



Spirit-Trained

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

The Spirit that descended upon Jesus is the same Spirit with which we have been baptized. In one way or another, it calls us out into the world, into the lives of others. At times, that call is a passionate desire that burns like fire "eager to do what is good," as Paul wrote to Titus (Titus 2:14). It shows itself as a call to the work we do in life—perhaps parenting, teaching, medical work, or creating jobs through business. The Spirit beckons us into making the world a better place in which to live.

Sometimes, however, the Spirit's voice echoes with calls made to us by others. Teachers are urged to become principals. Employees are recognized as potential managers and supervisors. People receive requests to volunteer in community or school projects. At other times, the Spirit calls us through the needs of life. A child may need to care for an aged parent. A family may have a child with special needs. One-sided relationships may call for a listening ear that saps our patience.

Saint Paul wrote to Titus that, in all of this, we are being trained by God's Spirit to live life as follows: temperately, with a sense of balance, perhaps between giving and receiving; justly, because life is not all about us; and devoutly, for there is a power greater than ourselves (Titus 2:12). It may help to realize that those in training do not always perform their work perfectly. It is the nature of being trained. Trust the Spirit to train you well. ●

Reflect

How is the Spirit training you to make the world a better place?

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: Saturday 5:30PM & Sunday 8:15AM; Weekdays: Tues., 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 to schedule 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.

JANUARY 12, 2025 THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

The Liturgy last week revealed the mystery of God's plan—that in Jesus all peoples, symbolized by the Magi, have been made "coheirs" to the blessings promised to Israel. This week, we're shown how we claim our inheritance.

Jesus doesn't submit to John's baptism as a sinner in need of purification. He humbles Himself to pass through Jordan's waters in order to lead a new "exodus"—opening up the promised land of heaven so that all peoples can hear the words pronounced over Jesus today, words once reserved only for Israel and its king: that each of us is a beloved son or daughter of God (see [Genesis 22:2](#); [Exodus 4:22](#); [Psalm 2:7](#)).

Jesus is the chosen servant Isaiah prophesies in today's First Reading, anointed with the Spirit to make things right and just on earth. God puts His Spirit upon Jesus to make Him "a covenant of the people," the liberator of the captives, the light to the nations. Jesus, today's Second Reading tells us, is the One long expected in Israel, "anointed . . . with the Holy Spirit and power."

The word messiah means "one anointed" with God's Spirit. King David was "the anointed of the God of Jacob" (see [2 Samuel 23:1-17](#); [Psalm 18:51](#); [132:10, 17](#)). The prophets taught Israel to await a royal offshoot of David, upon whom the Spirit would rest (see [Isaiah 11:1-2](#); [Daniel 9:25](#)).

That's why the crowds are so anxious at the start of today's Gospel. But it isn't John they're looking for. God confirms with His own voice what the angel earlier told Mary: Jesus is the Son of the Most High, come to claim the throne of David forever (see [Luke 1:32-33](#)).

In the Baptism that He brings, the voice of God will hover over the waters as a fiery flame, as we sing in today's Psalm. He has sanctified the waters, made them a passageway to healing and freedom—a fountain of new birth and everlasting life.



1-5: Sunday Offering: \$1,795.00 1-5: Building Fund: \$376.00
1-1: Solemnity of Mary Collection: \$312.00 1-5: First Offering: \$369.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Bulletin Information: MARAK: Anna Givens (512-809-9889) marakchurch@yahoo.com
CYCLONE: Nancy Posvar (254-913-2696)

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

MINISTRIES FOR JANUARY 19, 2025

Rosary: Julia Motyka

Lector: KJZT Juniors

Ushers: KJZT Juniors

Money Counters: Rhonda Gelner and Aline Junek

Eucharistic Minister: Ronald Kaulfus

Offertory: KJZT Juniors

Servers: Pat, Kate, Garrison, Annalee



SANCTUARY LIGHT: January 13th-19th, 2025:

