

May 2, 2021
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31
Ps. 22
1John 3:18-24
John 15: 1-8

Let Us Prune the Vine

Jesus is the true vine and God the Father is the vine grower. Jesus says, "He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit."

Brothers and sisters, we stand in a unique place in history. The pandemic has caused a pause in everything around the world. As humanity begins to emerge from the pandemic pause things will have changed and may continue to change. Everything from how we fuel and energize the workings of the world's infrastructure to how we recognize and celebrate God. What will be our guidance?

The above quote from John's Gospel may serve as guidance as the world emerges from the pandemic pause. Pruning away what is not productive, if not dead, is useful. New, more productive plant growth may emerge and prosper.

The members of the early Church who followed Jesus after his Resurrection and Ascension are an example of the shifts and modifications humanity may make at pivotal moments. We may not recognize it today but the whole Christ event was quite seismic. Simply reading our sacred scriptures shows this. Even extra biblical writings attest to the influence God has on the world.

One prime example of a person who changed or shifted his life was Saul. Saul becomes Saint Paul. Others in the early Church guided him and set him on his way. Barnabas was one such person at the very beginning of Paul's conversion. Paul as well as others were much influenced by the Holy Spirit to shift their lives to comply with the love God wanted among people. They took time to understand and accept each other as they recognized God's presence and influence. They learned and acted according to God's "commandments".

Keeping God's "commandments" pleases God. It is not a matter of God taking delight in making people submit to his authority for authority's sake. God does not delight in being despotic or an overlord. Rather, God takes delight that when his commandments are heeded creation falls into alignment and harmony. Moreover, it becomes more productive and the whole process involves his creatures.

God has always chosen to work through humankind. We are not drones doing what we are "programed" to do. We are not without reason and power of our own. We have the liberty to do what we ought to do. Also, we may deny doing what we ought to do.

At this very moment we may move out of the pandemic pause refreshed by God's Grace or ravaged by mere instinct of survival. Greed and avarice may take hold. Or we may discern God's guidance and advance all of creations through God's creative power working in us.

As we approach the moment we will emerge from the pandemic pause young and people with pent up desires are talking about returning to what they heard the "Roaring Twenties" were like and party. At the same time those with more nefarious intentions and desire to rule over others who are weaker than themselves are making their moves. Russia is growing the number of armed troops on the border of Ukraine. Then, here in the United States we are grappling still with a lack of understanding between one another. We continue to deal with relationship between races and ethnicities. There are people who think that equality will diminish their own value and power. Within the Church there are many who resist the leadership of the Pope who is renewing the Church's preference for the poor. What is it they are holding on to?

As we emerge from the pandemic pause here in the parish of Blessed Sacrament, we are beginning the process to discern the Holy Spirit. We are looking at what might draw people closer to one another in the Lord. As an example, we are beginning with Faith Formation. We will slowly and deliberately "role out" activities and devotions not merely for the sake of saying we have so much "going on" here. Rather, we will discern what edifies our recognition of God's presence and our walking with him and each other in Faith. We do not need "lots of stuff". Let us discern the way of God, prune the vine, and grow together in Faith and the practice of the Faith.

<u>Stewardship</u>	
Attendance last week:	219
Tithes Collected:	\$4,704.00
Online Giving:	\$320.00
Total:	\$5,024.00
2 nd Collection for	
Catholic Home Missions:	\$632.00
Thank you!	

Mother's Day Novena

Next week is Mother's Day. As you know you may add your mother's name to the list for remembrance in the Novena of Masses. In fact you may add the name of anyone who is a mother to the list. If possible, leave a donation. The donated money will go to the Respect Life Ministry of the Church. However, you do not have to leave a donation in order to add your mother's name to the list.

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Weekday Morning Liturgy and Devotionals

Note that we celebrate Morning Prayer and Mass Tuesday through Friday. The Liturgy begins at 7:50am. The chapel is open by 7:00am if you wish to come for silent prayer. At 7:20am the Rosary is prayed communally.

