

*And this is the verdict,
that the light came into the world,
but people preferred darkness to light,
because their works were evil.*

JOHN 3:19

The Saving Game

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

A long time ago, I came across a piece that I still remember because it's pretty much a commentary on how life is for most of us. It goes something like this: At the age of ten, we think we can live forever. When we're twenty, we think we can save the world. When the big thirty rolls around, we think we can save the company. When the fortieth birthday arrives, we think we can save our children. Then, when we're fifty, we think we can at least save our marriage. And by the time we're sixty, we think we should just save aluminum cans.

A bit flippant perhaps, but it reminds me that even given my own best efforts, I really do not save much of anything. It is always God who does the saving, not me.

It's a conversation replayed in our heads again and

again. We find ourselves unwittingly thinking that if we do all the right things, when we die and go to heaven, then God will have to take us in. If we say the right prayers and follow all the rules, then we will have earned salvation. Yet then we will have saved ourselves and there will have been no need for God's gracious goodness. Then we will have lifted ourselves up by our own bootstraps and not by the Lord Jesus.

Then we will proclaim ourselves as the light to overcome darkness, and it will not be the death and resurrection of the Lord which does so. ●

Reflect

***How have you been saved and
how do you need saving now?***

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.

March 10, 2024 — FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

The Sunday readings in Lent have been showing us the high points of salvation history—God’s covenant with creation in the time of Noah; His promises to Abraham; the law He gave to Israel at Sinai.

In today’s First Reading, we hear of the destruction of the kingdom established by God’s final Old Testament covenant—the covenant with David (see [2 Samuel 7](#); [Psalm 89:3](#)). His chosen people abandoned the law He gave them. For their sins, the temple was destroyed, and they were exiled in Babylon. We hear their sorrow and repentance in the exile lament we sing as today’s Psalm. But we also hear how God, in His mercy, gathered them back, even anointing a pagan king to shepherd them and rebuild the temple (see [Isaiah 44:28–45:1, 4](#)).

God is rich in mercy, as today’s Epistle teaches. He promised that David’s kingdom would last forever, that David’s son would be His Son and rule all nations (see [2 Samuel 7:14–15](#); [Psalm 2:7–9](#)). In Jesus, God keeps that promise (see [Revelation 22:16](#)). Moses lifted up the serpent as a sign of salvation (see [Wisdom 16:6–7](#); [Numbers 21:9](#)). Now Jesus is lifted up on the Cross, to draw all people to Himself (see [John 12:32](#)).

Those who refuse to believe in this sign of the Father’s love condemn themselves—as the Israelites in their infidelity brought judgment upon themselves. But God did not leave Israel in exile, and He does not want to leave any of us dead in our transgressions. We are God’s handiwork, saved to live as His people in the light of His truth.

Midway through this season of repentance, let us again behold the Pierced One (see [John 19:37](#)) and rededicate ourselves to living the “good works” that God has prepared us for.

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

CYCLONE: Nancy Posvar (254-913-2696)

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

MINISTRIES FOR MARCH 17, 2024

Rosary: Julia Motyka
Lector: Ronald Kaulfus
Ushers: Raymond Tomek & Andy Littlejohn

Eucharistic Minister: Misty Green
Offertory: Rebecca Hunt & Family
Servers: Adison, Lily, Ian



Sanctuary Light: March 11th—March 17th: *Albyn Simecek* by *Carolyn Talafuse*

Prayer Chain... Please pray for 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

MARAK MASSES—March 10 — March 17, 2024

Date	Time	Mass Intentions
Today—3/10	10:15am	+ Joe & Stefina Vansa by Robert & Debbie Vansa + Calvin Juneck by Leroy & Kathy Vansa Living Members of Hornung Family by Lynne Hornung
3/13—Wednesday	5:30pm	+ Stanley Hubnik by Louis Hubnik + Stanley Hubnik by Chester & Margaret Hays
3/17—Sunday	10:15am	+ Jerry Wade by Kevin & Anna Givens + Stanley Hubnik by Alfred & Bernice Vrazel + James Juneck by Aline Juneck

