

The Cross: Altar and Throne

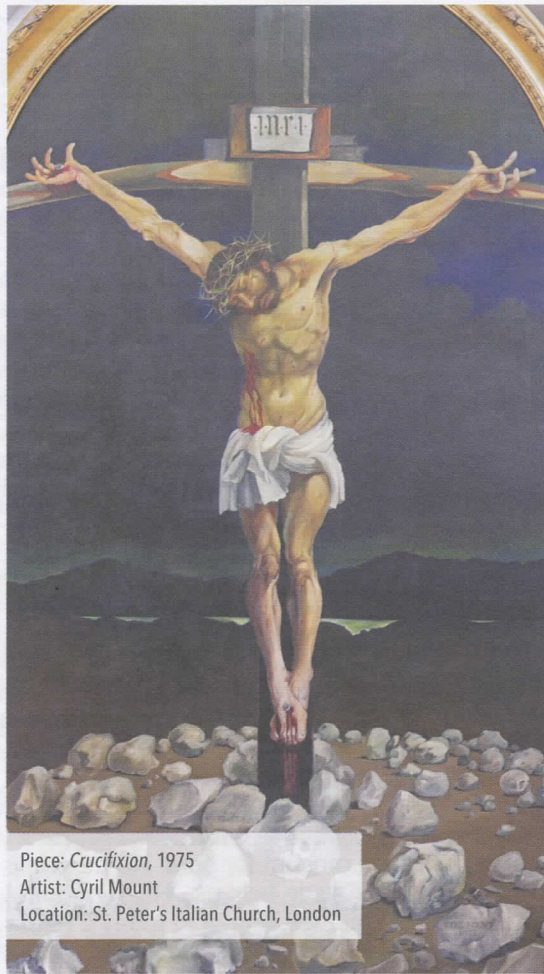
In his Gospel, St. Luke, the good doctor, often brings in kingly themes related to Christ's crucifixion. He does this to highlight that Jesus fulfilled the Jewish belief that the Messiah would unite the three important leadership roles—priest, prophet, and king. The inscription the Romans nailed to the cross above Jesus' head inadvertently supports the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy—he was indeed the King of the Jews.

He was also the priest who offered his body as a sacrifice for the Chosen People: "It was Caiaphas who had counseled the Jews that it was better that one man should die rather than the people" (John 18:14). He is both the priest offering obedience to the Father, but he is also the victim who is offered on the altar of the cross. The cross is altar and throne because, as well as priest and victim, Jesus also is the king reuniting his kingdom under God the Father. In so doing, he undoes the sin of Adam, which had been the cause of this division.

Jesus' final prophetic words, "It is finished," means he has fulfilled his mission as priest, prophet, and king from the throne of the cross. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1047) sums it up when it says that as king and high priest, his sacrifice is total, universal, and definitive. Now all of God's creatures, man and beast, both natural and in the heavens, can return to the one from whom they came forth and who declared each one good.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Editor's note: This is Fr. Mark Haydu's final reflection for Our Parish Community. He will continue as special advisor to the head of the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums. When a new liturgical cycle begins on December 1, 2019, we will welcome a new reflections writer, Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA. The people of Liguori Publications thank Fr. Mark for his three years of insightful reflections and his artwork selections and ideas. We wish him well.



Piece: *Crucifixion*, 1975
Artist: Cyril Mount
Location: St. Peter's Italian Church, London

For Reflection

Do I realize the amazing power of what happens at the Mass?

Do I make the good thief's act of faith and confidence my own?

Above him there was an inscription that read, "This is the King of the Jews."

Luke 23:38

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 for scheduling 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.

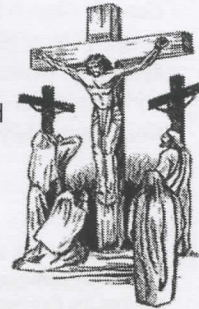
NOVEMBER 24, 2019—Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Week by week the Liturgy has been preparing us for the revelation to be made on this, the last Sunday of the Church year. Jesus, we have been shown, is truly the Chosen One, the Messiah of God, the King of the Jews. Ironically, in today's Gospel we hear these names on the lips of those who don't believe in Him—Israel's rulers, the soldiers, and a criminal dying alongside Him.

They can only see the scandal of a bloodied figure nailed to a cross. They scorn Him in words and gestures foretold in Israel's Scriptures (see Psalm 22:7-9; 69:21-22; Wisdom 2:18-20). If He is truly King, God will rescue Him, they taunt. But He did not come to save Himself, but to save them—and us.

The good thief shows us how we are to accept the salvation He offers us. He confesses his sins, acknowledges he deserves to die for them. And He calls on the name of Jesus, seeking His mercy and forgiveness. By his faith he is saved. Jesus "remembers" him—as God has always remembered His people, visiting them with His saving deeds, numbering them among His chosen heirs (see Psalm 106:4-5).

By the blood of His cross, Jesus reveals His Kingship—not by saving His life, but by offering it as a ransom for ours. He transfers us to "the Kingdom of His beloved Son," as today's Epistle tells us. His Kingdom is the Church, the new Jerusalem and House of David that we sing of in today's Psalm. By their covenant with David in today's First Reading, Israel's tribes are made one "bone and flesh" with their king. By the new covenant made in His blood, Christ becomes one flesh with the people of His Kingdom—the head of His body, the Church (see Ephesians 5:23-32). We celebrate and renew this covenant in every Eucharist, giving thanks for our redemption, hoping for the day when we too will be with Him in Paradise.



