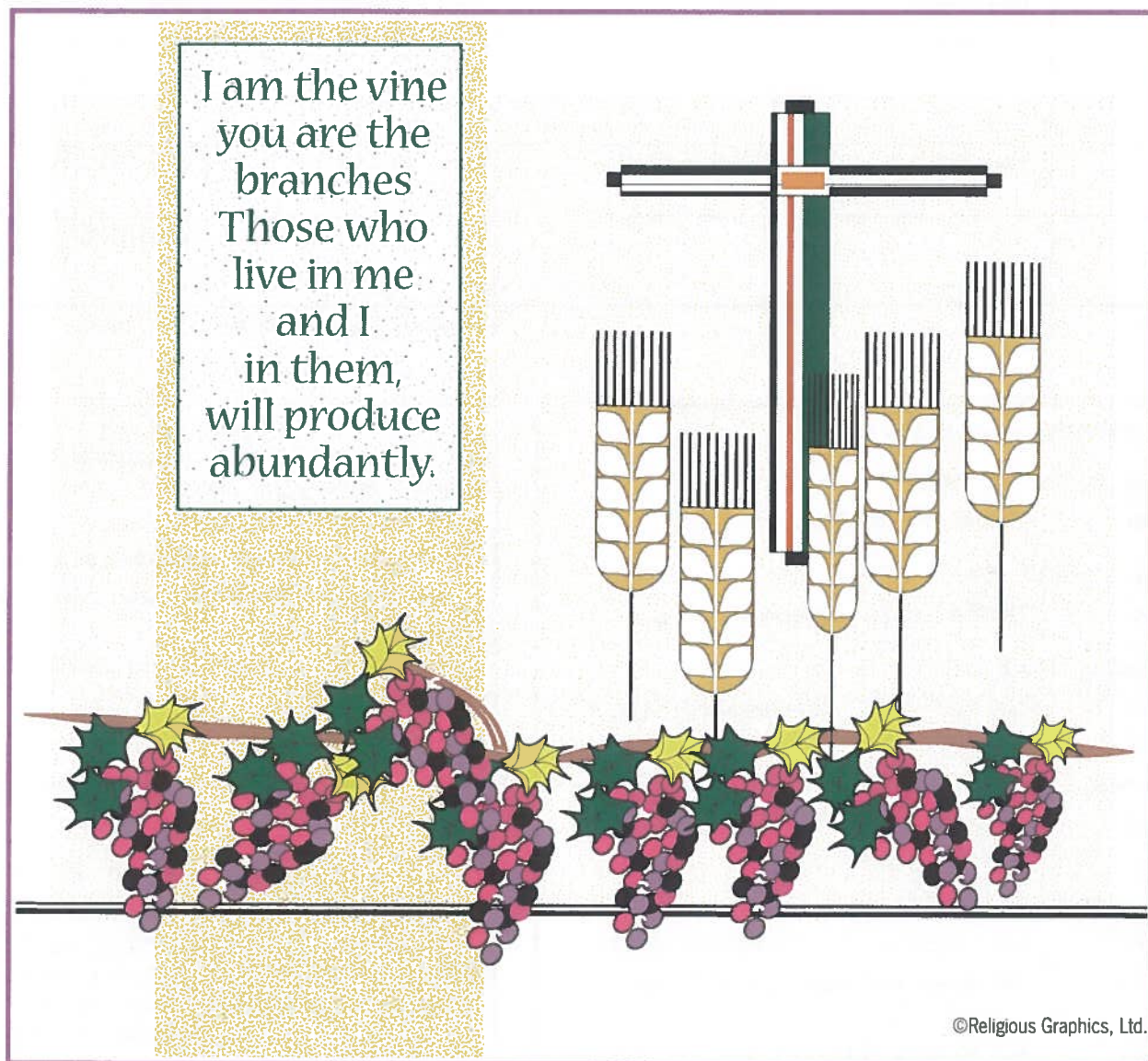


The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 27-28, 2024



Weekend Masses:

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 5:00 pm	Sun. 10:30 am
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:30 am	
St. James	Sun 9:00 am	

Confessions:

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 4:15 pm
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:05-7:20 am
St. James	Sun 8:35-8:50 am

Church Mailing Address: 207 E. 5th Street

Herscher, IL 60941

Phone: 815-426-2550

Quotes: " Vines and trees will teach you that which you will never learn from masters."

