



Blessings of Many Shapes

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

It is always a blessed and holy occasion when parents bring their child to the parish church for baptism. They gather family and friends and proudly present their child to both God and the faith community. Somewhere in the midst of it all, they will wonder who their child will become, what their child's gifts and talents will be, and what hopes and dreams their child will have. Yet like Simeon, who blessed the Holy Family in the Temple, they will also realize that life is not always favorable to us. As Simeon foretold, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many...and you yourself a sword will pierce" (Luke 2:34-35).

Although we recognize that suffering is a part of everyone's life, and we would never wish it upon a child, we might hope that the child does not run from every suffering, for it becomes the path to wisdom and compassion—perhaps the only path. We might also wish on the child a bit of loneliness, for it teaches us to treasure friends. And amid hoping for the blessing of success, losing can also be a gift and a blessing, for it is how we learn to deal with failure and understand the important lesson that we cannot always have our own way. Failure can be the seed of humility. Fortunately, while doing our best as parents, we must allow God to decide how our children will be blessed and what will nurture their growth into the image of Jesus. We simply present them to God from whom they came. ●

Reflect

Call to mind someone you love deeply and remind yourself that God loves him or her even more.

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] took [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

LUKE 2:22



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.

FEBRUARY 2, 2025—THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Today's feast marks the Presentation of the Lord Jesus in the Temple, forty days after he was born. As the firstborn, he belonged to God. According to the Law, Mary and Joseph were required to take him to the Temple and "redeem" him by paying five shekels. At the same time, the Law required the child's mother to offer sacrifice in order to overcome the ritual impurity brought about by childbirth.

So the feast we celebrate shows a curious turn of events. The Redeemer seems to be redeemed. She who is all-pure presents herself to be purified. Such is the humility of our God. Such is the humility of the Blessed Virgin. They submit to the law even though they are not bound by it.

However, the Gospel story nowhere mentions Jesus' "redemption," but seems to describe instead a religious consecration—such as a priest might undergo. Saint Luke tells us that Jesus is "presented" in the Temple, using the same verb that Saint Paul uses to describe the offering of a sacrifice (see [Romans 12:1](#)). Another parallel is the Old Testament dedication of Samuel ([1 Sam 1:24-27](#)) to the Temple as a priest.

The drama surrounding Jesus' conception and birth began in the Temple—when the Archangel visited Mary's kinsman, Zechariah the priest. And now the story of Jesus' infancy comes to a fitting conclusion, again in the Temple.

All the readings today concern Jerusalem, the Temple, and the sacrificial rites. The first reading comes from the Prophet Malachi, who called the priests to return to faithful service—and foretold a day when a Messiah would arrive with definitive purification of the priesthood.

Likewise, the Psalm announces to Jerusalem that Jerusalem is about to receive a great visitor. The Psalmist identifies him as "The LORD of hosts . . . the king of glory."



1-26: Sunday Offering: \$1,742.00

1-26: Children's Offering: \$2.00

1-26: First Offering: \$12.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Bulletin Information: MARAK: Anna Givens (512-809-9889) marakchurch@yahoo.com

CYCLONE: Nancy Posvar (254-913-2696)

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

MINISTRIES FOR FEBRUARY 9, 2025

Rosary: Volunteer Needed

Lector: REP

Ushers: REP

Money Counters: Cecilia Marak and Andy Littlejohn

Eucharistic Minister: Rick Rhoades

Offertory: REP

Servers: Gracie, Carter, Bella, Kinsley

Sanctuary Light: February 3rd-9th, 2025:

Tom and Julie Motyka's 58th Wedding Anniversary by Family

Bud Holy's Birthday by Janie Holy



Prayer Chain... Please pray for Anton Vrazel, Martha Hubnik, Brandon Lewis (Cousin to the Tomek Family), Dorothy Vansa, Kay and Ed Moraw, and Thomas Motyka as well as 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—February 2nd—9th, 2025

