



## The Waiting Time

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**A**dvent is a time of hope but also a time of waiting. Different than wishing, hope is the belief that, one day, all will be well. Teenagers eagerly wait to be out on their own, believing then all will be well. Students are eager to graduate and get away from papers to write, books to read, and exams to take—then all will be well. Some singles long to find a partner, marry, and settle down, believing—then—all will be well. Always there is the faith that, although life may not now be what we wish, the future will bring a time when all will be well. We are inveterate people of hope.

Yet life is a process that cannot be rushed. Author Annie Dillard once watched a butterfly hatch from a cocoon. A bit impatient, she decided to gently warm

the cocoon and so hasten the process. It worked, except by rushing the process the butterfly's wings were undeveloped, too weak to fly. All that we hope and long for in life must happen at its own pace, faithful to the process.

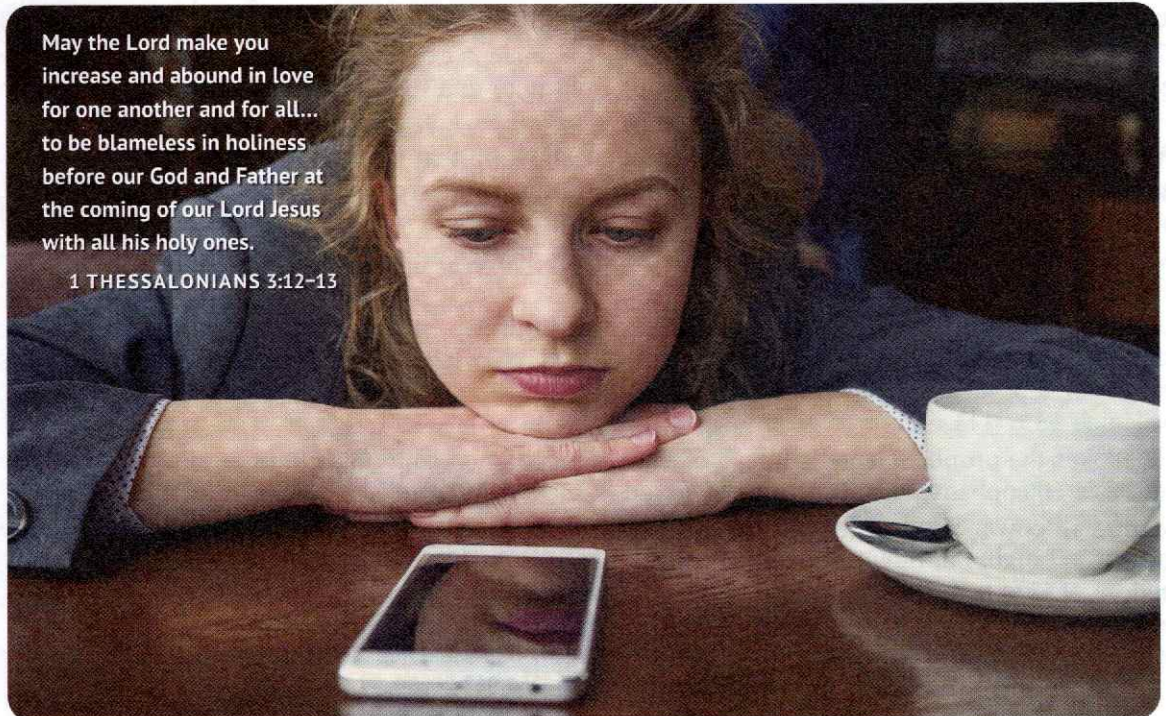
How, then, do we negotiate the waiting? The Gospel's encouragement is to pray, but not for what we want. Rather, we are to pray for the strength to stand with hope before the Son of Man, trusting that God will bring forth the goodness we need. Though it may be different than what we seek, it will be what we need. ●

### Reflect

*How can you better enjoy times of waiting?*

May the Lord make you  
increase and abound in love  
for one another and for all...  
to be blameless in holiness  
before our God and Father at  
the coming of our Lord Jesus  
with all his holy ones.

1 THESSALONIANS 3:12–13



## 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.

### **DECEMBER 1, 2024 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Every Advent, the Liturgy of the Word gives our sense of time a reorientation. There's a deliberate tension in the next four weeks' readings—between promise and fulfillment, expectation and deliverance, between looking forward and looking back.

In today's First Reading, the prophet Jeremiah focuses our gaze on the promise God made to David, some 1,000 years before Christ. God says through the prophet that He will fulfill this promise by raising up a "just shoot," a righteous offspring of David, who will rule Israel in justice (see [2 Samuel 7:16](#); [Jeremiah 33:17](#); [Psalm 89:4-5; 27-38](#)).

Today's Psalm, too, sounds the theme of Israel's ancient expectation: "Guide me in your truth and teach me. For you are God my savior and for you I will wait all day."

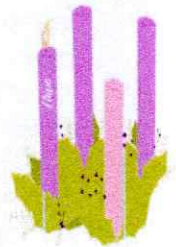
We look back on Israel's desire and anticipation knowing that God has already made good on those promises by sending His only Son into the world. Jesus is the "just shoot," the God and Savior for Whom Israel was waiting.

Knowing that He is a God who keeps His promises lends grave urgency to the words of Jesus in today's Gospel.

Urging us to keep watch for His return in glory, He draws on Old Testament images of chaos and instability—turmoil in the heavens (see [Isaiah 13:11, 13](#); [Ezekiel 32:7-8](#); [Joel 2:10](#)); roaring seas (see [Isaiah 5:30; 17:12](#)); distress among the nations (see [Isaiah 8:22; 14:25](#)) and terrified people (see [Isaiah 13:6-11](#)).