—Saint Bernard of Clairvaux

Sixth Sunday of Easter				May 4-5, 2024	
Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, May 4 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, May 5 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, May 5 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, May 5 10:30 am	
Celebrant	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	
Ushers	Dan Hoffman Dave Emling Roger Jensen Gery Wright	David Kirkpatrick Daryl Ferris	Dallas Ferris Dave Ladehoff Dan Forsythe Jerry Ogrentz	Wayne Bisailon Brent Fulton Erik Wheeler Corinn Wheeler	
Lector	Hillary Webb	Darlene Cipcich	Dave Ladehoff	Corinn Wheeler	
Servers				Caroline Fulton	
Greeters			Greeter—Donna Bernicky R. Leader—Rita Thiesen	Julie Splear	

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, April 29 (SMM)

8:00 am +Daniel LeDuke (Darlene Dittus)

Tuesday, April 30 (SH)

8:00 am +Dorine Schafer (Buckley Family)

Wednesday, May 1 (SJ)

8:00 am +Gerald Bernicky (Dennis/Sue O'Connor)

Friday, May 3 (SJ) First Friday

8:00 am +Jane Maley Schriefer (Linda Burns)

Saturday, May 4 (SMM)

5:00 pm +Monica Behrends (Rudy/Julie Splear)

+ Madonna Hoffman (Dan Hoffman)

Sunday, May 5

7:30 am (SH) +Zeb Pfeiffer and Cecelia Monk
(Dale/ Marilyn Pfeiffer)

9:00am (SJ) +Juanita Papineau (Gary/Carla Papineau)

10:30am (SMM) For All the Parish Family

Question of the week:

How will I bear fruit this week . . . at home, at work or school, and in my community?

A Look Ahead

Sunday, April 28—Confirmation 3:00 at SJ

Friday, May 3—First Friday at St. James

Saturday, May 4—First Communion at St. James

Sunday, May 5—SJ Youth Mass, May Crowning and last Religion Education Class

Sunday, May 5—May Crowning and last Religious Ed Class at SH

May 11/12 & May 17/18—Fr. Allam

Pastor— Fr. Ron Neitzke- 815-426-2550

Deacon – Ron Gagnon— rjgckg@aol.com

Home—815-933-4077

Parish Email – smm_sja_sh@yahoo.com

TriParish web page – www.triparishcatholics.org

Like us on Facebook triparishcatholic communities

Tri Parish Church office –Barb Riker 426-2550

Julie Bisailon 426-2550

Bulletin – Debbie Jensen - 426-2550

debjen04@gmail.com

Religious Education –

St. MM – Jill Fulton jfulton.stmm@gmail.com

Sacred Heart – Rhonda Berns – 426-5015

St. James—Tanhya Osenga tosenga81@gmail.com

Parish Nurse – Jackie Eberle – 815-421-4048

Prayer Line— SMM—Pat Wagner 815-592-0773

SMM -Janice 815-426-2574 Jdstreefarms@aol.com

St. James— Mary Offerman—602-670-8888 (call or text)

Collections Week of April 20-21, 2024

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,287

St. Jame—\$1,439

Sacred Heart—\$791

Thank you for your generosity!

Reflection Growing Christians

The Christian whose trust in Jesus Christ is growing daily thinks in terms of Christ's love, his blessings, receiving more than they have ever been given or deserved, and the privilege of responding.

Growing Christians know that the grace of Christ enables an individual to look at his or her life and rearrange priorities, making sacrifices here and there, so that increased giving of money becomes possible out of seemingly unchanging financial resources.

Father Allam will be returning to the Tri-Parish community to say masses the weekends of May 11-12 and May 18-19.

Father will be sharing his mission work in India with us the first weekend. There will be a second collection for Father Allam's Safe Harbor Mission the weekend of May 18-19.

Please support his mission work if you are able. Checks should be made to Safe Harbor.



Welcome into the faith to
Kashton Thomas Smith
son of Alyssa and Chris Smith
who was baptized at St. Margaret Mary
on April 14, 2024

Gospel Shorts— "Let's Prove It"

Any reading of the four Gospels reveals the fact that Jesus was an activist. Jesus obviously believed that a faith not put to work on earth was irrelevant. Prayer was important, of course. But the prayers needed not only our hearts in them, they needed to be brought into reality by our minds, hands and feet. In fact, Jesus indicated clearly that to glorify God we needed to bear fruits of goodness, love, and justice which gave evidence that we were believers working on behalf of God's kingdom.

