



A Haunting Question

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

“What are you looking for?” asks Jesus of the two disciples who come to see who he is and what he is about. They are Jesus’ first words in John’s Gospel, and that’s what the entire Gospel of John is about, an answer to that piercing question.

I spent the week living with that question, never really finding an answer that seemed to fit, or perhaps I got too many answers, all of them somehow falling short. Why do I spend an hour early each morning sitting in the silence? I read some Scripture, but then mostly I sit with the silence. Many are the times when my mind drifts to other times and places and daydreams. Sometimes the silence is scattered with boredom; at other times it stumbles with prayerful words; and sometimes in the silence I look for answers to the plaguing whys of life. Mostly, though, I sit in the silence. I’d like to call it prayer, but then I wonder if I’m simply floundering in wishful thinking. So I return to that haunting question—“What are you looking for?”

I think perhaps the answer is similar to what I look for when I gather with friends. Sometimes the get-together is engaging, but not always. Sometimes it is memorable, but not always. Sometimes we just hang out, and that can be enough. Ultimately relationships keep me grounded. That also is why I spend time in the silence. It’s what I’m looking for when I pray—to be in relationship with God, to be grounded lest I drift away and grow lost. ●

**[Eli] said to Samuel,
“Go to sleep, and if you are
called, reply, ‘Speak, LORD,
for your servant is listening.’”**

1 SAMUEL 3:9

Reflect

**When you pray,
what are you looking for?**



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.

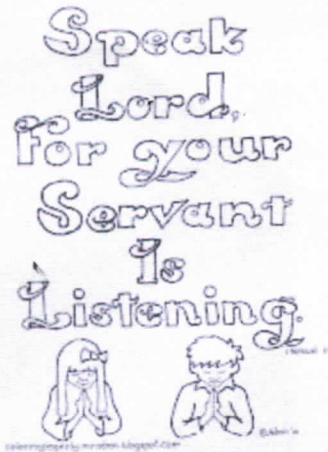
Marriage: Couples planning to be married should contact the pastor at least six months in advance before you set the date of the wedding. Completion of required paperwork and a preparation program needed.

January 14, 2024 — SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

In the call of Samuel and of the first Apostles, today's readings shed light on our own calling to be followers of Christ. Notice in the Gospel today that John's disciples are prepared to hear God's call. They are already looking for the Messiah, so they trust in John's word and follow when he points out the Lamb of God walking by. Samuel is also waiting on the Lord—sleeping near the Ark of the Covenant where God's glory dwells, taking instruction from Eli, the high priest. Samuel listened to God's word and the Lord was with him. And Samuel, through his word, turned all Israel to the Lord (see [1 Samuel 3:21; 7:2-3](#)). The disciples too heard and followed—words we hear repeatedly in today's Gospel. They stayed with the Lord and by their testimony brought others to the Lord. These scenes from salvation history should give us strength to embrace God's will and to follow His call in our lives.

God is constantly calling to each of us—personally, by name (see [Isaiah 43:1; John 10:3](#)). He wants us to seek Him in love, to long for His word (see [Wisdom 6:11-12](#)). We must desire always, as the apostles did, to stay where the Lord stays, to constantly seek His face (see [Psalm 42:2](#)). For we are not our own, but belong to the Lord, as Paul says in today's Epistle. We must have ears open to obedience, and write His word within our hearts. We must trust in the Lord's promise—that if we come to Him in faith, He will abide with us (see [John 15:14; 14:21-23](#)), and raise us by His power. And we must reflect in our lives the love He has shown us, so that others too may find the Messiah.

As we renew our vows of discipleship in this Eucharist, let us approach the altar singing the new song of today's Psalm: "Behold I come . . . to do your will O God."





Ministries for January 21, 2024

Rosary: Julia Motyka

Lector: Janice Marek

Ushers: Richard Brenek & Charles Teague

Eucharistic Minister: Misty Green

Offertory: Tony & Debbie Dohnalik

Servers: Cade & Cutter

Sanctuary Light: January 15th-21st: Henry Hubnik, Sr. by Katherine Hubnik

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 for the following: Martha Kopriva Hubnik, Todd Lemmons, Blythe Babb, Sam Berry, Laddie Vaculin, Louis and Genevieve Tepera Family, Helen Moriarty, mother of Stacie Higgins, Brady Barton, son of Clay and Rebecca Barton, Rosalie Kostroun, Adrian Mitcham (Hubnik Family), Anton Vrazel, James & Paulette Foster, Reenie Hubnik, 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— January 14, 2024—January 21, 2024

