



Love Takes Work

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

If you believed your own natural death was imminent, would that affect the decisions you make? When St. Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, that was his expectation—that the Lord's return was going to take place quickly, that the Second Coming was just about to occur and could happen at any time.

While St. Paul writes to the Corinthians that it is better to be unmarried than married, the purpose of this advice is to keep life simple and focused on what is important. Don't make any long-term commitments like buying a field, or starting a business, or even getting married. Be ready and prepared because the end of the world could literally be tomorrow. "I should like

you to be free of anxieties," he wrote. Much later, St. Paul realized the end was not going to happen as soon as originally expected.

Saint Paul was not against marriage. He would be the first to say that, ideally, marriage can and often does reveal the depths of human love, but he would also say that it takes work; it doesn't happen all by itself. Just as readily, St. Paul would also note that, ideally, celibacy can and often does reveal the breadth of love given in service to others, whether the celibate

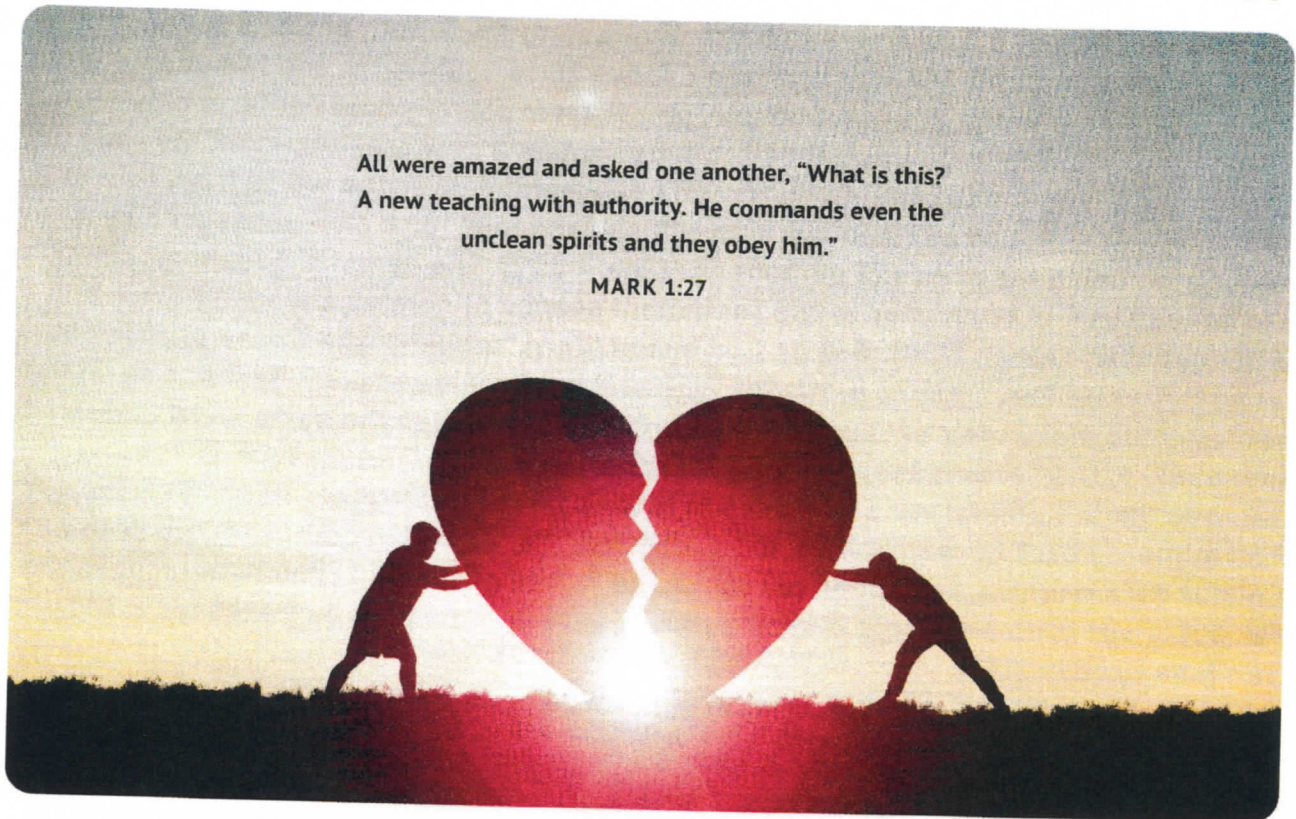
person is lay, a priest, or a religious. It can seem, however, that the unclean spirit that Jesus cast out continues to roam human lives. All of us struggle to live out love as best we can, wherever we find ourselves in life. ●

Reflect

What in your life gets in the way of loving as well as you would wish?