"By this," said our Lord, "my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples." (John 15:8). That verse lays three important demands upon Christ's followers.

1. We should glorify the Father.
2. We should bear much fruit (fruits of goodness, mercy, and righteousness)
3. The evidence that we are bearers of good fruit will

Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary—

Sacred Heart—

◆ The week of April 28th, the Blessed Virgin Mary candle burns in thanksgiving for a favor granted and the St. Joseph candle burns in prayer for Rachel Kimberlin.

◆ We will once again honor our mothers for Mothers' Day by placing flowers on the altars. The white represent pure love and are honoring the deceased mothers. The pink are a symbol of a mother's undying love and are representing living mothers. The envelopes for the money and names are in the entrance of the church. Include your name as well. Just write "same as last year" if there is no change. Checks to Sacred Heart Church.

St. James—

◆ There will be an Open House for Rita Thiesen's 75th birthday in the Church Hall on Sunday, June 9th from 1-4 pm. Please join us.

◆ All are invited to Donut Sunday on Sunday, May 19th after church in the St. James Hall. If you'd like to bring a pastry to share please sign up on the bulletin board.

◆ Spring Institute is Wednesday, June 5th at St. James. If you'd like to attend please sign up by 5/19/24. The cost is \$20 with the participant paying \$10 and the CCW covering the other half. Any questions—please see the flyer on the board.

All Parishes—

◆ Please prayerfully consider serving in one of our ministry opportunities. There will be a form in the next week or so to sign up. We are looking for ushers, lectors, greeters, rosary leaders, and altar servers.

The Kankakee Deanery Council of Catholic Women Spring Institute will be held at St. James, Irwin on Wednesday, June 5, 2024. Registration will begin at 5:00 pm followed by mass and dinner. For more information or to sign up for this event, please contact your CCW President.

1st Friday Adoration



Adoration will take place on Friday, May 3 after the 8:00 mass at St. James. Benediction will close adoration at 3:00.

"Every consecrated host is made to burn itself up with love in a human heart."

-St. John Vianney



Obscure saint of the week: St. Marie of the Incarnation Guyart (April 30) was the daughter of a baker. She was raised in a family of craftsmen and tradesmen and was related on her mother's side to the noble Barbon de la Bourdaisière family. A pious and sometimes mystical child, she would memorize and recite homilies and early on wanted to become a nun. Against her wishes, she entered an arranged marriage with Claude Martin, a silk manufacturer, at age seventeen and was soon the mother of one son. Widowed after two years of marriage, she moved back with her family and refused to discuss re-marriage. Marie worked as an embroiderer.

On March 25, 1620, she experienced a vision in which she was shown all her faults and human frailties, then was immersed in Christ's blood. This event changed her completely, and her desire to be involved in religious life translated to prayer, liturgical devotion, and charity.

Finally leaving her father's house, Marie worked as a bookkeeper in her brother-in-law's shipping company. Having a gift for administration, Marie was soon the company manager. However, the drive to the religious life never ended, and in January 1631 she asked her sister to care for her son Claude and then joined the Ursulines at Tours, France on January 25, 1631. Claude gathered a group of his friends, all 12 or 13 years old, and tried to storm the convent to "free" his mother, but they were unable to gain entry. This incident has been often cited by her detractors as indicative of a serious flaw in Marie, and even she did not wholly understand why she did what she did. She later explained, however, that she was following God's will, and Claude apparently came to understand it – he became a Benedictine priest in 1641, the assistant to his Order's superior general and his mother's biographer.

Marie took her final vows in 1633 as *Marie de l'Incarnation*. Marie served as the assistant mistress of novices for the Order in Tours and doctrinal instructor. After a few years of this work, Marie received another vision that would change her life. This time it was a huge country of mountains and forests in Canada, and that she must go there to build a house for Christ. She worked for years to collect the money and support for her mission, and on April 3, 1639, she sailed from Dieppe with Marie-Madeleine de la Peltrie, one of her primary supporters.

