

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and said,  
"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."  
JOHN 1:29

## Proud Servants of God

**"My servant"** is an identification a lot of people will shy away from. A servant seeks to accomplish someone else's goals, and the adjective "my" suggests belonging to another. Yet all of today's readings describe individuals who are proud to be servants—servants of God. What makes this kind of servant something to which all of us can aspire?

As a servant of God, Isaiah became "a light to the nations that [God's] salvation may reach to the ends of the earth" (Isaiah 49:6). As a servant of God, Paul became "an apostle of Christ Jesus," proclaiming the good news of God's love "to the church of God that is in Corinth." As a servant of God, John the Baptist prepared the way so that Jesus "might be made known to Israel" (John 1:31). These servants sought to accomplish God's goals for the fulfillment of others. It is in such commitment to others that we ourselves are

fulfilled. Ask any parent, lover, or good friend if this is not the case.

We might not want to be the servant of another, but what a privilege it is to be called to be a servant of God, a light to others, to proclaim God's love and make Jesus known. By our baptism, we have all been so called. We enlighten others by the way we live with integrity. The unselfishness of our lives proclaims the good news of Christ Jesus. Authentic Christian living makes him known to the world. That's what it means to be a servant of God.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

### FOR *Reflection*

- ✦ How does your life in the home, workplace, or community manifest the love of God for others?
- ✦ How do you personally benefit by serving others?

## **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:** 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.

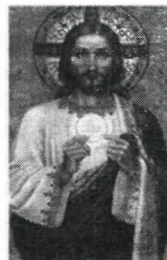
**Marriage:** Couples planning to be married should contact the pastor at least six months in advance before you set the date of the wedding. Completion of required paperwork and a preparation program needed.

### **JANUARY 19, 2020—Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Jesus speaks through the prophet Isaiah in today's First Reading. He tells us of the mission given to Him by the Father from the womb: "You are My servant," He said to Me." Servant and Son, our Lord was sent to lead a new exodus—to raise up the exiled tribes of Israel, to gather and restore them to God. More than that, He was to be a light to the nations, that God's salvation may reach to the ends of the earth (see Acts 13:46–47).

Before the first exodus, a lamb was offered in sacrifice and its blood painted on the Israelites' door posts. The blood of the lamb identified their homes and the Lord "passed over" these in executing judgment on the Egyptians (see Exodus 12:1–23, 27). In the new exodus, Jesus is the "Lamb of God," as John beholds Him in the Gospel today (see 1 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Peter 1:18–19). Our Lord sings of this in today's Psalm. He has come, He says, to offer His body to do the will of God (see Hebrews 10:3–13). The sacrifices, oblations, holocausts, and sin offerings given after the first exodus had no power to take away sins (see Hebrews 10:4).

They were meant not to save but to teach (see Galatians 3:24). In offering these sacrifices, the people were to learn self-sacrifice—that they were made for worship, to offer themselves freely to God and to delight in His will. Only Jesus could make that perfect offering of Himself. And through His sacrifice, He has given us ears open to obedience, He has made it possible for us to hear the Father's call to holiness, as Paul says in today's Epistle. He has made us children of God, baptized in the blood of the Lamb (see Revelation 7:14). And we are to join our sacrifice to His, to offer our bodies—our lives—as living sacrifices in the spiritual worship of the Mass (see Romans 12:1).



**1/12 Stewardship: Regular Offering: \$1,579.00**

**1/12 Children's Offering: \$3.00**

**Thank you for Your Generosity!**

**Bulletin Information:** **MARAK:** Patsy Gaines (254-482-0570) - Email—pagaines2002@yahoo.com

**CYCLONE:** Nancy Posvar (254-913-2696)

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



**Ministries for January 26**

**Rosary:** Adolph & Dorothy Vansa

**Eucharistic Minister:** Albert Michalka

**Offertory:** Greg Hoelscher Family

**Lector:** Greg Hoelscher

**Ushers:** James Teague & Charles Teague

**Altar Servers:** Volunteers

**Sanctuary Light:** January 20th-26th: Special Intentions



**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: JoLeen Cayhill. Prayers are powerful! To be added to the prayer chain, please contact:

**Contact Merlene Slavik—254-697-1247 or email—[Slavik@farm-market.net](mailto:Slavik@farm-market.net)**

**MARAK MASSES—January 19-26, 2020**

Date	Time	Intentions
Today— 1/19	10:15am	+ Martha Hertenberger by Jane & Johnnie Marek + John Thompson by Tony & Debbie Dohnalik
1/22—Wednesday	5:30pm	+ Joe Vansa by Gary & Marlene Vrazel + Larry Green by Charles McAtee Family
1/26—Sunday	10:15am	+ Lawrence Vrazel, Jr. by Leroy & Kathy Vansa + Albina Vrazel by Terry & Barbara McNeill

