

Follow the Leader

This is not simply the name of a childhood game. It is actually an essential directive for living. We learn so many things in life because we followed someone. That is how we learned to read, to play a musical instrument, to speak another language, or to understand social behavior.

Many nations at the time of Jeremiah represented their kings as shepherds, leading the people to verdant pastures and restful waters. We see this in the art they left behind. However, many of the kings of Jeremiah's day were not good leaders—not attentive shepherds, nor faithful to God, who had entrusted the people to their care. Consequently, God stepped in to be their shepherd. This is the image of the divine shepherd found in the responsorial psalm. Jesus also characterized religious leaders as shepherds. He was distraught that the people were “like sheep without a shepherd” (Mark 6:34).

Is this situation different today? Many are eager to follow a leader, but which one? Ours is a multicultural, pluralistic, international society with innumerable viewpoints. Voices cry out from many corners, demanding to be heard. But which voice should we heed? Which worldly leaders should we follow? It's apparent that our leaders, both civic and religious, disagree on certain matters. What are we to do? The issue is not “with whom do I agree?” but rather “whose point of view makes me a better person? More compassionate? More understanding? More selfless? More Christlike?” Are we following the right leader?
Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ★ *Our Shepherd never pits us against each other but brings us together. Is this reflected in the way we live in society?*
- ★ *Our Shepherd cares for all, not just those whom society has privileged. Do we?*

I will raise up shepherds for them who will shepherd them so that they need no longer fear or be terrified; none shall be missing.
JEREMIAH 23:4



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.

JULY 18, 2021—SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

As the Twelve return from their first missionary journey in today's Gospel, our readings continue to reflect on the authority and mission of the Church. Jeremiah says in the First Reading that Israel's leaders, through godlessness and fanciful teachings, had misled and scattered God's people. He promises God will send a shepherd, a king and son of David, to gather the lost sheep and appoint for them new shepherds (see Ezekiel 34:23).

The crowd gathering on the green grass (see Mark 6:39) in today's Gospel is the start of the remnant that Jeremiah promised would be brought back to the meadow of Israel. The people seem to sense that Jesus is the Lord, the good shepherd (see John 10:11), the king they've been waiting for (see Hosea 3:1-5).

Jesus is moved to pity, seeing them as sheep without a shepherd. This phrase was used by Moses to describe Israel's need for a shepherd to succeed him (see Numbers 27:17). And as Moses appointed Joshua, Jesus appointed the Twelve to continue shepherding His people on earth. Jesus had said there were other sheep who did not belong to Israel's fold but would hear His voice and be joined to the one flock of the one shepherd (see John 10:16).

In God's plan, the Church is to seek out first the lost sheep of the house of Israel and then to bring all nations into the fold (see Acts 13:36; Romans 1:16). Paul, too, in today's Epistle, sees the Church as a new creation, in which those nations who were once far off from God are joined as "one new person" with the children of Israel.

As we sing in today's Psalm, through the Church, the Lord, our good shepherd, still leads people to the verdant pastures of the kingdom, to the restful waters of baptism; He still anoints with the oil of confirmation, and spreads the Eucharistic table before all people, filling their cups to overflowing.



Ministries for July 25, 2021

Rosary: Adolph & Dorothy Vansa

Eucharistic Minister: Debra Vansa

Offertory: Keith & Megan Kuzel

Lector: Kelly Laurence

Ushers: Horace Smith & Lynwood Tatum

Altar Servers: Gracie, Carter, Tessa

Sanctuary Light: July 19th-25th: Henry Jr. & Lillian Litzman by Lynne Hornung



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: Anton Vrazel, David Minatra, Reenie Hubnik, Kathy Hubnik, Baby Townes Bush, Carolyn Klecka, Edward Brenek, Jr., 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 —July 11-18, 2021