She landed in New France on July 4, 1639, and arrived in the future Québec, Canada on August, 1 1639. She was the first superior of the Ursulines in Canada and later worked as a missionary to the Natives and other residents in the area. She studied the local languages with the Jesuits who were already in the area; she became so proficient that she later wrote Algonquin, Iroquois, Montagnais, and Ouendat dictionaries and a catechism in Iroquois.

She laid the first stone of the convent in 1641 and took it over in 1642. It formed the base for her work, and when it burned on December 29, 1650, she supervised its reconstruction, finishing construction on May 29, 1651. Ever strong-willed, she opposed bishop Blessed Francis de Montmorency Laval's attempt to control the Québec Ursulines. A prolific correspondent, over 12,000 of her letters have survived.

Obscure saint of the week: : St. Pius V (April 30) was born to impoverished Italian nobility, the son of Paolo Ghislieri and Domenica Augeria. He worked as a shepherd as a boy. Paolo received an excellent training in piety and holiness, including a scholastic education from a Dominican friar; he joined the *Order* himself in 1518, taking the name *Michele*. He studied in Bologna, Italy and was ordained in 1528 in the diocese of Genoa, Italy. He became a teacher of philosophy and divinity in Genoa, professor of theology in Pavia, Italy for sixteen years, and the master of novices and prior of several Dominican houses, working for stricter adherence to the *Order's* Rule. Later he became the Commissary general of the *Roman Inquisition* in 1551. On September 4, 1556 Michele was consecrated Bishop of Nepi e Sutri, Italy against his will. He was made cardinal on March 15, 1557 and grand inquisitor on December 14, 1558. He was part of the conclave of 1559 that elected Pope Pius IV. He became bishop of Mondovi, Italy on March 17, 1560. As bishop, Michael worked to lead his flock with words and examples, and served as a continual messenger encouraging personal piety and devotion to God. Michael was chosen 225th pope in 1566.



Upon his ascension to the papacy, Pius V immediately faced the task of enacting the reforms of the Council of Trent. New seminaries were opened, a new breviary, new missal, and new catechism were published; foundations were established to spread the faith and preserve the doctrine of the Church. Pius spent much time personally working with the needy. He built hospitals and used the papal treasury to care for the poor. Pius faced many difficulties in the public forum. At the time of his death he was working on a Christian European alliance to break the power of the Islamic states.



Catholic Snacks, Get Fed

What did the Upper Room look like?

Do we have our own spiritual Upper Room?

Like all holy sites surrounding Jerusalem, the Upper Room has undergone construction, devastation, reconstruction, and renovation over and over again as wars raged in the Middle East and Jerusalem changed hands among Jews, Muslims, and Catholics repeatedly. All that is left to us of this holy spot is the floor—buried beneath three more ancient floors.



The Upper Room as seen today was chiefly built by the Crusaders in the 12th century. It is an airy, squarish room. Large, branching columns support the vaulted ceiling. It is very different from ancient Jewish architecture, yet it still recalls to our hearts all the scenes which took place in that spot—the Last Supper, the apparitions of the Risen Lord to His Apostles, Pentecost, and perhaps even the first several Masses of the early Church.

The Upper Room also reminds us that the Apostles' work as disciples of Christ began only when they received the courage to leave that haven.

We, too, are disciples. We heard and accepted Our Lord's call to follow Him when we were baptized. Are we hiding in our own spiritual Upper Room? Are we living as disciples of Christ, embodying Our Lord in our daily lives? Or are we uncertain how to be a disciple?

Thinking Like Jesus is our guidebook in learning how to be a disciple—how to view all things as Our Lord would view them. In this work, Dr. Ray Guarendi draws on his lengthy experience as a Catholic psychologist, offering sound advice for soul and mind in our common daily struggles. Frank, engaging, and thought-provoking, *Thinking Like Jesus* gives you the tools to live like a true disciple of Christ.

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You are already pruned because of the word
JN. 15:3

ST JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC CHURCH

PRESENTS

DAMIEN

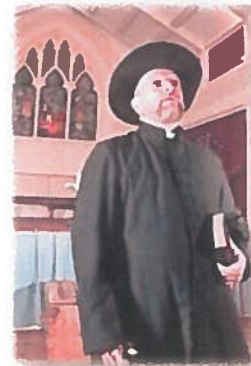
A ONE-MAN PLAY BY ALDYTH MORRIS - AN INSPIRATIONAL TRUE STORY

"A brilliant portrayal of a modern-day saint."

