



Learning How to Die

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

It has been pointed out that one of the tasks of life is to learn how to die well, that is, to go where we would rather not go, to love when we know it will cost, to offer ourselves even when we know we will be used. If we die a bit every day, sometimes with struggle and sacrifice in those situations that may call for such, then at our final moment we will be able to stand before that specter face to face and not run, simply because we have met before and have been able to walk away the victor.

Dying well does not mean we do so without fear. Courage blossoms when we stand in a field of fear. Even the Lord Jesus “offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears” to God, as the Letter to the Hebrews notes. Dying well does not mean we do so cleanly. Dying is often messy, and it is always an uprooting that disrupts and scatters everything nearby.

Nor does dying well mean we do so in control of the event. That is what is so devastating about death. It has complete and total control. At its best and at its worst the only way to die well is to say “yes” to it every time it demands our submission. And like the eye of stillness at the center of the hurricane, it is at the heart of death where we embrace resurrection and where the holy offers life. It is where we can have a deep encounter with the Lord Jesus. ●

Reflect

Can you accept the little deaths along the way as preparation for the final passing from this life?

Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.

JOHN 12:24



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 17, 2024 — FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

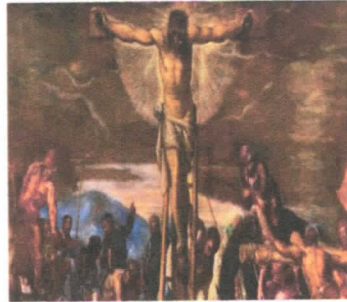
Our readings today are filled with anticipation. The days are coming, Jeremiah prophesies in today's First Reading. The hour has come, Jesus says in the Gospel. The new covenant that God promised to Jeremiah is made in the "hour" of Jesus—in His Death, Resurrection, and Ascension to the Father's right hand. The prophets said this new covenant would return Israel's exiled tribes from the ends of the world (see [Jeremiah 31:1, 3-4, 7-8](#)). Jesus too predicted His passion would gather the dispersed children of God (see [John 11:52](#)). But today He promises to draw to Himself not only Israelites, but all men and women.

The new covenant is more than a political or national restoration. As we sing in today's Psalm, it is a universal spiritual restoration. In the "hour" of Jesus, sinners in every nation can return to the Father—to be washed of their guilt and given new hearts to love and serve Him.

In predicting He will be "lifted up," Jesus isn't describing only His coming Crucifixion (see [John 3:14-15](#)). Isaiah used the same word to tell how the Messiah, after suffering for Israel's sins, would be raised high and greatly exalted (see [Isaiah 52:3](#)). Elsewhere the term describes how kings are elevated above their subjects (see [1 Maccabees 8:13](#)).

Troubled in His agony, Jesus doesn't pray to be saved. Instead, as we hear in today's Epistle, He offers himself to the Father on the Cross—as a living prayer and supplication. For this, God gives Him dominion over heaven and earth (see [Acts 2:33](#); [Philippians 2:9](#)).

Where He has gone we can follow—if we let Him lead us. To follow Jesus means hating our lives of sin and selfishness. It means trusting in the Father's will, the law He has written in our hearts. Jesus' "hour" continues in the Eucharist, where we join our sacrifices to His, giving God our lives in reverence and obedience—confident He will raise us up to bear fruits of holiness.



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 24, 2024—PALM SUNDAY

Rosary: Liz Jungmann

Eucharistic Minister: Debbie Vansa

Lector: Misty Green & Greg Hoelscher

Offertory: Arvell & Liz Jungmann

Ushers: Mike Marek & James Marek

Servers: Paige, Claire & Kate K.

Sanctuary Light: March 18th—March 24th: August & Mary Hubnik by Liz & Arvell Jungmann

Prayer Chain...Please pray for Martha Hubnik, Brandon Lewis (Cousin to the Tomek Family), 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 17 — March 24, 2024

Date	Time	Mass Intentions
Today—3/17	10:15am	+ Jerry Wade by Kevin & Anna Givens + Stanley Hubnik by Alfred & Bernice Vrazel + James Junek by Aline Junek
3/20—Wednesday Stations of The Cross	5:30pm	+ Dean Allen Kostiha by Robert & Debbie Vansa + Stanley Hubnik by Billy & Caroline Gelner
3/24—Sunday Palm Sunday	10:15am	+ John Dohnalik by James & Jeannine Dohnalik + Jennifer Pelzel by Rebecca Barton + Marilyn Kemp by Rebecca Barton + Eugene Marak by Richard & Janice Johnson

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

- **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.
- **HOLY WEEK MASSES:** Holy Thursday Mass—7pm @ Marak; 5pm @ Cyclone.
Good Friday—7pm Marak; 5pm @ Cyclone.
- **EASTER FLOWER ENVELOPES:** Easter Flower donation/memorial envelopes are located on the entry table.
- **ARLAN'S RECEIPTS:** Arlan's is no longer accepting grocery receipts for their Receipt Refund Program.
- **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.
- **MARCH 31ST:** The Knights of Columbus #10186 and KJZT Jrs. will sponsor an Easter Hunt after Mass on Easter Sunday. Please bring your Easter Baskets.
- **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 and April 13th @ Christ The King—Belton.

3-10: Sunday Offering: \$1,653.00 Children's Offering: \$10.00
World Mission: \$5.00 Building Fund: \$35.00 Catholic Relief: \$252.00
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Dear Padre,

What is the difference between temptation and sin?

The temptations of Jesus, as they are recorded in the Gospels (Mark 1:12, Luke 4:1, and Matthew 4:1), give us the proper direction with regard to sin and temptation. Jesus was tempted three times, but he did not sin. More than that, Jesus put his trust in God during the temptations. Jesus' message is clear: if you feel tempted, call out to God!

The Church teaches that sin is a deliberative process. Temptation is something that happens to you without your consent: a thought or desire pops into your mind. For temptation to become a sin, you have to entertain that thought or desire, or plan to act on it, or do it. That's when temptation "turns a corner" and becomes sin.

Although the sacrament of penance is available throughout the year, the Church places a special emphasis on it during Lent. There may be a communal penance service in your area. Perhaps you can commit now to participating in the service. If it's been a while since you've been to confession or you're not sure what to do or say, just tell the priest. He will show you. ●



ANNA NASSI/SHUTTERSTOCK

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
March 18 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62 Jn 8:1-11	March 19 <i>St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22 Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a	March 20 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95 Jn 8:31-42	March 21 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Gn 17:3-9 Jn 8:51-59	March 22 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Jer 20:10-13 Jn 10:31-42	March 23 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Ez 37:21-28 Jn 11:45-56	March 24 <i>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</i> Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16 Is 50:4-7 Phil 2:6-11 Mk 14:1-15:47 or 15:1-39

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.



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

We are called to take on the paschal law of losing life in order to receive it renewed and eternal. And what does losing life mean?... It means to think less about oneself, about personal interests and to know how to "see" and to meet the needs of our neighbors, especially the least of them.

ANGELUS, ROME, MARCH 18, 2018



© 2024 Liguori Publications, Liguori, MO 63057-9999. Printed in USA. *Imprimatur*: "In accordance with CIC 827, permission to publish was granted on May 16, 2023, by the Most Reverend Mark S. Rivituso, Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of St. Louis. Permission to publish is an indication that nothing contrary to Church teaching is contained in this work. It does not imply any endorsement of the opinions expressed in the publication; nor is any liability assumed by this permission." No part of this work may be used in any form without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications. Scripture texts in this work are taken from the *New American Bible*, revised edition © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. Download our latest catalog, visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.