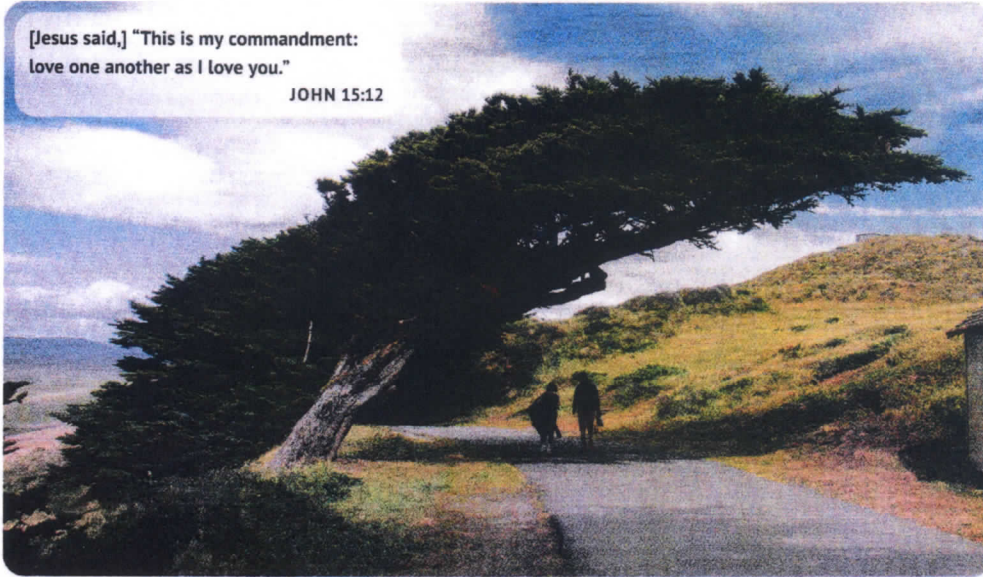




[Jesus said,] "This is my commandment:  
love one another as I love you."

JOHN 15:12



## We're Like Trees

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**A** while back I decided to plant two saplings that were about ten feet tall along the property line of the parish home where I lived. Some time after I planted them, I noticed that one was leaning in one direction and the other a bit in the opposite direction. *Strange*, I thought, *for it seemed that when I planted them they were staked with rope and stood straight.* So I bought some six-foot fence posts and tied the trees to them, thinking that as they grew they would straighten themselves. Not so. After three years the trees seemed to insist on growing their own way, one leaning into the wind and the other a bit twisted. It seemed the only solution was to love them the way they were.

It is so with the people in our lives as well. Sooner or later we find ourselves needing to love them with their idiosyncrasies and foibles and perhaps even their sinfulness. We may try to reshape them, but ultimately it is usually to little avail. They have been created by God, after all, and if God has chosen us—as the Gospel suggests—then God also has chosen us to love them as they are, and perhaps to love them into all that they can be. Ultimately though, God does the pruning, the reshaping, not us. We participate in that process by caring for them and bringing good to them, always in the image of Jesus. ●

### Reflect

**Think of everyone with whom you have some difficulty and name a good quality of each one.**

**MINISTRIES FOR MAY 12, 2024**

**Rosary:** Raymond Tomek

**Eucharistic Minister:** Kelly Laurence

**Lector:** Lindsey Vaculin

**Offertory:** Sharon & Bert Richter

**Ushers:** Henry Hilscher & Greg Hoelscher

**Servers:** Brady, Hampton, Camryn, & Julianna

**Sanctuary Light: May 6th—May 12th: Henry Hubnik, Sr. by Katherine Hubnik**

**Prayer Chain...** Please pray for Barbara Vansa McNeill, Martha Hubnik, Brandon Lewis (Cousin to the Tomek Family), Dorothy Vansa, Laddie Dohnalik, Joseph Ribar, Kay & Ed Moraw and Paulette Foster and 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](mailto:Slavik@farm-market.net)**

**MARAK MASSES—May 5—12, 2024**

Date	Time	Mass Intentions
Today—5/5	10:15am	+ Valeria Kostiha by Johnny & Donna Dohnalik + Jerry Wade by Robert & Vicki Plachy In honor of Mike & Janice Marek's 40th Wedding Anniversary
5/8—Wednesday	5:30pm	+ Dean Allen Kostiha by Robert & Debbie Vansa + Jerry Wade by Adolph & Dorothy Vansa
5/12—Sunday	10:15am	+ Joe & Stefina Vansa by Robert & Debbie Vansa + Frank & Helen Hubnik by Louis & Mary Frances Vansa + Jerry Sipula by Leroy & Kathy Vansa + Clem Tomek by Ronald & Irene Kaulfus

**UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION**

- TODAY: The Cemetery Board will be meeting today after Mass.
- TODAY: Second Collection for Building and Maintenance Fund.
- THANKS: A very special thank you to Merlene Slavik, Debbie Dohnalik, Cindy Prcin and Irene Kaulfus for helping with the Confirmation Dinner. God Bless to all.
- MAY 19TH — ORDINATION CELEBRATION FOR FR. RANJAN: The Cyclone and Marak Parishes will be joining hands to have a Celebration Luncheon for Fr. Ranjan's 40th Ordination on May 19th at Marak Parish Hall after Mass. All are encouraged to come and support Father Ranjan at this special time in his life and priesthood. The parishes will provide meat and Marak families are asked to bring covered dish veggies. Cyclone families will be providing deserts. There is a sign up sheet in the church entry. *Please sign up by May 12th.*
- PICNIC RAFFLE: Our homecoming picnic has been a very successful fundraiser because you have been so GENEROUS! We are a little over four months away from our 2024 picnic (September 8th). We are asking for your help again this year. Please consider donating a prize (or help sponsor a prize) for the raffle. Contact Kelly Laurence (254-931-5992) or Julie Motyka (254-722-0394) if you would like to donate. Thank you for all that you do to make our picnic successful.

4-28: Sunday Offering: \$1,207.00 Children's Offering: \$2.00  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

**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.

**MAY 5, 2024 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**



God is love, and He revealed that love in sending His only Son to be a sacrificial offering for our sins.

In these words from today's Epistle, we should hear an echo of the story of Abraham's offering of Isaac at the dawn of salvation history. Because Abraham obeyed God's command and did not withhold his only beloved son, God promised that Abraham's descendants, the children of Israel, would be the source of blessing for all nations (see [Genesis 22:16-18](#)). We see that promise coming to fulfillment in today's First Reading. God pours out His Spirit upon the Gentiles, the non-Israelites, as they listen to the word of Peter's preaching. Notice they receive the same gifts

received by the devout Jews who heard Peter's preaching at Pentecost—the Spirit comes to rest upon them and they speak in tongues, glorifying God (see [Acts 2:5-11](#)).

In His love today, God reveals that His salvation embraces the house of Israel and peoples of all nations. Not by circumcision or blood relation to Abraham but by faith in the Word of Christ, sealed in the Sacrament of Baptism, people are to be made children of Abraham, heirs to God's covenants of promise (see [Galatians 3:7-9](#); [Ephesians 2:12](#)).

This is the wondrous work of God that we sing of in today's Psalm. It is the work of the Church, the good fruit that Jesus chooses and appoints His Apostles for in today's Gospel. As Peter raises up Cornelius today, the Church continues to lift all eyes to Christ, the only one in whose name they can find salvation.

In the Church, each of us has been begotten by the love of God. But the Scriptures today reveal that this divine gift brings with it a command and a duty. We are to love one another as we have been loved. We are to lay down our lives in giving ourselves to others—that they too might find friendship with Christ and new life through Him.

Bulletin Information: MARAK: Irene Kaulfus (254-248-2069) [ikaulfus15@gmail.com](mailto:ikaulfus15@gmail.com)

CYCLONE: Nancy Posvar (254-913-2696)

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

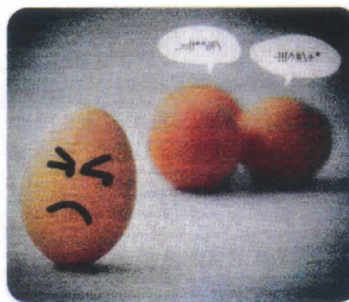
# Dear Padre,

**Please clarify for me what the Church considers as "gossip." Is it that bad?**

Human beings have the great gift of speech. We continually talk to one another and we talk about one another. Gossip, at its most basic level, is just idle talk. It is neither good nor bad. But it is a tool we can use to build up another human being or tear a person down.

Gossip is sinful when we use our words to unjustly hurt the reputation of another or to judge another person rashly. The two words that the Church uses to describe this evil side of gossip are "detraction" and "calumny." The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* tells us that detraction is "without objectively valid reason, disclosing another's faults and failings to persons who did not know them." Calumny occurs when a person, "by remarks contrary to the truth, harms the reputation of others and gives occasion for false judgments concerning them" (CCC 2477).

To judge whether your own gossip is good or evil, simply ask yourself: Do the words I am saying help others or hurt others? Am I building them up or tearing them down? Hopefully, as a Christian, you are committed to the commandment of Jesus we hear in today's Gospel: "This is my commandment: love one another as I love you" (John 15:12). ●



ANDRÉS SORNE / SHUTTERSTOCK

**The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org**

## 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*.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
May 6	May 7	May 8	May 9	May 10	May 11	May 12
<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Ascension of the Lord</i>
Acts 16:11-15 Jn 15:26-16:4a	Acts 16:22-34 Jn 16:5-11	Acts 17:15, 22-18:1 Jn 16:12-15	Acts 18:1-8 Jn 16:16-20	Acts 18:9-18 Jn 16:20-23	Acts 18:23-28 Jn 16:23b-28	Acts 1:1-11 Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13 Mk 16:15-20



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### A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*To love as the Lord loves us means to appreciate the people beside us, to respect their freedom, to love them as they are, not as we want them to be; as they are, gratuitously....Not controlling, serving them. Opening our heart to others, this is love, to be trusting, giving ourselves to others.*

REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 9, 2021



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