"A must see for anyone who believes in real heroes."

"Wayne Messmer brings Father Damien to life telling an unforgettable true story of love for one's fellow man."

"Damien is a hero for men and women for all ages. His character is a glowing example of what faith and courage looks like."



"The world needs more men of real conviction like Father Damien"

"This performance is highly recommended to anyone who believes in the power of the truth of one voice."

"A theatrical event that I shall never forget..."

"Wayne Messmer delivers a truly amazing portrayal of a truly remarkable man."



Bishop Ronald Hicks

No registration is required and wives are welcome.

Are You Called to the Permanent Diaconate?

The Diocese of Joliet has begun the process of inviting men to discern the call to the diaconate through a number of informational sessions:

Information Sessions

St. Peter Church - June 12, 19, and 26 at 7:00 p.m.
551 N Rush St, Itasca, IL 60143

St. Margaret Mary Church - June 12, and 18 at 7:00 p.m.
1450 Green Trails Dr, Naperville, IL 60540

St. Joseph Church - June 10, 17, and 24 at 7:00 p.m.
211 N Center Ave, Bradley, IL 60915

Online Information Sessions
June 13, 20, and 27

Discover More with a Simple Scan!



WAYNE MESSMER

AS FATHER (Saint) DAMIEN, "THE LEPER PRIEST OF MOLOKA'I"

Produced by: WPM Productions, Inc.

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2024 ~ 7:00pm

ST JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC CHURCH
907 S 9TH Ave., Kankakee, IL 60901

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

\$15.00 per person

www.jp2kankakee.org/damien

"I feel as though I actually met Father Damien... and I will always remember him!"



First Communion at Sacred Heart April 21, 2024
Kameron O'Connor with Fr. Ron and Deacon Ron



Please keep all of our
First Communicants and
Confirmandi
in your prayers as they receive
their blessed sacraments.

The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

"I am the Real Vine and my Father is the Farmer. He cuts off every branch of me that doesn't bear grapes. And every branch that is grape-bearing he prunes back so it will bear even more. You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken.

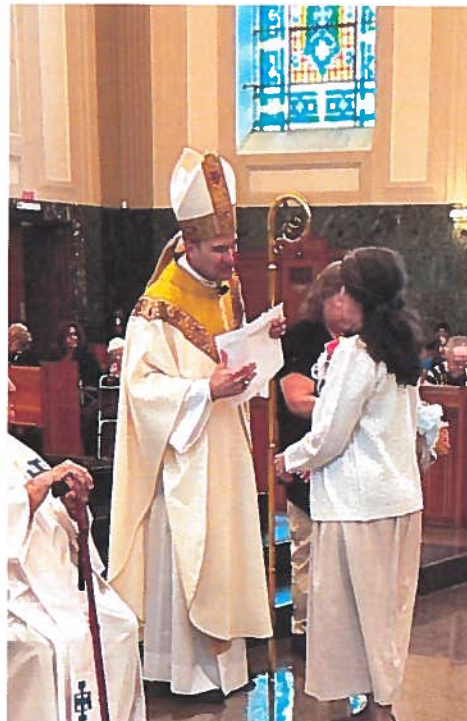
"Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me.

"I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't produce a thing. Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon. This is how my Father shows who he is—when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples.

"I've loved you the way my Father has loved me. Make yourselves at home in my love. If you keep my commands, you'll remain intimately at home in my love. That's what I've done—kept my Father's commands and made myself at home in his love.

"I've told you these things for a purpose: that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature. This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends. You are my friends when you do the things I command you. I'm no longer calling you servants because servants don't understand what their master is thinking and planning. No, I've named you friends because I've let you in on everything I've heard from the Father" (from John 15).

Believe
in the
name of
JESUS
CHRIST
and
LOVE
one
another



Woman of the year from Sacred Heart, Laurie Palinski at the Woman of the Year Mass.