LITURGY FOR MAY 2, 2021
5th Sunday of Easter (B)

• **HYMN #1: ALL ARE WELCOME HERE (D.PEREZ)**

1. As we gather as one people, all are welcome in God's Holy place. Love is flowing, God is calling, and we glorify His name:
2. **All are welcome here, all are welcome here**
We are, welcome here. We are, welcome here!
All are welcome here, all are welcome here.
We are welcome here. We are all as one!
3. We are brothers, we are sisters, and together we seek harmony. Joyful voices, all around us, let our praises rise to You!
4. Fill our hearts Lord with your fire. Bless your people with your love and grace. In your promise, we have faith Lord; we receive. We give you thanks!
5. All are welcome at His table. Sharing his bread, that's blessed and broken. Living water, source of all life; you give us unending love!

• **PSALM 22:** I WILL PRAISE YOU, LORD, IN THE ASSEMBLY OF YOUR PEOPLE

• **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: (ALLELUIA)** REMAIN IN ME AS I REMAIN IN YOU, SAYS THE LORD. WHOEVER REMAINS IN ME WILL BEAR MUCH FRUIT.

HYMN #2: Vine and Branches/T. Thomson)

I am the vine and you the branches. Remain in me as I remain in you; you will bear great fruit in me.

1. A new commandment I give you: even as I have loved you, now love one another.
2. No greater love is there than this: than to lay down your life, your life for your friends.
3. I am the living bread from heaven; if you eat this bread, you will live forever.

• **HYMN #3: TASTE AND SEE (J.MOORE, JR)**

1. **Taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**
O taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.
2. I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall always be on my lips; my soul shall glory in the Lord for he has been so good to me.
3. Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us all praise his name. I called the Lord and he answered me; from all my troubles he set me free.
4. Worship the Lord, all you people. You'll want nothing if you ask. Taste and see that God is good; in him we need put all our trust.

• **HYMN #4: Alleluia! Love is Alive!**
(Angrisano/Hart/Mannibusan)

1. People of God, see the morning anew; rise from your sleeping and run to the tomb. Come and see! Come and see! He is alive! A grave that is empty, a promise fulfilled. God, who was with us, is here with us still. He is here! He is here!

He is alive!

2. **Alleluia! Love is alive; conquered the grace and defeated the night. Alleluia! Love is alive! The Son has arisen for all. Your people sing Alleluia!**
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
3. People of God, let your fear fall away. Your chains have been broken, abandon your shame. Lift your hearts! Lift your hearts! He is alive! Here now is mercy embracing your soul; here the fulfillment that once was foretold. It is true! It is true! He is alive!
4. People of God now rejoicing in Christ, carry your joy to the darkness of night. Tell the world! Tell the world! He is alive! Hear the good news of this glorious day, every heart singing as heaven proclaims: He is Lord! He is Lord! He is alive!

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MASS INTENTIONS

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| Saturday, May 1 | |
| 4:00 p.m. | Mary & Tom Hardy by Dan Murphy & Dil |
| | † |
| | Andres Martorell by Wife |
| Sunday, May 2 | |
| 9:00 a.m. | Blessed Sacrament Parish |
| 10:45 a.m. | † Jeannine Demas by Catherine |
| | † |
| | Thomas Kane by the Macias Family |
| Monday, May 3 | |
| 8:00 a.m. | NO MASS |
| Tuesday, May 4 | |
| 8:00 a.m. | † Souls in Purgatory by Richard & Margaret Schmelz |
| Wednesday, May 5 | |
| 8:00 a.m. | Kate & Tamas Szakal by Joyce |
| Thursday, May 6 | |
| 8:00 a.m. | † James Riedy by Friends |
| Friday, May 7 | |
| 8:00 a.m. | † Pierre Louis & Salvador by Gabriel |
| Saturday, May 8 | |
| 4:00 p.m. | Mother's Day Novena |
| Sunday, May 9 | |
| 9:00 a.m. | Mother's Day Novena |
| 10:45 a.m. | Mother's Day Novena |