

A photograph of a small green seedling with three leaves growing out of a hole in a weathered, brown tree stump. The background is blurred, showing more of the stump and some green foliage.

[Jesus said,] "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all."

MARK 9:35

Learning How to Die Well

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Karl Rahner was a German Jesuit priest and a leading theologian of the twentieth century. He once observed that one of the tasks of life is to learn how to die well. On first hearing this, we may be much like the disciples who didn't understand Jesus when he spoke of his own need to enter death (see Mark 9:31-32).

How do we learn to "die well"? If we forgo the need to always have our own way, if we forgive and resist the impulse to get revenge, if we are sensitive to the needs of others even when it's inconvenient, if we care for the child among us, whether that "little one" be five, forty-five, or eighty-five—if we practice a willingness to die in such ways, then when it comes time for us to make that final journey of our earthly lives, it will not be as frightening because we will have been there before.

Furthermore, if we learn how to die well, our lives will take on new meaning. The focus of our lives will not be on ourselves, but on others and their needs. We will find ourselves less disappointed when life doesn't go our way. Blue moods will evaporate more readily. We will have a greater interest in daily life. In other words, the very aspects that once seemed to drag us down will become doorways to hope and renewed life. What once seemed to have been a kind of death will become an avenue to faith in the resurrection. ●

Reflect

Have you ever "died to yourself" and then experienced a resurrection?

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.

SEPTEMBER 22, 2024 TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

In today's First Reading, it's like we have our ears pressed to the wall and can hear the murderous grumblings of the elders, chief priests, and scribes—who last week Jesus predicted would torture and kill Him (see [Mark 8:31](#); [10:33-34](#)).

The liturgy invites us to see this passage from the Book of Wisdom as a prophecy of the Lord's Passion. We hear His enemies complain that "the Just One" has challenged their authority, reproached them for breaking the law of Moses, for betraying their training as leaders and teachers.

And we hear chilling words that foreshadow how they will mock Him as He hangs on the Cross: "For if the Just One be the Son of God, He will . . . deliver Him . . ." (compare [Matthew 27:41-43](#)).

Today's Gospel and Psalm give us the flip side of the First Reading. In both, we hear of Jesus' sufferings from His point of view. Though His enemies surround Him, He offers Himself freely in sacrifice, trusting that God will sustain Him.

But the Apostles today don't understand this second announcement of Christ's Passion. They begin arguing over issues of succession—over who among them is greatest, who will be chosen to lead after Christ is killed.

Again they are thinking not as God but as human beings (see [Mark 8:33](#)). And again Jesus teaches the Twelve—the chosen leaders of His Church—that they must lead by imitating His example of love and self-sacrifice. They must be "servants of all," especially the weak and the helpless—symbolized by the child He embraces and places in their midst.

This is a lesson for us, too. We must have the mind of Christ, who humbled Himself to come among us (see [Philippians 2:5-11](#)). We must freely offer ourselves, making everything we do a sacrifice in praise of His name.

As James says in today's Epistle, we must seek wisdom from above, desiring humility, not glory, and in all things be gentle and full of mercy.



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 Wednesday before the weekend!

MINISTRIES FOR SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

Rosary: Veronica Hrozek

Eucharistic Minister: Jill Michalka

Lector: Janice Marek

Offertory: Garrett Prcin Family

Ushers: Tony Dohnalik and Adam Dohnalik

Servers: Brady, Hampton, and Julianna

Sanctuary Light: September 23rd-29th: Henry, Jr. and Lillian Litzman by Lynn Hornung

Prayer Chain...Please pray for Anton Vrazel, Martha Hubnik, Brandon Lewis (Cousin to the Tomek Family), Dorothy Vansa, Kay and Ed Moraw, and Ethel Marak 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—September 22-29, 2024

Date	Time	Mass Intentions
Today—9/22	10:15am	+Scott Litzman by Lynn Hornung +Clem Tomek by Robert and Vickie Plachy +Joe and Stefina Vansa by Robert and Debbie Vansa +Stanley Hubnik by Junior and Patsy Vrazel
9/25—Wednesday	5:30pm	+Joe and Stefina Vansa by Robert and Debbie Vansa +Clement Tomek by M. Marek +Clement Tomek by M/M Ristor
9/29—Sunday	10:15am	+Joe and Stefina Vansa by Louis and Mary Frances Vansa +Mr. and Mrs. John Vansa by Louis and Mary Frances Vansa +Stanley Hubnik by Anna and Kevin Givens

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

- ST. JOSEPH'S CYCLONE: Today is St. Joseph's Annual Picnic-Sausage and Home Fried Chicken Plates-\$15-serving begins at 10:30 AM. Music by Jerry Haisler.Games at 12:00 PM—Auction at 2 PM.
- ST. MATTHEW'S ROGERS: Fall Festival-October 6th-Pulled Pork and Sausage-Plates for \$15-Serving for Dine-in and To Go begins at 11AM.
- BABY BANKS: October is Respect Life Month. We will have the opportunity to contribute to the Baby Bank campaign to foster greater respect for the sanctity of human life.
- CATECHISTS: Thank you and Congratulations to our Catechists who were installed last Sunday. "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6.
- THANK YOU: Many thanks for your time worked and food contributions in bringing comfort to the Steve Vansa Family. You are truly appreciated.
- PICNIC MEETING: For all parishioners on Sunday, October 6th, following Mass.

9-15: Sunday Offering: \$1,727.00

9-15: Children's Offering: \$6.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Dear Padre,

What is spiritual direction? How does it differ from counseling?

In spiritual direction, a person is guided in a process of reflection, self-discovery, and recognition of God's presence in human experience; the primary focus is on one's relationship with God. Thus, in one sense, it is the Lord himself who is the "director" in all spiritual direction. In counseling, a person is also guided in a process of reflection and self-discovery; but the primary focus is on human growth and development. Counseling does not presuppose a person's faith or relationship with God; spiritual direction cannot be complete without it. Both spiritual direction and counseling share the same expectations of openness and honesty in the process; they share the same standards of confidentiality and professional conduct. Moreover, spiritual direction is similar to counseling in its aim toward human growth and development, but it further aims toward holiness and "toward ever more intimate union with Christ" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2014). That union is twofold: a personal relationship with Christ and with Christ's Church. "This union is called 'mystical' because it participates in the mystery of Christ through the sacraments" (CCC 2014). "All Christians in any state or walk of life are called to the fullness of Christian life and to the perfection of charity. All are called to holiness: 'Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect'" (CCC 2013). ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Greatness and success in God's eyes are measured differently: they are measured by service. Not on what someone has, but on what someone gives. Do you want to be first? Serve.... [Service] has a precise and concrete meaning in the Gospel. To serve is not a courteous expression: it means to act like Jesus.

ANGELUS, ROME, SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

Monday

September 23
St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest
Prv 3:27-34
Lk 8:16-18

Tuesday

September 24
Weekday
Prv 21:1-6, 10-13
Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday

September 25
Weekday
Prv 30:5-9
Lk 9:1-6

Thursday

September 26
Weekday
Eccl 1:2-11
Lk 9:7-9

Friday

September 27
St. Vincent de Paul, Priest
Eccl 3:1-11
Lk 9:18-22

Saturday

September 28
Weekday
Eccl 11:9-12:8
Lk 9:43b-45

Sunday

September 29
Twenty-sixth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Nm 11:25-29
Jas 5:1-6
Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48