



[Jesus] went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart.

LUKE 2:51

MONKEY BUSINESS IMAGES / SHUTTERSTOCK

All in the Family

So many family-oriented television programs today feature the antics of dysfunctional families. They're often so well produced that we laugh at the blundering exploits, thus giving them credibility. The readings for today's feast show us what a real family looks like. Parents worry about the security of their children (Luke); brothers and sisters are told to be compassionate, kind, humble, gentle, and patient (Colossians); elders are respected and cared for in their need (Sirach). Even the psalm response sketches the profile of a flourishing family as understood at that time.

We can only guess what the Holy Family must have been like. There is no indication that their neighbors saw them as anything more than an average family. Jesus learned Joseph's trade and, most likely, would take over the business after he died. Instead, he launched out as an itinerant preacher. Even that does not seem to have been so exceptional for that time. Nor was Mary's widowhood reason for him to stay home. The Gospels indicate that she was part of a protective family unit. This did not appear to be an exceptional family. But how exceptional it was!

The lesson is that even an average family has the potential to be a holy family. What we should do is pattern our lives after Paul's exhortation to the Colossians. If we live like this, we will discover that holiness is all in the family.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ✱ *What might you do to make family life easier for those with whom you live?*
- ✱ *Do you show gratitude to your family for their respect and care of you?*

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 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 26, 2021 — FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Why did Jesus choose to become a baby born of a mother and father and to spend all but His last years living in an ordinary human family? In part, to reveal God's plan to make all people live as one "holy family" in His Church (see 2 Corinthians 6:16-18).

In the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, God reveals our true home. We're to live as His children, "chosen ones, holy and beloved," as the First Reading puts it. The family advice we hear in today's readings—for mothers, fathers, and children—is all solid and practical. Happy homes are the fruit of our faithfulness to the Lord, we sing in today's Psalm. But the Liturgy is inviting us to see more, to see how, through our family obligations and relationships, our families become heralds of the family of God that He wants to create on earth.

Jesus shows us this in today's Gospel. His obedience to His earthly parents flows directly from His obedience to the will of His heavenly Father. Joseph and Mary aren't identified by name, but three times are called "his parents" and are referred to separately as his "mother" and "father." The emphasis is all on their familial ties to Jesus. But these ties are emphasized only so that Jesus, in the first words He speaks in Luke's Gospel, can point us beyond that earthly relationship to the Fatherhood of God.

In what Jesus calls "my Father's house," every family finds its true meaning and purpose (see Ephesians 3:15). The Temple we read about in the Gospel today is God's house, His dwelling (see Luke 19:46). But it's also an image of the family of God, the Church (see Ephesians 2:19-22; Hebrews 3:3-6; 10:21).

In our families we're to build up this household, this family, this living temple of God—until He reveals His new dwelling among us and says of every person: "I shall be his God and he will be my son" (see Revelation 21:3, 7).



12/19: Stewardship: Sunday Offering: \$1,138.12 12/24: Christmas Offering: \$3,464.00

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 December 31, 2021

Eucharistic Minister: Cynthia Prcin

Offertory: Adolph & Dorothy Vansa

Ushers: Volunteers

Lector: Misty Green

Altar Servers: Volunteers



Ministries for January 2, 2022

Rosary: Lynne Hornung

Offertory: Richard & Betty Brenek

Ushers: Clay Barton & Shawn Higgins

Eucharistic Minister: Merlene Slavik

Lector: Jeannine Dohnalik

Altar Servers: Ian, Lily, Adison

Sanctuary Light: Dec. 27th—Jan. 2nd 2022: Steve Simecek by Carolyn & Gary Talafuse

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 to all those who have been affected by the Covid-19 Virus and also that the vaccine for the corona virus will help to stop this pandemic & for the following: Adrian Mitcham (Hubnik Family), Anton Vrazel, Paulette Foster, Reenie Hubnik, Baby Townes Bush, Carolyn Klecka, Marilyn June Gonzalez, and Doris Matocha. Prayers are powerful! To be added to the prayer chain:

