

Appreciating God’s Patience

God is very patient, but his patience doesn’t last forever.

In the Old Testament, after God spoke to Abraham and Lot’s subsequent rebellion, some 500 years passed before God revealed himself again—this time to Moses. God takes the first step toward Abraham and, when his descendants turned away, he steps back. He reached out again to Moses and revealed his name so that Moses could enter into a personal relationship with him and explain his name to others. God wants to be known by his people and by you!

So here we learn that with this revelation of God comes a responsibility. He unveils his mysterious face but he also desires a loving response and for us to witness about him to others.

Saint Paul makes it clear that God eventually ran out of patience with the Chosen People in the desert. After freeing the Israelites from Egypt with signs and wonders, giving them his law, and feeding them in the desert, they complained against him.

For Reflection

Is there a particular way I “desire evil things,” as St. Paul says in the second reading?

God shows me patience and mercy yet again this year. How shall I respond?

Like the fig tree in the gospel, he gave them ample time and multiple encores of his love and mercy. Yet eventually, his love took the form of tough love—forty years of desert wanderings.

Lent is another expression of God’s patience toward us. He is once again sowing the seeds of conversion, hoping for the fruits of our change of heart—fruits of love, forgiveness, repentance, and renewal.

He gives time for his cultivating efforts to take effect and for fruit to appear, but our life on earth is finite, so that time isn’t unlimited. —Fr. Mark Haydu, LC



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“Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future.”

Luke 13:8

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.

MARCH 24, 2019 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

"Merciful and gracious is the Lord." Psalm 103

In the Church, we are made children of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God who makes known His name and His ways to Moses in today's First Reading. Mindful of His covenant with Abraham (see Exodus 2:24), God came down to rescue His people from the slave drivers of Egypt. Faithful to that same covenant (see Luke 1:54–55, 72–73), He sent Jesus to redeem all lives from destruction, as today's Psalm tells us. Paul says in today's Epistle that God's saving deeds in the Exodus were written down for the Church, intended as a prelude and foreshadowing of our own Baptism by water, our liberation from sin, our feeding with spiritual food and drink. Yet the events of the Exodus were also given as a "warning"—that being children of Abraham is no guarantee that we will reach the promised land of our salvation. At any moment, Jesus warns in today's Gospel, we could perish—not as God's punishment for being "greater sinners"—but because, like the Israelites in the wilderness, we stumble into evil desires, fall into grumbling, forget all His benefits. Jesus calls us today to "repentance"—not a one-time change of heart, but an ongoing, daily transformation of our lives. We're called to live the life we sing about in today's Psalm—blessing His holy name, giving thanks for His kindness and mercy. The fig tree in His parable is a familiar Old Testament symbol for Israel (see Jeremiah 8:3; 24:1–10). As the fig tree is given one last season to produce fruit before it is cut down, so too Jesus is giving Israel one final opportunity to bear good fruits as evidence of its repentance (see Luke 3:8). Lent should be for us like the season of reprieve given to the fig tree, a grace period in which we let "the gardener," Christ, cultivate our hearts, uprooting what chokes the divine life in us, strengthening us to bear fruits that will last into eternity.



3/17 Stewardship: Regular Offering: \$1,446.00 3/17 Children's Offering: \$4.00

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 March 31

Rosary: Veronica Hrozek

Eucharistic Minister: Judy Vaculin

Offertory: Charles & Anna Teague

Lector: Misty Green

Ushers: Richard Brenek & Robert Plachy

Altar Servers: Chase and Cade Hubnik

Sanctuary Light: March 24th-31st—Denice Michna by Glenn & Kelly Laurence



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: Andrea Enga(Cousin of Ethel Marak), Seth Litzman (nephew of Lynne Hornung), Albina Vrazel, 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—March 24-31, 2019

Date	Time	Intentions
Today— 3/24	10:15am	+ August & Mary Hubnik by Liz & Arvell Jungmann
3/27— Wed.—Mass & Stations of the Cross	5:30pm	+ Cyril & Dorothy Vaculin & Lisa Hanel by Frank & Janice Klecka & Nancy Michalka
3/31—Sunday	10:15am	+ Frank & Helen Hubnik by Barbara & Richard Vansa

