

Just Come in the Side Door

This fragment is from a church ceiling fresco that crumbled and fell to the ground. It was eventually added to the Vatican collection. A piece of rubble is now a priceless object of art. Viewers look up at the apostle from below as he gazes toward Christ's divine glory.

We also are striving to attain that heavenly vision, and Jesus advises us on how to realize it. We should work to enter the smaller gate, the narrow door. It's not the bigger main entrance that everyone uses. The narrow door is a less-traveled side entrance used by those who are close to the owner and his family. Christ invites us to be so familiar and comfortable with him that we come through the side door.

Many pass the Master's house, know where it is, but have lost the practice of stopping inside. They know about God, even pray occasionally, and don't hurt anyone. No doubt not hurting others is admirable, but there is so much more for someone baptized into Christ. We're not called to merely avoid hurting others but to have a deep, transforming experience of healing love that we then share with others.

For Reflection

Do I make getting to know our Lord in prayer a priority?



Piece: *Head of an Apostle*, 1481-83

Artist: Melozzo da Forlì

Location: Vatican Museums

PHOTO © GOVERNATORATO S.C.V. - DIRETTORATO DEI MUSEI VATICANI

[Jesus said,] "Strive to enter through the narrow door, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough."

Luke 13:24

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF CYCLONE—MARAK

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

Pastor: Rev. Darrell Kostiha

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.

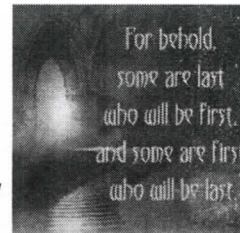
Marriage: Couples planning to be married should contact the pastor at least six months in advance before you set the date of the wedding. Completion of required paperwork and a preparation program needed.

AUGUST 25, 2019 TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

"I am the way, the truth and the life, says the Lord. John 14:6

Jesus doesn't answer the question put to Him in this Sunday's Gospel. It profits us nothing to speculate on how many will be saved. What we need to know is what He tells us today—how to enter into salvation and how urgent it is to strive now, before the Master closes the door. Jesus is "the narrow gate," the only way of salvation, the path by which all must travel to enter the kingdom of the Father (see John 14:6). In Jesus, God has come—as He promises in this week's First Reading—to gather nations of every language, to reveal to them His glory. Eating and drinking with them, teaching in their streets, Jesus in the Gospel is slowly making His way to Jerusalem. There, Isaiah's vision will be fulfilled: On the holy mountain He will be lifted up (see John 3:14), and He will draw to Himself brethren from among all the nations to worship in the heavenly Jerusalem, to glorify Him for His kindness, as we sing in today's Psalm.

In God's plan, the kingdom was proclaimed first to the Israelites and last to the Gentiles (see Romans 1:16; Acts 3:25–26), who in the Church have come from the earth's four corners to make up the new people of God (see Isaiah 43:5–6; Psalm 107:2–3). Many, however, will lose their place at the heavenly table, Jesus warns. Refusing to accept His narrow way they will weaken, rendering themselves unknown to the Father (see Isaiah 63:15–16). We don't want to be numbered among those of drooping hands and weak knees (see Isaiah 35:3). So, we must strive for that narrow gate, a way of hardship and suffering—the way of the beloved Son. As this week's Epistle reminds us, by our trials we know we are truly God's sons and daughters. We are being disciplined by our afflictions, strengthened to walk that straight and narrow path—that we may enter the gate and take our place at the banquet of the righteous.



8/18 Stewardship: Regular Offering: \$1,158.00

8/18 Children's Offering: \$8.00

8/18 Assumption of Mary Offering: \$10.00

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 1

Rosary: Lynne Hornung

Offertory: Laddie & Edith Vaculin

Ushers: Buster Junek & Clay Barton

Eucharistic Minister: Judy Vaculin

Lector: Alfred Vrazel

Altar Servers: Lily Brunson, Adison Brunson, Bailey Anderle

Sanctuary Light: Aug 26th– September 1st—John Thompson by Merlene Slavik



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—August 25– September 1, 2019

Date	Time	Intentions
Today– 8/25	10:15am	+ Robert & Donna Dach by Michelle Kostroun + Larry Green by Kenneth & Michelle Kostroun
8/28- Wednesday	5:30pm	+ Lynette Jochec by Louis & Mary Frances Vansa + Annie Mae Jochec by Jane & Johnnie Marek
9/1—Sunday	10:15am	+ August & Mary Hubnik by Liz & Arvell Jungmann + Albina Vrazel by Terry & Barbara McNeill