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

MARAK MASSES —December 26, 2021—January 2, 2022

Date	Time	Mass Intentions
Today—12/26	10:15am	+ Alina Vrazel by Albert Vrazel + Maria Kolarova by Alfred & Bernice Vrazel + Martha Tomek by David & Judy Pilotte + Mary Ann Plachy by Anna & Kevin Givens
12/29 — Wed.	5:30pm	+ Dorothy Vaculin by Mike & Janice Marek + Joe Vansa by Terry & Barbara McNeill + Martha Tomek by Leroy & Kathy Vansa + Albina Vrazel by Robert & Debbie Vansa
12/31—Friday New Year's Eve	5:00pm	+ Albert Michalka by Alfred & Bernice Vrazel + Eugene Vaculin by Richard & BJ Brenek + Mary Ann Plachy by Georgia & Carol Stermer + Albina Vrazel by Alfred & Bernice Vrazel
1/2—Sunday	10:15am	+ Martha Tomek by Bill & Georgia Kincer + Eugene Vaculin by Dolly & Bernard Hyzak + Dorothy Vaculin by Ed & Kay Moraw + Annie Mae Hubnik by Katherine Hubnik

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

- **FOOD BANK:** St. Ann's Altar Society would like to thank everyone who participated in the Food Bank drive for our Cameron Area Thrift Shop. May God Bless you for your kindness!
- **OFFERING ENVELOPES:** Please take your envelope box for 2022 in the church entry.
- **TODAY:** Special Collection for the Holy Family.
- **END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS:** If anyone would like a statement showing their yearly contributions to the church, please contact Patsy Gaines.
- **THANK YOU:** A special thank you to the adult and children's choir for your beautiful singing to set the Christmas season. Also thank you to all the Children who participated in the nativity scene. Blessings to all for making this a joyous occasion.

Dear Padre,

I've been trying to teach my children about the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Any advice?

It's easy to teach young children about the works of mercy if you keep it simple and call their attention to what they're doing.

When they set the table and pour drinks, tell them they're feeding the hungry and giving drink to the thirsty. When they bring homework to a sick classmate, they're visiting the sick. If they go to a funeral, they're helping bury the dead. When they make up with their siblings after a fight, they bear wrongs patiently and forgive all injuries. Siblings who help each other with their homework are instructing the "ignorant."



A child who soothes someone who's been hurt is comforting the sorrowful. Praying for anyone, living or dead, is a spiritual work of mercy. Listening when someone confides in them is counseling the doubtful. Talking a friend or sibling out of doing something wrong is admonishing the sinner.

As your children get older, volunteer as a family with organizations that build homes for low-income families and help the children of prisoners.

Performing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, whether for each other or with each other, will bring you closer as a family as well as closer to God.

Fr. Rick Potts, CSSR / Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

The works of mercy reawaken in us the need, and the ability, to make the faith alive and active with charity. I am convinced that, through these simple, daily actions, we can achieve a true cultural revolution....If every one of us, every day, does one of these, this will be a revolution in the world!

GENERAL AUDIENCE, OCTOBER 12, 2016

Calendar

Monday

DECEMBER 27

St. John,
Apostle and Evangelist

1 Jn 1:1-4

Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Tuesday

DECEMBER 28

The Holy Innocents,
Martyrs

1 Jn 1:5-2:2

Mt 2:13-18

Wednesday

DECEMBER 29

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 2:3-11

Lk 2:22-35

Thursday

DECEMBER 30

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 2:12-17

Lk 2:36-40

Friday

DECEMBER 31

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 2:18-21

Jn 1:1-18

Saturday

JANUARY 1

Blessed Virgin Mary,
the Mother of God

Nm 6:22-27

Gal 4:4-7

Lk 2:16-21

Sunday

JANUARY 2

Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6

Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

Mt 2:1-12e

Know Someone Overly Anxious About Sin?

Since 1964, the Redemptorists' *Scrupulous Anonymous* free monthly newsletter has ministered compassionately to those struggling with scrupulosity. To subscribe, visit ScrupulousAnonymous.org.

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