Date	Time	Mass Intentions
Today—1/14	10:15am	+ Henry Hubnik Sr. by Katherine Hubnik + Michna & Motyka Families by Tom & Julie Motyka + Calvin Junek by Robert & Debbie Vansa
1/17—Wednesday	5:30pm	+ Jerry Wade by Alfred & Bernice Vrazel + Emma Jean Ribar by Neill & Janene Cooper, Maxine Meyer & Vanessa Cummings
1/21—Sunday	10:15am	+ Calvin Junek by Leroy & Kathy Vansa + Patricia Dohnalik by Robert & Vicki Plachy + Charles Chandler & Susan Chandler by Cis Marak

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

VIGIL CANDLES: If you would like to have a Vigil Candle lit for a week for your loved ones, you may sign up on the list in the church entrance. There are dates still available for \$5.00 a week. Please contact Merlene Slavik.

POINSETTIAS: Anyone wishing to have a poinsettia, please take after Mass today. Leave bows and gold containers/baskets.

Preparation for Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary: In Fatima, Our Lady said, "My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God." Please join thousands of Faithful throughout Diocese of Austin for 33 days of preparation prayer for Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary. The prayers begin on Feb. 20 and are done privately using the preparation prayer book. Please visit www.TexasToJesusThroughMary.org by Jan. 18 to receive your FREE copy of the Montfort preparation prayer book. Your book will be mailed to you.

1/7: Sunday Offering: \$1,566.00; Building Fund: \$578.00
First Offering: \$520.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

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!

Dear Padre,

If St. Matthew was an apostle, why do we have Gospels from other writers who were not apostles of Jesus? Since he knew Jesus personally, wouldn't his Gospel be the definitive one?

There are two assumptions that need to be addressed. One is that the Apostle Matthew is the same as the evangelist Matthew. The book's title, the Gospel According to Matthew, was added to the text in the second century. Whether it was written by the same Matthew or someone else, it still traces back to the experience of the apostles. The Scriptures are the inspired word of God, and Christians can rely on the truth of the Gospel message through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The other assumption is that one Gospel is somehow more "definitive." All four Gospels are the inspired word of God. A Gospel is not a history of the life of Christ. It is a collection of stories that each evangelist arranged in a specific way so that they would make sense to a particular audience. For the Gospel of Matthew, the audience was predominantly Jewish, but these Jewish Christians were being excluded from mainstream Judaism and perhaps were wondering among themselves if Jesus was really the Messiah for whom they had waited so long. Matthew's Gospel asserts repeatedly that Jesus is a true Israelite who fulfills Old Testament prophecies, while also reinterpreting the Law of Moses in a new direction that includes all nations. ●



FRESCO OF APOSTLE ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST BY PIETRO GAGLIARDI / RENATA SEMAROVA

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS



GODONGPHOTO / SHUTTERSTOCK

May the Virgin Mary help us make of our lives a hymn of praise to God in response to his call and in the humble and joyful fulfillment of his will. But let us remember this: there was a moment in each of our lives in which God made himself present more strongly, with a call.

ANGELUS, ROME,
JANUARY 17, 2021

MONDAY

January 15
Weekday
1 Sm 15:16–23
Mk 2:18–22

TUESDAY

January 16
Weekday
1 Sm 16:1–13
Mk 2:23–28

WEDNESDAY

January 17
St. Anthony, Abbot
1 Sm 17:32–33, 37, 40–51
Mk 3:1–6

THURSDAY

January 18
Weekday
1 Sm 18:6–9; 19:1–7
Mk 3:7–12

FRIDAY

January 19
Weekday
1 Sm 24:3–21
Mk 3:13–19

SATURDAY

January 20
Weekday
2 Sm 1:1–4, 11–12, 19, 23–27
Mk 3:20–21

SUNDAY

January 21
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jon 3:1–5, 10
1 Cor 7:29–31
Mk 1:14–20

DAYbreaks Leading Catholic voices inspire the faithful with daily reflections and prayers for Advent and Lent. Including: Fr. Ron Rolheiser, Dr. Mary Katharine Deeley, Sr. Dianne Bergant, Fr. Paul Turner, and more. Available from Liguori Publications.



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