CYCLONE MASSES— March 24-31, 2019

Date	Time	Intentions
Today – 3/24	8:15am	+ Dolores Motl by Raymond & Gayle Schmeidekamp
3/26– Tuesday	7:00am	+ Alton Moraw by Bernard Netsie Hoelscher
3/28— Thursday	7:00am	+ Grace Hoelscher by Donnie Hoelscher
3/29—Friday—Stations of the Cross & Mass	6:00pm	Cathy Hartley—Health—by Dorothy Haisler
3/30– Saturday Vigil	5:30pm	+ Royella Roessler by Dennis & Carol Maurer
3/31— Sunday	8:15am	+ Lucille Bruggman by Kenneth & Jeanette Driska

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

- **TODAY –MARCH 24:** Salem Lutheran Church—Relay for Life BBQ—11am-2pm—Star Hall—\$10/plate.
- **MARCH 31:** St. Monica’s Ladies Festival—BBQ Chicken and Sausage—11:00am—\$10/plate—Silent Auction, Cake Wheel, Country Store.
- **FISH FRY:** KC Council #13902—every Friday thru April 12th—Westphalia Parish Hall Pit—3:30pm—7:15pm (or until sold out). \$10/plate. Fried shrimp, fish, beans, coleslaw & fries.
- **APRIL 7:** KC Council #10186—Cyclone-Marak will be having a blood drive at St. Joseph’s Hall in Cyclone from 8:00am till 11:30am. Knights of Columbus will be serving breakfast.
- **IDEAS OR INPUT:** The cemetery board is in the planning phase of erecting a graveside directory at the cemetery. If anyone has any ideas or input on this project or would like to contribute in anyway, please let us know. Contact any board member or attend the May 4th meeting after mass.
- **From Ashes to Easter :** We are blessed by the gracious gift of Jesus Christ, who transformed human history with his infinite and compassionate love. Through his Spirit, his grace has been poured into our hearts. With open and merciful hearts, we are invited to share our blessings. As we add coins to our Ashes to Easter box each day, we together will bring hope to struggling missions. Please pray a Hail Mary for the missions. Lent boxes can be picked up after Mass today. All boxes should be returned on Easter Sunday or the week after.

Calendar

Monday

MARCH 25

Annunciation of the Lord

Is 7:10–14; 8:10

Heb 10:4–10

Lk 1:26–38

Tuesday

MARCH 26

Lenten Weekday

Dn 3:25, 34–43

Mt 18:21–35

Wednesday

MARCH 27

Lenten Weekday

Dt 4:1, 5–9

Mt 5:17–19

Thursday

MARCH 28

Lenten Weekday

Jer 7:23–28

Lk 11:14–23

Friday

MARCH 29

Lenten Weekday

Hos 14:2–10

Mk 12:28–34

Saturday

MARCH 30

Lenten Weekday

Hos 6:1–6

Lk 18:9–14

Sunday

MARCH 31

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Jos 5:9a, 10–12

2 Cor 5:17–21

Lk 15:1–3, 11–32

Dear Padre,

Is the sprinkling rite at Mass necessary?

Occasionally on Sundays and Saturday evenings, especially in the Easter season and on feasts including Pentecost or the Baptism of the Lord, the blessing and sprinkling of water may take the place of the customary Penitential Act as a reminder of baptism. While the Penitential Act invites us to acknowledge our sins, the sprinkling rite not only reminds us of our failings but of our conversion through baptism.

Water is blessed before the sprinkling using these or similar words: “Grant, O Lord, in your mercy, that living waters may always spring up for our salvation, and so may we approach you with a pure heart and avoid all danger of body and soul” (*The Roman Missal*). If salt—a symbol of strength—is added to the water, it’s first blessed in a

prayer to God “who commanded the prophet Elisha to cast salt into water, that impure water might be purified” (*RM*).

Also, the Church empties holy water fonts on the days of the Triduum to prepare for the blessing of water at the Easter Vigil, but removing holy water fonts during the season of Lent isn’t permitted. To do so “is contrary to a balanced understanding of the season of Lent, which though truly being a season of penance, is also a season rich in the symbolism of water and baptism, constantly evoked in liturgical texts” (Congregation for Divine Worship). After all, every Sunday, even during Lent, is a little Easter!

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



CSRS PHOTO/PAUL JEFFERY



A Word from Pope Francis

Gathered before Jesus crucified, we hear his words ring out also for us: “I thirst” (John 19:28)...What does the Lord thirst for? Certainly for water, that element essential for life. But above all for love....He thirsts to give us the living waters of his love, but also to receive our love.

—Visit to Assisi, September 20, 2016