



## Feeling Our Way

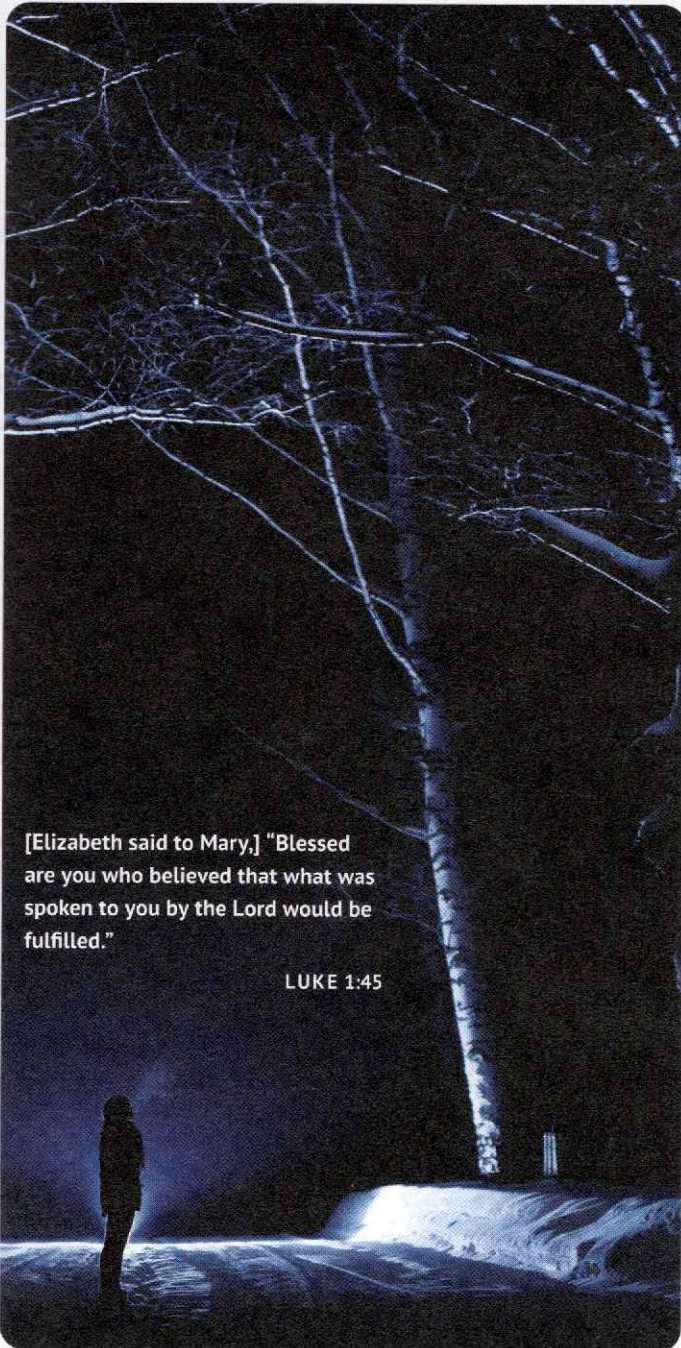
FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**M**ost of the time we find ourselves backing our way into the will of God, or maybe even feeling our way into it. There are times when the will of God is quite clear: Should I lie or tell the truth? Should I steal or not? Most often, however, the will of God is not so clear. Too often it becomes a question of how to negotiate an aspect of life that's been handed to us, often a reality we cannot escape. It may be an unwanted divorce, or a son or daughter in a questionable relationship, or an illness that dismantles one's life plans. On the one hand, it is not as if God hands out scripts that we are expected to live by. On the other hand, God is part of all that unfolds. Somewhere in the midst of that is the will of God, which is another way of saying somehow you and I need to negotiate what we never chose, but is now served up by life. Or is it served up by God? Or by our own doing? Or all of that? That's what I mean when I say we feel our way into the will of God.