11/17 Stewardship: Regular Offering: \$1,419.00

11/17 Children's Offering: \$9.00

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 1

Rosary: Lynne Hornung

Eucharistic Minister: Albert Michalka

Offertory: Edward & Kay Moraw

Lector: Misty Green

Ushers: Josh Pratt & Robert Vansa



Altar Servers: Gracie Doscocil, Carter Doscocil, Tessa Vaculin

Sanctuary Light: Nov. 25th– Dec. 1st: August & Mary Hubnik by Arvell & Liz Jungmann

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 the following: Andrea Enga(Cousin of Ethel Marak), JoLeen Cayhill, and Ethel Marak. Prayers are powerful!

Contact Merlene Slavik—254-697-1247 or email—Slavik@farm-market.net to be added to the prayer chain.

MARAK MASSES—November 24– December 1, 2019

Date	Time	Intentions
Today– 11/24	10:15am	+ August & Mary Hubnik by Arvell & Liz Jungmann + Albyn Simecik by Carolyn Talafuse + Steve Simecik by Carolyn Talafuse
11/27- Wednesday	5:30pm	+ Lawrence Vrazel by Adolph & Dorothy Vansa + Cyril & Dorothy Vaculin by Christa Wade
12/1—Sunday	10:15am	+ Deceased Members of Henry Litzman Sr. + Frank Plachy Families by Lynne Hornung

CYCLONE MASSES— November 24– December 1, 2019

Date	Time	Intentions
Today – 11/24	8:15am	+ Royella Roessler by Craig Green
11/26—Tuesday	7:00am	+ Madolin Martinez by Monica Mikeska
11/28—Thursday	8:15am	+ Marvin Wilde by Oleta Wilde
11/29—Friday	7:00am	+ Robert Dach by Alice Ellen Stojanik
11/30—Saturday Vigil	5:30pm	+ Jack & Betty Tomasek by Pauline Marek
12/1—Sunday	8:15am	+ Dolores Motl by Skip & Ann Cockrell

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

- **PARISH COUNCIL:** Congratulations to Betty Jane Brenek and Anna Teague on being elected to the Parish Council for the next 3 years. May God Bless you!
- **THANK YOU:** A special thank you to all the parishioners who participated in the Non-perishable items for the food drive hosted by the KJZT Jrs. With your help, it was a great success and the KJZT Jrs. appreciate your support May God Bless all of you!
- **HALL MANAGER:** If anyone would Like to take the position of Hall Manager, please contact Rhonda Gelner 254-482-1144 by December 1st.
- **TODAY:** Second Collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) - Funds are used to increase education and combat poverty in the United States.
- **TODAY:** Community Thanksgiving service—Ocker Brethren Church—4:00pm.
- **DECEMBER 1:** Second Collection for Building and Maintenance Fund
- **DECEMBER 15:** Parish Christmas Party after Mass. Meat will be provided. Please bring a side dish and/ or dessert. All Parishioners are invited to celebrate with good fellowship, food and a Christmas program.
- **PENANCE SERVICE:** St. Joseph's in Cyclone on December 4th at 7pm and December 11th at Sts. Cyril & Methodius in Marak at 7pm. Please check the bulletin board in the church entry for more information.

Calendar

Monday

NOVEMBER 25

Weekday

Dn 1:1–6, 8–20

Lk 21:1–4

Tuesday

NOVEMBER 26

Weekday

Dn 2:31–45

Lk 21:5–11

Wednesday

NOVEMBER 27

Weekday

Dn 5:1–6, 13–14,

16–17, 23–28

Lk 21:12–19

Thursday

NOVEMBER 28

Weekday

Dn 6:12–28

Lk 21:20–28

Friday

NOVEMBER 29

Weekday

Dn 7:2–14

Lk 21:29–33

Saturday

NOVEMBER 30

St. Andrew,
Apostle

Rom 10:9–18

Mt 4:18–22

Sunday

DECEMBER 1

First Sunday
of Advent (A)

Is 2:1–5

Rom 13:11–14

Mt 24:37–44

Dear Padre,

Why was the notion of kingship so important to Jesus and his disciples? Didn't the rulers of the day oppress Israel? You'd think they would have distrusted the Jesus-as-king idea.

Although the idea of kingship is not very important to our modern thinking, it was very important to Israel. In the early years of the Hebrew nation, the population wanted to strengthen itself politically and militarily. The people went to Samuel, their leader, and begged him to appoint a king so that Israel could be the same as other nations (1 Samuel 8:4–5). In response, Samuel appointed Saul as Israel's first king. In Israel, the king became the prime instrument of God. David, the shepherd, was considered Israel's greatest king.

Later, that area came under the harsh domination of foreign powers—the Persians, the Macedonians, and ultimately, Rome. Many of these empires exercised their power by appointing a king, often a foreigner, to rule locally.

Since both the people of Israel and the early Christians understood the notion of kingship and recalled the glory days of David and Solomon, they developed a divinely inspired theology of the king as God's saving instrument. The theme of Jesus as king and prime instrument of God runs through the New Testament, reaching its fullness in Jesus' victory over death and his ascent to power at the right hand of the Father.

In the Gospels, Jesus preaches that the kingdom of God is now in our midst. The good news is that all of us can enter this kingdom (Mark 1:15).



PHOTO © RENATA SEDYAKOVA/SHUTTERSTOCK
JESUS CHRIST AS KING OF THE WORLD BY KARL VON BRUNN, 1861, ETHNETHART, GERMANY

Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

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A Word from Pope Francis

[Jesus] shows us that he enjoys dominion because he is a servant, glory because he is capable of abasement, kingship because he is fully prepared to lay down his life. By his passion and death, he takes the lowest place, attains the heights of grandeur in service, and bestows this upon his Church.

—Homily, October 18, 2015

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