All were amazed and asked one another, "What is this?
A new teaching with authority. He commands even the
unclean spirits and they obey him."

MARK 1:27



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)

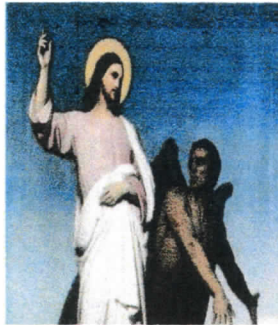
The Sacraments:

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 28, 2024 — FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Last week, Jesus announced the kingdom of God is at hand. This week, in mighty words and deeds, He exercises His dominion—asserting royal authority over the ruler of this world, Satan (see [John 12:31](#)). Notice that today's events take place on the sabbath. The sabbath was to be an everlasting sign—both of God's covenant love for His creation (see [Exodus 20:8-11](#); [31:12-17](#)), and His deliverance of His covenant people, Israel, from slavery (see [Deuteronomy 6:12-15](#)).

On this sabbath, Jesus signals a new creation—that the Holy One has come to purify His people and deliver the world from evil. "With an unclean spirit" is biblical language for a man possessed by a demon, Satan being the prince of demons (see [Mark 3:22](#)). The demons' question: "What have you to do with us?" is often used in Old Testament scenes of combat and judgment (see [Judges 11:12](#); [1 Kings 17:18](#)). And as God by His Word "rebuked" the forces of chaos in creating the world (see [Psalms 104:7](#); [Job 26:10-12](#)), and again rebuked the Red Sea so the Israelites could make their exodus (see [Psalm 106:9](#)), Mark uses the same word to describe Jesus rebuking the demons (see [Mark 4:39](#); [Zechariah 3:2](#)).

Jesus is the prophet foretold by Moses in today's First Reading (see [Acts 3:22](#)). Though He has authority over heaven and earth (see [Daniel 7:14, 27](#); [Revelation 12:10](#)), He becomes one of our own kinsmen. He comes to rebuke the forces of evil and chaos—not only in the world, but in our lives. He wants to make us holy in body and spirit, as Paul says in today's Epistle (see [Exodus 31:12](#)).

In this liturgy, we hear His voice and "see" His works, as we sing in today's Psalm. And as Moses tells us today, we should listen to Him.

Ministries for February 4, 2024

Rosary: Lynne Hornung

Lector: Jill Stermer

Ushers: James Dohnalik & Shawn Higgins

Eucharistic Minister: Kelly Laurence

Offertory: Todd Doscocil Family

Servers: Gracie, Carter, Bella



Sanctuary Light: January 29th—February 4th: Tom & Julie Motyka—Anniversary by Kelly & Glenn Laurence

Prayer Chain... Please pray for Kay & Ed Moraw and Paulette Foster. Prayers are powerful! Names will remain on this list in the bulletin for four weeks and then transferred to the Book of Prayers that is located at the side Altar by the organ. After this four week period of time or health is declining the request is open for the bulletin again, if requested. To be added to the prayer chain:

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

MARAK MASSES—January 28, 2024—February 4, 2024

Date	Time	Mass Intentions
Today—1/28	10:15am	+ Dean Allen Kostiha by Robert & Debbie Vansa + Lawrence & Albina Vrazel by Alfred & Bernice Vrazel + Jerry Sr. & Angeline Sipula by Louis & Mary Frances Vansa + Jennifer Pelzel by Rebecca Barton
1/31—Wednesday	5:30pm	+ Calvin Junek by Robert & Debbie Vansa + Jerry Wade by Robert & Vicki Plachy
2/4—Sunday	10:15am	+ Eugene Marak by John & Theresa Duffy + Jerry Wade by Kevin & Anna Givens + Calvin Junek by Leroy & Kathy Vansa