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

- **TODAY:** Second Collection for Catholic Relief Services
- **MARCH 13TH:** Confessions at 7 pm at St. Joseph's Cyclone
- **MARCH 18TH:** St. Anne's Altar Society will be covering statues for Lent on March 18 at 9 am. All are welcome.
- **STATIONS OF CROSS:** During Lent, the Stations of The Cross will be on Wednesdays after the 5:30 pm Mass.
- **EASTER FLOWER ENVELOPES:** Easter Flower donation/memorial envelopes are located on the entry table.
- **MARCH 24TH:** St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Cyclone will be having their Springfest—Home Fried Chicken & Sausage with all the trimmings —Dine In or Plates to Go--\$15 a plate. 11 am till ?? Silent Auction, Themed Baskets, Diamond Necklace Raffle, Country Store. See flyer on bulletin board in church entry for more information.
- **EIM compliance** is required for persons active in most ministries in the diocese. Do you need to be compliant? New to the EIM process? Already have an EIM account? Visit austindiocese.org/eim to learn about compliance policies, how new applicants get started, and how active users maintain compliance. Contact eim@austindiocese.org for further assistance. *An EIM class is being offered March 25th @ St. Luke's—Temple.*
- **SYMPATHY:** Our deepest sympathy to the Family of Rosalie Kostroun, who recently passed away. You're in our thoughts and prayers. May God be with your families.
- **SYMPATHY:** Our deepest sympathy to the Shawn Higgins Family on the loss of Stacie's mother, Helen Moriarty. May God give your family strength, healing and comfort.

3-3: Sunday Offering: \$1,565.00 Children's Offering: \$6.00
 World Mission: \$142.00 Building Fund: \$492.00
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

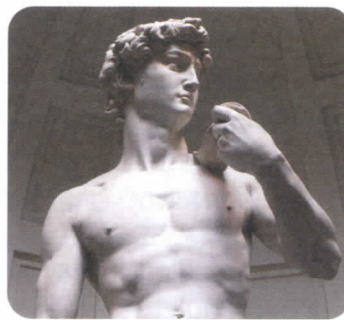
Dear Padre,

In the Church's eyes, what constitutes pornography? Art museums have statues of nude men and women, some of which are quite explicit. Is the only difference the respectability of the venue?

The "respectability" of the location or publisher doesn't matter. A product is pornographic if it was created to sexually arouse users of the product regardless of the venue. Michelangelo's intention in carving his famous statue of David was not to arouse the people who look at it, so the Church does not call it pornography.

Pornography has existed for centuries, but it didn't arrive in our homes uninvited until recently. People with internet access are regularly confronted by pornographic images and literature, and many find it a very powerful temptation. In response, the US bishops issued a helpful document, which is available online at uscbb.org: *Create in Me a Clean Heart: A Pastoral Response to Pornography*.

From this document: "Using and/or producing pornography is a sin against chastity and against human dignity....The sin of pornography needs the Lord's forgiveness and should be confessed in the sacrament of penance. Pornography objectifies people and brings hurt and pain. It is an illusory substitute for real relationships and intimacy, which in the end bring true joy. Many good people struggle with the sin of pornography and [strive] to cultivate chastity. You are not alone. Jesus is with you, the Church offers you love and support. Trust in the Lord's mercy and his power to free and heal you." ●



MICHELANGELO'S DAVID / SHUTTERSTOCK

[The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org](http://TheRedemptorists.org)

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

If God is the God of life...

then it is wrong for us to kill our brothers and sisters in his Name.

If God is the God of peace...

then it is wrong for us to wage war in his Name.

If God is the God of love...

then it is wrong for us to hate our brothers and sisters.

PRAYER FOR THE VICTIMS OF WAR, IRAQ, MARCH 7, 2021



MONDAY

March 11
Lenten Weekday
Is 65:17-21
Jn 4:43-54

TUESDAY

March 12
Lenten Weekday
Ez 47:1-9, 12
Jn 5:1-16

WEDNESDAY

March 13
Lenten Weekday
Is 49:8-15
Jn 5:17-30

THURSDAY

March 14
Lenten Weekday
Ex 32:7-14
Jn 5:31-47

FRIDAY

March 15
Lenten Weekday
Wis 2:1a, 12-22
Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

SATURDAY

March 16
Lenten Weekday
Jer 11:18-20
Jn 7:40-53

SUNDAY

March 17
Fifth Sunday of Lent
Jer 31:31-34
Heb 5:7-9
Jn 12:20-33

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