Date	Time	Mass Intentions
Today—2/2	10:15 am	† Joe and Stefina Vansa by Robert and Debbie Vansa † Helen Moriarty by Chester and Margaret Hays † Clement Tomek by Mary Karstadt, Debbie Wene, and John Sims † Laddie Dohnalik by Mike and Janice Marek
1/29—Wednesday	5:30 pm	NO MASS
2/9-Sunday	10:15 am	† John and Mary Hubnik by Mary Ann Seaton † Stanley Hubnik by Chester and Margaret Hays † Clement Tomek by Leroy and Kathy Vansa † Marilyn Kemp by Rebecca Barton

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

- **CEMETERY BOARD ELECTIONS:** Election Ballots are available for the 2025 Cemetery Board today and next Sunday, February 9th. Please take an Election Ballot and return it to the Ballot Box no later than February 9th. Ballots will be counted after mass on February 9th.
- **SUPER BOWL CHIP AND DIP SALE:** The KJZT Juniors will have their annual Chip N Dip/Bake Sale before and after mass on Sunday, February 9th. Please support our youth and their many good works.
- **2025 CALENDARS:** 2025 Calendars are available for pick up. Please limit one per family to allow all families an opportunity to obtain a calendar. Special thanks to Marek-Burns-Laywell Funeral Home for once again sponsoring the 2025 Saints and Feasts Calendar.
- **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:** The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on February 12th at 6 PM in the Church. Please send any agenda items to Greg Hoelscher no later than February 6th.
- **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD:** We will celebrate the Feast of Sts. Cyril and Methodius on Sunday, February 23rd in the Parish Hall with a luncheon following mass. Please bring a dessert or side dish; the Parish Council will furnish the meat. Sign-up sheets will be available beginning Sunday, February 9th.
- **BINGO EXTRAVAGANZA:** On March 2nd, Christ the King in Belton is hosting a Bingo Extravaganza Fundraiser to help defray the cost of their new Family Life Center. Complimentary snacks and wine -\$32 per person-begins at 1:00PM-doors open at 11:30AM.

Dear Padre,

What happened to Candlemas? When I was a child, there was one day when everyone brought candles to church to have them blessed. At the end of Mass, the priest would bless everyone's throats with the candles.

Candlemas is another name for our celebration of the Presentation of the Lord: the day Mary and Joseph presented their child to God in the Temple at Jerusalem in accordance with the law of Moses (Luke 2:22-38). We remember how the elderly believers Simeon and Anna recognized Jesus as their longed-for Messiah and how, addressing God in a canticle, Simeon proclaimed Christ to be "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel" (Luke 2:32).

Mass on this day often begins with the blessing and lighting of candles, which the priest and people carry into the church. The name Candlemas springs from this ritual blessing.

The day after the feast of the Presentation is the memorial celebration of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr. According to tradition, St. Blaise was instrumental in healing a person who was choking. The Church remembers this encounter and celebrates the intervention of the Spirit of God through the blessing of throats, using the blessed candles from the feast of the Presentation. It is a wonderful and very practical spiritual practice that is much appreciated and anticipated each year. ●



EVGARILOV / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday

February 3

Weekday

Heb 11:32-40

Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday

February 4

Weekday

Heb 12:1-4

Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday

February 5

St. Agatha,
Virgin and
Martyr

Heb 12:4-7,
11-15

Mk 6:1-6

Thursday

February 6

St. Paul Miki and
Companions,
Martyrs

Heb 12:18-19,
21-24

Mk 6:7-13

Friday

February 7

Weekday

Heb 13:1-8

Mk 6:14-29

Saturday

February 8

Weekday

Heb 13:15-17,

20-21

Mk 6:30-34

Sunday

February 9

Fifth Sunday in

Ordinary Time

Is 6:1-2a, 3-8

1 Cor 15:1-11

or 15:3-8, 11

Lk 5:1-11



DANIEL IBAÑEZ / CNA

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Like Simeon, let us also pick up this child, the God of newness and surprises.... Let us be restless, let us be moved by the Spirit, like Simeon and Anna.... If, like them, we live in expectation, we will embrace Jesus, who is the light and hope of life.

HOMILY, ROME, FEBRUARY 2, 2024