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

- **FEBRUARY 3RD:** First Saturday Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary @ 9 am.
- **FEBRUARY 4TH:** Second Collection for Building & Maintenance Fund.
- **MONEY COUNTERS** are needed for counting the offering on Sunday morning. If you would like to help, please contact Jeannine Dohnalik or Greg Hoelscher.
- **CEMETERY BOARD MEETING** on Sunday, February 4, 2024 after Mass.
- **FEBRUARY 11TH:** The KJZT Jrs. will be hosting a Super Bowl Chip-N-Dip bake sale before and after Mass. Thank you in advance for your support.
- **FEBRUARY 18TH:** The Parish will be celebrating our Feast Day for Sts. Cyril & Methodius, which our Church is named after. There will be a covered dish meal with meat being furnished by the Church. St. Anne's Altar Society will be working with the Parish Council, also. Parish families are asked to bring a veggie dish or desert. Sign up sheet is in the Church entry.

**1/21: Sunday Offering: \$1,615.00; Children's Offering: \$3.00; First Offering: \$30.00
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

**Bulletin Information: MARAK: Irene Kaulfus (254-248-2069) ikaufus15@gmail.com
CYCLONE: Nancy Posvar (254-913-2696)**

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

Dear Padre,

Why is the Old Testament part of Christian worship? Parts of the Old Testament seem to be opposed to the teachings of Christ.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says it best: "The Old Testament is an indispensable part of Sacred Scripture. Its books are divinely inspired and retain a permanent value, for the Old Covenant has never been revoked" (CCC 121).

The Old Testament, also referred to as the Hebrew Scriptures, is the only Bible Jesus ever knew. That is an important reason to try to understand these Scriptures. The Pentateuch (first five books), the prophets, the Book of Psalms, and the wisdom writings all had a profound impact on Jesus. His image of God as Father, his preaching, his parables, and his proclamation of the reign of God were all influenced by the Hebrew Scriptures.

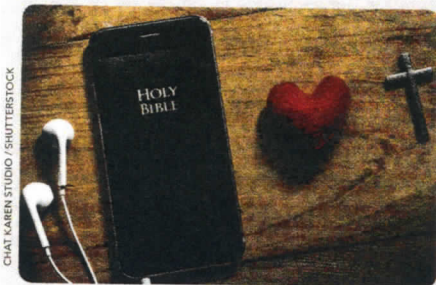
It is true that Jesus' preaching also goes beyond the Old Testament. At times he substitutes what the law has to say with an even more demanding requirement (see, for example, the Sermon on the Mount). In general, however, the Old Testament forms a context for understanding what Jesus was doing. His passion and death made no sense to his first followers except in light of the Suffering Servant of the Old Testament (Isaiah 52:13–53:12). There are many more examples like this one. Thus, the *Catechism* says "the Old Testament bears witness to the whole divine pedagogy of God's saving love" (CCC 122). ●



VOLODMIR ZAHAROV / SHUTTERSTOCK

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
January 29	January 30	January 31	February 1	February 2	February 3	February 4
Weekday	Weekday	St. John Bosco, Priest	Weekday	Presentation of the Lord	Weekday	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
2 Sm 15:13–14, 30; 16:5–13 Mk 5:1–20	2 Sm 18:9–10, 14b, 24–25a, 30–19:3 Mk 5:21–43	2 Sm 24:2, 9–17 Mk 6:1–6	1 Kgs 2:1–4, 10–12 Mk 6:7–13	Mal 3:1–4 Heb 2:14–18 Lk 2:22–40 or 2:22–32	1 Kgs 3:4–13 Mk 6:30–34	Jb 7:1–4, 6–7 1 Cor 9:16–19, 22–23 Mk 1:29–39



CHAT KAREN STUDIO / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Do we listen to Jesus' words, which are authoritative? Always...carry a small copy of the Gospel...to read throughout the day, to listen to that authoritative word of Jesus. And then...let us ask Jesus: "Jesus, you are the prophet, the Son of God, the one who was promised to us to heal us. Heal me!"

ANGELUS, ROME,
JANUARY 31, 2021

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