:1-12

Dear Padre,

The Church emphasizes the feast of the Holy Family. But Jesus does not seem to be much of a family person. Instances in Scripture when Jesus was a child show him ignoring, even rejecting, Mary and Joseph.

It becomes clear, as Jesus grows in age and wisdom, that he has not come to build his own little family, but to build a worldwide family of disciples. This family would claim God as the Father of all, with Jesus and others as brothers and sisters in the family. All who followed him would be as dear to Jesus as his mother or his foster father.

Mary's and Joseph's roles were not only to be Jesus' earthbound parents but, more importantly, to be examples of how to follow God's purpose. Mary and Joseph accepted God's path for them, even though they didn't know where it would lead. Mary calls herself the handmaid of the Lord, and Joseph follows God's instruction and marries Mary, even though it was contrary to all reason and caused him scandal.

In the family of God, we seek and follow God's purpose. We are to say yes with Mary; we are to imitate Joseph in following God's direction, even though our actions may seem countercultural or even scandalous.

Jesus said plainly: "Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother" (Mark 3:35). God's will becomes the cornerstone of Jesus' new, universal family of humankind. Every Christian family, then, has a double task in raising their children: teaching and inspiring them to love their blood family, but also teaching and inspiring them to love and believe in Jesus and seek God's will.



BERNABO RAMON/FAIR/SHUTTERSTOCK

—Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSSR

Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



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.

—Amoris Laetitia, March 19, 2016



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A Redemptorist Ministry

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