Date	Time	Mass Intentions
Today—7/18	10:15am	+ Dorothy Klecka by Cecilia Marak + Philip Hubnik by Debbie Dohnalik Bush + Joe Vansa by Gary & Marlene Vrazel + Helen Hubnik by Mary Frances Vansa Georgia Ann Glaser by Mary Frances Vansa
7/21—Wed.	5:30pm	+ Johnnie Michna by Tom & Julie Motyka + Albina Vrazel by Margaret Vrazel + Daniel Hromcik by Victor & Mary Jane Balcar
7/25 —Sunday	10:15am	+ Eugene Marak by Cecilia Marak + Eugene Vaculin by Alfred & Bernice Vrazel + Doris Bruggman by Eileen Schneider

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

- **JULY 20TH:** KC meeting at St. Joseph's Parish Hall at 7:30pm.
- **PICNIC:** Raffle tickets are ready—if you haven't received some to sell—please contact Tom or Julie Motyka.
- **THANKS:** The cemetery board sends heartfelt thanks to the family of Raymond "Coach Ray" Tepera and to the family of Patricia "Patsy" Tepera. These two families chose to list Sts. Cyril & Methodius Cemetery as memorial beneficiary for their loved ones that recently passed. A life well lived by these two is evident in the number of donations we received. We ask God's blessings on Ray and Patsy's families and all who took the time to send a donation.

7/11: Stewardship: Sunday Offering: \$1,474.00

7/11: Building Fund: \$40.00

7/11: Children's Offering: \$3.00

Thank you for your Generosity!!

Thank You!

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!

Dear Padre,

I read this is the liturgical year of Mark, that next year will be the year of Matthew, and the following year, Luke. Then it starts over with Mark again. Why doesn't John have a year?

The purpose in a three-year cycle of readings at Mass was primarily a pastoral one. "The treasures of the Bible are to be opened up more lavishly, so that richer fare may be provided for the faithful at the table of God's word. In this way a more representative portion of the holy Scriptures will be read to the people in the course of a prescribed number of years" (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy [Sacrosanctum Concilium], 51).

All of Scripture is the word of God, but "Christ, present in his word, proclaims the Gospel" (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, 29). Moreover, Christ reveals himself to us from four different Gospel perspectives. For some people, John's version—often deeply symbolic and theological—can be pastorally challenging.

The semicontinuous reading of the three synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke) "provides a presentation of each Gospel's distinctive doctrine as well as a development of the Lord's life and preaching" (*Lectionary for Mass*, 1970; 16,1). Nevertheless, John's Gospel appears in all three cycles. For example, five readings from chapter six on the bread of life are inserted in Year B, when Mark's short Gospel is proclaimed. John's Gospel is also read during Easter and scattered throughout the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Lent.

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR | Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



ADAM JANIKIEL / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM Pope Francis



For leadership there is only one road: service. There is no other way. If you have many qualities—the ability to communicate, etc.—but you are not a servant, your leadership will fail, it is useless, it has not power to gather [people] together.

ADDRESS TO PONTIFICAL COLLEGES
AND RESIDENCES OF ROME, MAY 12, 2014

Calendar

Monday

JULY 19

Weekday

Ex 14:5–18

Mt 12:38–42

Tuesday

JULY 20

Weekday

Ex 14:21–15:1

Mt 12:46–50

Wednesday

JULY 21

Weekday

Ex 16:1–5, 9–15

Mt 13:1–9

Thursday

JULY 22

St. Mary Magdalene

Sg 3:1–4b or

2 Cor 5:14–17

Jn 20:1–2, 11–18

Friday

JULY 23

Weekday

Ex 20:1–17

Mt 13:18–23

Saturday

JULY 24

Weekday

Ex 24:3–8

Mt 13:24–30

Sunday

JULY 25

Seventeenth Sunday in

Ordinary Time

2 Kgs 4:42–44

Eph 4:1–6

Jn 6:1–15

Do you have a
question for
the Padre?

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

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