It is what Jesus sorted out in the desert when he was tempted, "I come to do your will, O God." It is Elizabeth's story of an unexpected pregnancy in her old age. It is Mary saying "Yes" to an uncharted path. Living God's will seems mostly to be a sorting process. ●

### Reflect

***Have you responded with a whole-hearted "Yes" to God's will for you?***



[Elizabeth said to Mary,] "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

LUKE 1:45



# 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 22, 2024 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

On this last Sunday before Christmas, the Church's Liturgy reveals the true identity of our Redeemer:

He is, as today's First Reading says, the "ruler . . . whose origin is from . . . ancient times." He will come from Bethlehem, where David was born of Jesse the Ephrathite and anointed king (see [Ruth 4:11-17](#); [1 Samuel 16:1-13](#); [17:1](#); [Matthew 2:6](#)).

God promised that an heir of David would reign on his throne forever (see [2 Samuel 7:12-13](#); Psalm 89; [Psalm 132:11-12](#)).

Jesus is that heir, the One the prophets promised would restore the scattered tribes of Israel into a new kingdom (see [Isaiah 9:5-6](#); [Ezekiel 34:23-25](#), [30](#); [37:35](#)). He is "the shepherd of Israel" sung of in today's Psalm. From His throne in heaven, He has "come to save us."

Today's Epistle tells us that He is both the Son of David and the only "begotten" Son of God, come "in the flesh" (see also [Psalm 2:7](#)). He is also our "high priest," from the mold of the mysterious Melchizedek, "priest of God Most High," who blessed Abraham at the dawn of salvation history (see [Psalm 110:4](#); [Genesis 14:18-20](#)).

All this is recognized by John when he leaps for joy in his mother's womb. Elizabeth, too, is filled with joy and the Holy Spirit. She recognizes that in Mary "the mother of my Lord" has come to her. We hear in her words another echo of the Psalm quoted in today's Epistle (see [Psalm 2:7](#)). Elizabeth blesses Mary for her faith that God's Word would be fulfilled in her.

Mary marks the fulfillment not only of the angel's promise to her, but of all God's promises down through history. Mary is the one they await in today's First Reading—"she who is to give birth." She will give birth this week, at Christmas. And the fruit of her womb should bring us joy—she is the mother of our Lord.



12-15 Sunday Offering: \$1,285.00	12-15: Retired Clergy and Religious: \$5.00	
12-15 Children's Offering: \$11.00	12-15: Immaculate Conception: \$5.00	12-15: Building Fund: \$20.00
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 DECEMBER 24, 2024—CHRISTMAS EVE**

**Lector:** Alfred Vrazel

**Ushers:** Adolph Vansa and Robert Vansa

**Rosary:** Veronica Hrozek

**Lector:** Amy Holy

**Ushers:** Rick Rhoades and Brad Vaculin

**Eucharistic Minister:** Rick Rhoades

**Offertory:** Julie and Tom Motyka

**Servers:** Cade and Cutter

**MINISTRIES FOR DECEMBER 29, 2024**

**Eucharistic Minister:** Jill Michalka

**Offertory:** Tony and Debbie Dohnalik

**Servers:** Brady, Hampton, and Juliana

**Sanctuary Light: December 23rd—29th: John Slavik by Merlene Slavik**

**Prayer Chain...** Please pray for Anton Vrazel, Martha Hubnik, Brandon Lewis (Cousin to the Tomek Family), Dorothy Vansa, Kay and Ed Moraw, Ethel Marak, Sister M. Andrea Hubnik, 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—December 22-29, 2024**

Date	Time	Mass Intentions
Today—12/22	10:15 am	†David Klepac by Merlene Slavik †Stanley Hubnik by James and Jeannine Dohnalik *Special Intention for Ed and Kay Moraw
12/24-Tuesday, Christmas Eve	9:00 pm	†Joe and Stefina Vansa by Robert and Debbie Vansa †James Junek by Aline Junek †August and Mary Hubnik by Arvell and Liz Jungmann
12/25—Wednesday	No Mass	
12/29-Sunday	10:15 am	†James Hosch by Aline Junek †James Junek by Louis and Mary Frances Vansa †Stanley Hubnik by James and Jeannine Dohnalik *Remembrance of Laddie Dohnalik's Birthday

**UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION**

- **PARISH COUNCIL:** The results of the Parish Council election have been finalized. James Marek, Brian Kopriva, and Todd Daskocil have been chosen to be on the parish council. Please congratulate and thank them for their commitment to our parish.
- **THANKS AND APPRECIATION:** Thank you to St. Anne's Altar Society for your time and dedication to making our church beautiful for Christmas.
- **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.
- **CHILDREN'S CHOIR AND MANGER PROCESSION:** Practice for the Children's Christmas Choir and Manger Procession will be today following mass. We will have one practice, so please be sure to attend.
- **SECOND COLLECTION:** Next Sunday's second collection for the Feast of the Holy Family supports the Family and Pro-Life Ministries in the Diocese of Austin such as Annunciation Maternity Home and Our Lady of the Angels Maternity Shelter.
- **PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY:** Our condolences to the families of Bernard Jungmann, brother of Arvell Jungmann as well as Jack Dale Rhoades, father of Rick Rhoades. May God provide you comfort and healing.
- **BENEFIT DANCE:** KJT Society #12 of Frenstat—Saturday, January 11, 2025—Frenstat Recreation Center featuring the Red Ravens from 7 to 10:30 PM. Tickets are \$12 per person. Kitchen opens at 5:30 PM—proceeds benefit the Diocese of Austin Clergy Retirement Fund.

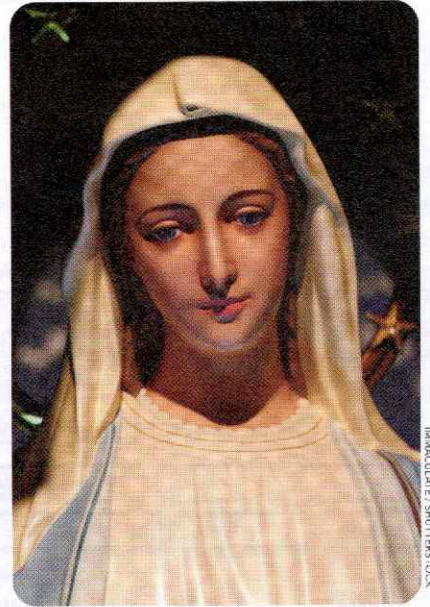


# Dear Padre,

## Where does the Hail Mary prayer come from?

The Hail Mary owes its origin to the rosary. The traditional story of the rosary was that Mary herself appeared to St. Dominic in the twelfth century and gave him the rosary with the promise that if he spread devotion to the rosary, his religious order would flourish. In the twelfth century, religious orders recited together the 150 psalms as a way to mark the hours of the day and the days of the week. In order to pray the psalms, though, people had to know how to read. People who didn't know how to read wanted to share in the practice, so the rosary, or praying on beads, began as a parallel prayer practice. It was a way that illiterate people could remember the Lord and his Mother throughout the day.

The first rosaries consisted of a string of 150 beads, and, much as we do now, a person would pass over each bead after saying a prayer, usually the Our Father. Later, people added the Archangel Gabriel's greeting—"Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee"—and later still, Elizabeth's prayer we hear in today's Gospel—"Blessed art thou among women." Finally this prayer was added in the sixteenth century: "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death." ●



IMAGUILLATE / SHUTTERSTOCK

*The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 23 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Lk 1:57-66	December 24 <i>Advent Weekday</i> 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Lk 1:67-79	December 25 <i>Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)</i> Is 52:7-10 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14	December 26 <i>St. Stephen, First Martyr</i> Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Mt 10:17-22	December 27 <i>St. John, Apostle and Evangelist</i> 1 Jn 1:1-4 Jn 20:1a, 2-8	December 28 <i>Holy Innocents, Martyrs</i> 1 Jn 1:5-2:2 Mt 2:13-18	December 29 <i>Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</i> Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28 Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24 Lk 2:41-52

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



YARA NARDI / CNS

## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*Do I move forward with hope...? We can also ask for...the grace of a healthy sense of humor: it does so much good.... The first act of charity we can do for our neighbors is to offer them a serene and smiling face. It is bringing the joy of Jesus to them, as Mary did with Elizabeth.*

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 19, 2021