**CYCLONE MASSES— January 19-26, 2020**

Date	Time	Intentions
Today – 1/19	8:15am	+ Randolph Green by Family
1/21—Tuesday	7:00am	+ Clarence Bartek by Cheryl Arldt
1/23—Thursday	7:00am	+ Adolph & Anna Smetana by Bill & Carol Smetana
1/24—Friday	7:00am	+ Vernice & Lawrence Green by Gene Betty Engbrock
1/25—Saturday Vigil	5:30pm	+ Albina Vrazel by David & Janet Kasner
1/26—Sunday	8:15am	+ William Schneider by Margaret & Wilbert Mikeska

**UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION**

- **CONGRATULATIONS:** A big thank you and congratulations to Rhonda Gelner for accepting the position as the new Marak Parish Hall Manager. If you need to book the hall, or have any questions, please contact Rhonda @254-482-1144. Thanks to Bernice Vrazel and Patsy Gaines for your service as the prior hall managers for the last 12 1/2 years—May God Bless both of you.
- **ALTAR SOCIETY:** 2020 Altar Society Dues of \$5.00 are now due. All ladies of the parish are encouraged to join. 2020 Vigil Candle Memorials for Loved ones are being scheduled now. Cost is \$5.00 for the week. Please contact Merlene Slavik for more information. Make checks payable to St. Ann's Altar Society.
- **JANUARY 21:** KC meeting at St. Joseph's Parish Hall—7:30pm.
- **JANUARY 22:** Parish Council meeting after Mass at the Marak Parish Hall.
- **JANUARY 26:** Westphalia KC's 42 Domino Tournament at the Westphalia Community Parish Hall. Registration 11:30am-12:30pm. Playing will begin shortly after registration ends. Each player will draw for a partner between rounds and will play four 30 minute rounds. Cost \$5.00/player. Prizes. Food & drinks available at nominal cost starting at 11am. For more information call James Kahlig @ 254-721-4443 or Don Frei @ 254-985-2510. Come join the fun!
- **FEBRUARY 2:** KJZT Jrs. will be having a Super Bowl Chip-N-Dip Bake Sale before and after Mass. Please support our Jrs.—God Bless you!
- **FEBRUARY 5:** St. Ann's Altar Society meeting—9:30am at Milam County Museum.

# Dear Padre,

**A religious community invited me to become a lay associate. What kind of commitment is needed?**

**W**hen laypeople and ordained ministers are attracted to the *charism* of a religious order (its distinctive ministry, mission, and spirituality), they're often invited by its vowed members to participate as "associates" in their prayer life, community dynamics, and apostolic works. After a period of formation, associates may make degrees of commitment, with varying expectations on those who profess a formal commitment. Associates may

also be given a distinctive sign of their membership to wear during prayer and ministry.

While associates like the Third Order (tertiaries) have partnered with Franciscans, Dominicans, and Carmelites for centuries, other congregations are only now nurturing new forms of collaboration. Usually, this partnership is mutually transformative for the associates and for those in consecrated life: "The

participation of the laity often brings unexpected and rich insights into certain aspects of the charism, leading to a more spiritual interpretation of it and helping to draw from it directions for new activities in the apostolate" (Apostolic Exhortation on Consecrated Life [*Vita Consecrata*], 55).

Partnerships between religious communities and their associates are growing in number, based not on utility or diminished numbers of religious today, but on shared faith and responsibility to our universal baptismal call. May the Holy Spirit guide you as you discern this special invitation to holiness!

—Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR  
[Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)



COURTESY GERALYN NEELY

## A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*"What about you?" It is significant that these words of the elderly Pope [Leo XIII] were also addressed to a laywoman [Katharine Drexel]. We know that the future of the Church in a rapidly changing society will call, and even now calls, for a much more active engagement on the part of the laity.*

—MASS WITH BISHOPS, CLERGY, AND RELIGIOUS OF  
PENNSYLVANIA, SEPTEMBER 26, 2015



## Calendar

### Monday

JANUARY 20  
Weekday  
1 Sm 15:16–23  
Mk 2:18–22

### Tuesday

JANUARY 21  
St. Agnes,  
Virgin and Martyr  
1 Sm 16:1–13  
Mk 2:23–28

### Wednesday

JANUARY 22  
Day of Prayer for the  
Legal Protection of  
Unborn Children  
1 Sm 17:32–33, 37,  
40–51, Mk 3:1–6

### Thursday

JANUARY 23  
Weekday  
1 Sm 18:6–9; 19:1–7  
Mk 3:7–12

### Friday

JANUARY 24  
St. Francis de Sales,  
Bishop and  
Doctor of the Church  
1 Sm 24:3–21  
Mk 3:13–19

### Saturday

JANUARY 25  
Conversion of  
St. Paul, Apostle  
Acts 22:3–16 or  
Acts 9:1–22  
Mk 16:15–18

### Sunday

JANUARY 26  
Third Sunday in  
Ordinary Time  
Is 8:23–9:3  
1 Cor 1:10–13, 17  
Mt 4:12–23  
or 4:12–17

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