CYCLONE MASSES— August 25– September 1, 2019

Date	Time	Intentions
Today – 8/25	8:15am	+ Randolph Green by Family
8/27– Tuesday	7:00am	+ Bill, Don, & Vernon Greener by Monica Mikeska
8/29– Thursday	7:00am	+ Jerry Dukatnik by Lyn Dukatnik
8/30—Friday	7:00am	+ Robert Dach by Fritz & Betty Hodde
8/31– Saturday Vigil	5:30pm	+ Lucille Bruggman by Charles & Cindy Moeller
9/1— Sunday	8:15am	+ Dolores Motl by Raymond & Gayle Schmiedekamp

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

- **SEPTEMBER 1ST:** Second Collection for Building & Maintenance Fund
- **SEPTEMBER 1ST:** REP class Registration after Mass. Classes begin September 4th—
Class time: 6:15pm—7:15pm.
- **PICNIC:** Reminder to all who were asked to bring cornbread and bread, please have it turned in by September 1st. Contact Jeannine Dohnalik or Cecilia Marak. Also sodas are due by September 1st—please leave these in the cry room or contact Patsy Gaines.
- **RCIA:** If you are discerning the decision to enter into the Catholic Church, or simply want to learn more about your faith, or missed some of your sacraments, then you might consider attending the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) classes. Beginning September 11 at 6:00 pm at St. Cyril & Methodius Parish. Monica Marek, Director; Phone 254-541-6350 Email: monicamarek@icloud.com. Kristen Parker, Assistant. St. Joseph's phone #254-985-2280 Email: cyclone.marak@gmail.com.
- **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 before the class. If you have any questions, please contact Patsy Gaines.

Calendar

Monday

AUGUST 26

Weekday

1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10

Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday

AUGUST 27

St. Monica

1 Thes 2:1-8

Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday

AUGUST 28

St. Augustine, Bishop
and Doctor of the Church

1 Thes 2:9-13

Mt 23:27-32

Thursday

AUGUST 29

Passion of St. John
the Baptist

1 Thes 3:7-13

Mk 6:17-29

Friday

AUGUST 30

Weekday

1 Thes 4:1-8

Mt 25:1-13

Saturday

AUGUST 31

Weekday

1 Thes 4:9-11

Mt 25:14-30

Sunday

SEPTEMBER 1

Twenty-second Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29

Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a

Lk 14:1, 7-14

Dear Padre,

Why would God establish laws and feast days for Jews and suddenly change them?

Scripture can explain this. God didn't suddenly change laws and feast days, but followed a consistent plan, with the Old Covenant leading to the New Covenant.

Genesis tells us that Adam and Eve were given life to walk with God in Eden. From eternity it was God's intent to gather humanity into one family in a relationship of love. With Abraham the covenant was extended: "I will make

of you a great nation....All the families of the earth will find blessing in you" (Genesis 12:2-3). Moses led the tribes from Egypt to Mount Sinai. Here God renewed and strengthened the covenant, giving the Hebrews the Ten Commandments as a guiding light to all. Then, through centuries of hardship, God sent prophets to call people back. These prophets promised God would send a savior in a covenant that would last forever: "I will be their God, and they shall be my people" (Jeremiah 31:33).

Jesus was the Savior foreseen in Genesis 3:15 who would crush Satan's head. He was the one promised by the prophets, the King in David's line (Luke 1:32-33) who would establish God's New Covenant offering salvation to all.

Jesus wasn't part of a sudden change of plans, but the completion of God's design to invite everyone back into the family love and intimacy first offered to Adam and Eve. The laws and feasts, prophecies and psalms of the Old Covenant foretold Christ.

—Fr. Oscar Lukefahr, CM
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



JOHNSON/SHUTTERSTOCK



A Word from Pope Francis

In the Old Testament, the requirement to be holy, in the image of God who is holy, included the duty to care for the most vulnerable people, such as the stranger, the orphan, and the widow. Jesus brings this Covenant law to fulfillment; he who unites...divinity and humanity, a single mystery of love.

—Angelus, October 26, 2014