

MAY 2, 2021
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Reflection from Fr. Bernard Doré

Our Life in Christ bears much Fruit. In The Gospel of today, Christ uses the image of a vine and its branches to illustrate the closeness of the ties that exist between Him and His disciples.

In all honesty, we must admit that we cannot “do it all” by ourselves. We will not be useful, productive or successful unless we go about our tasks and accomplish our mission in the power of Jesus Christ. But really, that is a good thing! Having Jesus Christ, Spirit-filled and risen from the dead on our side, and empowered by the gifts of God's Holy Spirit, is what truly gives value to whatever we do.

We are branches of the main vine, as Jesus tells us in today's Gospel account: I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. If you live in me and I in you, he tells us, you will live a life of meaning, purpose, direction and infinite value.

We, as Catholic Christians, are called to apply the powers we have, powers that come from God, to heal, redeem and thereby sanctify – not only in our own individual lives but in the world around us. In our commonly shared life of faith in Jesus Christ, we truly have the ability to make change happen in the world.

We have God's commitment: his covenant to be with us no matter what. And to help us be a part of accomplishing his work, we have God's Presence among us, even within us, when we receive the body and blood of Jesus. We live in him, and he in us. May our lives bear much fruit, for the glory of God and the good of the world.

I will praise you,
Lord, in the assembly
of your people.

Psalm 22



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OFFICE HOURS	9:00 AM – 2:00 PM (MON, WED, THU, FRI)
WEEKDAY MASSES	9:00 AM (MON, WED, FRI)
SATURDAY VIGIL MASS	5:00 PM
SUNDAY MASSES	8:00 AM 10:00 AM

ST. PAUL'S UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Saturday	May 1
9:30—11 AM	Food Closet Open
5:00 PM	Mass:

Sunday	May 2
8:00 AM	Mass: Erika Fusco (RIP)
9:15 AM	Rosary
10:00 AM	Mass: Fr. Raymond Luft (RIP)

Monday	May 3
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Grandchildren of Mary O'Reilly

Wednesday	May 5
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Intentions of the Dunn Family

Friday	May 7
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Souls in Purgatory
9:30—10:30 AM	Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASS INTENTIONS

5:00 PM	Open for your Intentions
8:00 AM	Mass: Stephen & Lillian Rose (RIP)
10:00 AM	Mass: Robert Heldman (RIP)

PLEASE CONSIDER COMMEMORATING
A LOVED ONE AT THE EUCHARIST

ASCENSION of the Lord

Thursday, May 13th is a **Holy Day of Obligation**; the Ascension of the Lord. **Masses will be at 9AM and 7PM.**

Pro-Life Rose Sale

A rose sale to help the Mother of Life Center will be held after all Masses **next weekend, May 8/9**. All proceeds from the sale will benefit the Catholic pro-life counseling services provided free to women who come to the centers' offices. Thank you!

May Birthdays

Happy Birthday to all parishioners who will Celebrate a birthday in the month of May. May your Birthday be touched with His presence, your heart filled with His love and joy!

Calendar Raffle

Each day this month, a drawing will be done to select a lucky winner of that day's prize. **31 prizes – 31 chances to win!** Calendars will continue to be on sale throughout the month.. **\$10 each**. Winners will be announced the following week of the drawing!



St. Paul's Lancaster Show Trip

We are planning a motorcoach bus trip to Lancaster to see the show "Queen Esther" at Sight and Sound Millenium Theatre. The trip will be October 12—14. It is 3days / 2 night for \$305. Flyers are available in the entrance with more information.

We need 30 people for this pricing. Due to Covid- all passengers will have to sign a Covid-19 Waiver of Liability and provide a copy of your Covid-19 Vaccination Record Card (Front and back) showing you have been vaccinated at least 15 days prior to the departure date of the trip. Trip insurance is available as well. Contact Brenda Knox for more info at Bren1a0602@gmail.com.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

To support married couples during this time of social distancing, Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring virtual marriage experiences. Some are on weekends and are seven sessions on weekdays from 7:00pm to 9:30pm. Couples will explore their individual personality styles, improve listening and communication skills, understand God's plan for their marriage, and learn how to keep their relationship a priority.

Registration is limited and a \$100 application fee is required. For more info, visit at <https://wwwmema.org/>.

2021 Catholic Charity Appeal

The CCA is underway in our parish. Because of the pandemic, our parish goal was reduced to \$15,000 for this year. To date, we have \$6,895 so far. Your tax deductible gift helps thousands of people in need every year. Please prayerfully consider making a gift to support the 2021 Appeal to the best of your ability. Thank you.

Commitment to Sunday Offertory

To help the parish meet its financial obligations, we ask that you remain committed to the weekly offertory.

Please consider using the parish envelopes and mailing your weekly/monthly offertory contribution. Or consider the convenient option of setting up an automatic contribution online. Details below.

Support St. Paul's

Set up a recurring donation (or make a gift at anytime) using our secure, online giving tool by ParishSOFT.

Visit our website at stpaulsfoster.org, and click the "Donate Now" button.

Food Closet Ministry

is month we are in need of **Canned Potatoes, Gallon and Quart Storage Bags**. The Food Closet is open every other Saturday morning 9:30– 11 AM. **For the time being NO plastic shopping bags are needed.**

GIFTS RECEIVED

Offertory Collection - April 24/25
\$ 2,331.00

Thank you for your support!

Living the Liturgy

Inspiration for the week

Anyone familiar with gardening knows that proper and timely pruning is essential. The health of the plant depends upon it. An unpruned tree can quickly produce suckers that zap many of the essential nutrients from its body. Pruning requires patience and vision. Studies reveal that plants often respond defensively to being pruned, displaying reactions that are similar to hurt or discomfort. Pruning is not easy but necessary. A hard lesson for us to learn is that we also need to be pruned. We become far healthier when we allow God to stretch, refine, and form us into the best version of ourselves. The fruit that then comes from our vines will be more abundant, nutritious, and robust. Left to our own devices we can easily find ourselves running amuck and spiraling out of control. Without a proper vision and trust in the Master Pruner, we will never find the contentment we desperately desire. Nor will the work of the Gospel stand a chance of succeeding.

KIDS CORNER

Sharing the Gospel

Put a brand new light bulb in a lamp. Turn the lamp on. It shines brightly. Now, unplug the lamp. The lamp goes dark. It might be a nice lamp. It might have a new light bulb. Yet, without being plugged in to electricity, the lamp cannot shine. In today's Gospel, Jesus is the vine and you are a branch. As long as you are attached to Jesus, your faith can grow fruit like love, kindness and gentleness. If you break away from Jesus, your faith will die, and you will not grow any fruit. Stay plugged in to Jesus, so you can shine. Stay connected to Jesus, so your faith can grow fruit.

Prayer

God, help me to stay connected to Jesus.

Mission for the Week

Read Galatians 5:2-23 with your family. Write down the nine different kinds of fruit that will grow from your faith, when you stay connected to Jesus.