†Edward Klepac by Garrey and Cindy Prcin

†John and Mary Hubnik by Katherine Hubnik Family

Prayer Chain... Please pray for Anton Vrazel, Martha Hubnik, Brandon Lewis (Cousin to the Tomek Family), Dorothy Vansa, Kay and Ed Moraw, Ethel Marak, Thomas Motyka as well as those in need in the Book of Prayers. Prayers are powerful as we pray daily for those in need. To be added to the prayer chain:

Please contact Merlene Slavik—254-697-1247 or email—Slavik@farm-market.net

MARAK MASSES—January 12th to 19th, 2025

Date	Time	Mass Intentions
Today—1/12	10:15am	†Clement Tomek by Knights of Columbus Council No. 10186 (Marak/Cyclone) †Laddie Dohnalik by Mike and Janice Marek †Jennifer Pelzel by Rebecca Barton †Gene Vaculin by Judy Vaculin
1/15—Wednesday	5:30 pm	†Steve Vansa by Leroy Vansa †Joe and Stefina Vansa by Robert and Debbie Vansa †Stanley Hubnik by Billy and Mary Ann Seaton
1/19—Sunday	10:15am	†Stanley Hubnik by Chester and Margaret Hays †John Slavik by Merlene Slavik Family †John and Mary Hubnik by Mary Ann Seaton †Deceased Members of Henry Litzman, Sr. and Frank Plachy Families by Lynne Hornung

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

- **NOMINATIONS:** Nomination Ballots will be available for the 2025 Cemetery Board on January 19th and 26th. Only men and women who are practicing Catholics, members of Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish, eighteen (18) years of age or older, and are willing to devote some worthwhile time to working in the parish, shall be eligible for membership on the Cemetery Board. Please take a Nomination Form and return it to the Ballot Box by Sunday, January 26th.
- **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:** The next KC meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 21st at St. Joseph's at 7:00 PM.
- **MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY CERTIFICATES:** If you will celebrate 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65 (increments of 5) years of marriage during 2025 and would like to be recognized at Mass with a commemorative certificate, please contact the Church Secretary to schedule a date.
- **CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL:** The Diocese of Austin congratulates us on reaching 101% of our goal of \$5,500. Thank you for your faithful and generous support of our Catholic ministries and outreach programs throughout the Diocese, and for assisting us in reaching this year's parish goal.

Dear Padre,

We are told that we are baptized into Jesus' death and resurrection, and that baptism is necessary for our salvation. But why was Jesus baptized?

Jesus was baptized, not because he needed saving, but so that others might be saved. By accepting baptism, he established this act as the normative path for salvation. Saint John Chrysostom addressed this question: "Though [Christ] needed not baptism for his own sake, yet carnal nature in others had need thereof." Or as St. Gregory

Nazianzen said more poetically: "Christ was baptized that he might plunge the old Adam entirely in the water."

Another reason Jesus accepted baptism is suggested by St. Augustine. He said our Lord was baptized "because he wished to do what he had commanded all to do." This is true servant leadership—not asking of others what one is not willing to do oneself. Or as St. Ambrose said, "This is justice, to do first thyself that which thou wishest another to do, and so encourage others by thy example."

Perhaps as we launch into a new year, we might try to remember our baptismal promise to "put on Christ" and imitate Jesus in this way: to not ask of anyone—our children or parents; employers or employees; teachers or students; principals or pastors; or even presidents—what we do not ask of ourselves, especially when it comes to honesty, dedication, civility, and charity.



SWEET MARSHMALLOW / SHUTTERSTOCK

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
January 13	January 14	January 15	January 16	January 17	January 18	January 19
<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>St. Anthony, Abbot</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
Heb 1:1–6	Heb 2:5–12	Heb 2:14–18	Heb 3:7–14	Heb 4:1–5, 11	Heb 4:12–18	Is 62:1–5
Mk 1:14–20	Mk 1:21–28	Mk 1:29–39	Mk 1:40–45	Mk 2:1–12	Mk 2:13–17	1 Cor 12:4–11
						In 2:1–11



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A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Let us thank the Lord for baptism. Let us also thank him for the parents who brought us to the font, for those who administered the sacrament...for the community in which we received him.... Do I acknowledge, in my life, the light of the presence of God, who sees me as his beloved son, his beloved daughter?

ANGELUS, ROME, JANUARY 7, 2024