April 28, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Acts 9:26-31 | 1 Jn 3:18-24 | Jn 15:1-8

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

“Where do they get their energy!” Maybe you’ve said that about your children as they run around the yard while you’re trying to wrangle them inside for bedtime. Jokes abound about how sugar and caffeine are what keep most adults going, but we know it’s proper nutrition, exercise, and rest that enable us to do well whatever it is we do. That is all relevant to us physically. What about spiritually? Bishop Barron, writing on the Gospel, says, “Jesus declares that he is the vine and we are the branches. He is the power and energy source in which we live.” (*Word on Fire Bible*, 548) Just as we see the effects of sugar and caffeine on people, we see the supernatural effects of Jesus’ love on, and in, people. As he nurtures us with his perfect love, and that flows into us who are grafted onto him, it changes us. It transforms us and converts us away from sin and toward God. We fill up on that spiritual fuel in the sacramental life of the Church and become a witness to it in how we go about our days – loving one another.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

“Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.” These words from John in our second reading provide the perfect bridge between the ministry of Paul, about whom we heard in the first reading, and Christ’s message in the Gospel. With Jesus as “the power and energy source in which we live,” we not only can profess the truth, but live it. We not only give our own account of Christ working in us, as Paul did, who came to them speaking out “boldly in the name of the Lord,” but we stand beside one another, as Barnabas did, vouching for Paul to the Apostles. We are united in baptism, in love, in profession of faith, and in communion with one another. When we consistently act in a Christian manner toward others and keep God’s commandments, John says, we “remain in him, and he in [us], and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit he gave us.” In other words, those who remain in Christ “will bear much fruit” – a tangible sign that easily answers the question, “where does he/she get her energy?”

PRAY Is there anything in your life that is an obstacle to Jesus being the power and energy source in which you live? Are your days fueled more by anger, frustration, or ambition than his love? Pray this week in thanksgiving to God for where he has given you conversion of heart, and ask him for the grace to see where improvement is needed and the will to make it happen.

5th Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 28

Acts 9:26-31
Ps 22:26-28,30-32
1 Jn 3:18-24
Jn 15:1-8

Monday, April 29

St. Catherine of Siena

Acts 14:5-18
Ps 115:1-4,15-16
Jn 14:21-26

Tuesday, April 30

Acts 14:19-28
Ps 145:10-13b,21
Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday, May 1

Acts 15:1-6
Ps 122:1-5
Jn 15:1-8

Thursday, May 2

St. Athanasius

Acts 15:7-21
Ps 96:1-3,10
Jn 15:9-11

Friday, May 3

Sts. Philip and James

1 Cor 15:1-8
Ps 19:2-5
Jn 14:6-14

Saturday, May 4

Acts 16:1-10
Ps 100:1b-3,5
Jn 15:18-21

There are times in the garden of our lives when enemies slip in and threaten the beauty and very existence of our spiritual lives. If one isn't careful, bad soil, pests, predators, parasites, dryness, and weeds can be very destructive. We will only bear fruit if we are pruned of everything unhealthy to our souls, and we must be sure to cling fast to the vine of Christ who strengthens us.

What a beautiful metaphor Christ shared in the Upper Room! Jesus was trying to help His disciples understand the gift of Divine Grace and how the lives of Christians must stay joined to the glorified life of Jesus to be nourished, sustained, and grow to fruitfulness.

Like any master gardener of a vineyard, God our Father delights in each of us whom He plants in His garden. He is passionate about our growth, and He wants us to reach the fruitful potential of our souls in this life so that we may fulfill our purpose in His vineyard here on earth.

He fertilizes the soil to help us grow. He waters, weeds, and prunes our vines to help us become all we were meant to be. God knows the beautiful fruitfulness and growth that we can experience in His perfect plan. He watches over each of His vines with loving care.

Our souls are made to be the perfect reflection of Christ. God the Father, with the help of the Holy Spirit, watches over us with loving guidance and protection and wants our souls to grow in love and holiness.



Our spiritual lives are dependent on the gift of Divine Grace and our souls are nourished and sustained by the love of Christ. It is vital that we trust Him with our whole hearts to do whatever is needed in our lives for our best growth. We must trust Christ and always stick close to Him.

As much as plants need air, sunshine, and water, a branch is just as reliant upon the vine. Without the vine – Jesus – our souls will shrivel and die. Letting go of our own selfish wills – by fully surrendering to God's Holy Will and trusting His pruning and weeding in our lives – will surely help our souls blossom, bear fruit, and become all we were made to be by our Father.

Reflect & Discuss:

- † How can you welcome and accept God's pruning when it feels so unpleasant?
- † In what ways is God pruning and shaping you into His Image?
- † Do you see the difference this pruning is making in your walk with Christ?
- † How can we ensure that God gets the glory for our fruit?