He evokes the prophet Daniel's image of the Son of Man coming on a cloud of glory to describe His return as a "theophany," a manifestation of God (see [Daniel 7:13-14](#)).

Many will cower and be literally scared to death. But Jesus says we should greet the end-times with heads raised high, confident that God keeps His promises, that our "redemption is at hand," that "the kingdom of God is near" (see [Luke 21:31](#)).



**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 DECEMBER 8, 2024

Rosary: Volunteer Needed

Eucharistic Minister: Misty Green

Lector: REP

Offertory: REP

Ushers: REP

Servers: Gracie, Carter, Bella

**Sanctuary Light: December 9th-15th: Milton and Evelyn Hubnik by Janice Johnson**

**Prayer Chain...**Please pray for Anton Vrazel, Martha Hubnik, Brandon Lewis (Cousin to the Tomek Family), Dorothy Vansa, Kay and Ed Moraw, and Ethel Marak 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—December 1-8, 2024**

Date	Time	Mass Intentions
Today—12/1	10:15am	†Joe and Eva David by Laddie and Edith Vaculin †James Junek by Aline Junek †Clement Tomek by Leroy and Kathy Vansa †Clement Tomek by Mary Karstadt, Debbie Wene, John Sims, Gail Sims †Laddie Dohnalik by Richard and Betty Brenek
12/4—Wednesday	5:30 pm	†Joe and Stefina Vansa by Robert and Debbie Vansa †Stanley Hubnik by Louis Hubnik †Jerry Sipula by Leroy and Kathy Vansa
12/8—Sunday	10:15am	†Milton and Evelyn Hubnik by Janice Johnson †Joe and Elizabeth Vaculin by Laddie and Edith Vaculin †Jennifer Pelzel by Rebecca Barton †Joe and Stefina Vansa by Robert and Debbie Vansa

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

- **PARISH CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON:** The parish Christmas Luncheon will follow mass today.
- **COUNCIL RUNOFF:** There will be an election runoff for a position on the Parish Council. Ballots will be handed out on December 1st and 8th. Ballots are due on December 15th for counting.
- **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEMBERS CHRISTMAS GATHERING:** The Knights of Columbus Members Christmas Gathering will be held December 7th at the Marak Parish Hall. Socializing begins at 5PM; Meal at 6PM. Widows of past members are welcome. A sign-up sheet will be located at the entry of the Church through December 1st.
- **DECEMBER 7TH:** Devotion to the Holy Rosary and Blessed Virgin Mary-9AM in the Church.
- **SECOND COLLECTION:** Next Sunday's second collection is for the Retired Clergy and Religious.
- **ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE:** Our Advent Penance Service will take place on Wednesday, December 18th at 6:30PM.
- **VIGIL CANDLES:** St. Anne Altar Society has 9 Vigil Candle slots still open for the 2025 calendar year. If anyone is interested in buying a vigil candle slot, please contact Debbie Vansa at 254-697-5057. Each slot is \$10.
- **CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:** Christmas flower envelopes are available in the foyer of the church for anyone wishing to make memorials or donations to help defray the cost of making our altars beautiful during this special season of the year. Any contribution would be greatly appreciated.
- **SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION:** The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception has been transferred to December 9, 2024. Bishop Vasquez has dispensed the faithful of the obligation to attend mass.

11-24: Sunday Offering: \$1,227.00

11-24: Campaign for Human Development: \$304.00

11-24: Children's Offering: \$7.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

# Dear Padre,

*I've been Catholic all my life, but I don't understand Advent. It's too much like Lent and seems an odd way to prepare for the birth of a baby.*

In a society that is primarily secular, one skill of the believing Christian is the ability to balance competing realities. From a secular perspective, Christmas is part of the period identified as the “holidays,” beginning with Thanksgiving until New Year’s Day, when it abruptly ends and stores begin advertising Valentine’s Day.

For Christians, Christmas is the day we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the great promise fulfilled after centuries of waiting and expectation. The creative energy of the Father is displayed in wonder and awe as the angels sing and people of good faith gather to celebrate. We join our ancestors in anticipation of this event through the liturgical season of Advent, a time of waiting and preparation.

The Christian holy day is a singular day, the feast of the Nativity of the Lord—Christmas—but the Church continues the celebration of God’s life and love through the days that follow, culminating in the Baptism of the Lord, the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus.

We are invited to hold the secular and the liturgical experiences in an integrated balance. We can celebrate the secular holidays and we can enter the liturgical season that helps us contemplate something much grander and more spectacular. ●



*Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 2	December 3	December 4	December 5	December 6	December 7	December 8
<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>St. Francis</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>St. Ambrose</i>	<i>Second Sunday</i>
Is 2:1–5	<i>Xavier, Priest</i>	Is 25:6–10a	Is 26:1–6	Is 29:17–24	<i>Bishop and</i>	<i>of Advent</i>
Mt 8:5–11	Is 11:1–10	Mt 15:29–37	Mt 7:21, 24–27	Mt 9:27–31	<i>Doctor of the</i>	Bar 5:1–9
	Lk 10:21–24				<i>Church</i>	Phil 1:4–6, 8–11
					Is 30:19–21,	Lk 3:1–6
					23–26	
					Mt 9:35–10:1,	
					5a, 6–8	



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*Vigilance means this: not to allow our hearts to become lazy or our spiritual life to soften into mediocrity. Be careful because we can become “sleepy Christians”—and we know there are many Christians who are asleep, who are anesthetized by spiritual worldliness.... This is a sad life going forward this way since there is no happiness.*

ANGELUS, ROME, NOVEMBER 28, 2021