

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 2, 2021

Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.

— 1 John 3:18

BEARING FRUIT

Few of us, even when we meditate on the image of the vine and branches, stop to really think about how God “prunes” us. For some there is the danger of thinking that we are already producing fruit for the kingdom, in deed and truth as John says, perhaps raising a family, being active in our parish, and so on. But even those branches which are bearing fruit, the Gospel tells us, can be pruned to produce still more. Today Saul, freshly “pruned” by his conversion, arrives in Jerusalem and meets resistance. Since he had been persecuting Christians, this was only natural. But even after he is accepted and begins to bear fruit, he meets further adversity, and his letters are filled with many accounts of how his trials “pruned” him to produce greater fruit for the kingdom. Like him, as long as we remain in Christ we will continue to bear fruit and, when the will of the Father determines it is time to prune us, the strength of the true vine must enable us to endure it.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Barnabas reported to the apostles how Saul had seen the Lord on the way (Acts 9:26-31).

Psalm — I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people (Psalm 22).

Second Reading — This is God's commandment: that we may believe and love (1 John 3:18-24).

Gospel — I am the true vine; whoever remains in me will bear much fruit (John 15:1-8).

OUR GIFTS RECORD

Offertory Development

Last Week's Collection	\$1,567.00	\$979.00
Number of Families contributing	62	44
Total Pledge for 2021	\$161,051.00	\$162,928.00
Pledged to Date (16 Weeks)	\$53,354.00	\$54,240.00
Received to Date	\$46,808.00	\$37,985.00
Envelopes Outstanding	\$6,546.00	\$16,255.00

LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2021
\$159.00	\$3,365.00

Fifteen ladies made a contribution last week.

PARISH LIFE CENTER HALL FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2021
\$20.00	\$73,187.00

One person made a P.L.C. contribution last week.

BICENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

GOAL	\$165,000.00
Total Pledged	\$210,300.00
Total Received	\$63,780.00

POOR BOX totaled \$56.00.

11 **CHILDREN** contributed \$67.00.

BAA totaled \$125.00

CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS totaled \$79.00.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

In 1970, at the age of 35, my father was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. At that time it was almost never heard of that a man of my father's age would develop this disease. There was not much research done at that time and my father had to rely on what medication and treatment was available at that time.

But one thing was clear, my father was not a quitter. You see, my father was a Chicago Public High School Teacher who taught special education children. Every day we would hear stories about "his kids". These "kids" did not usually mean my sister and me. I remember as a child, my mother always met our teachers on "Parents Night" because my father always had his "Parent Nights" on the same nights. However, this is not the reason why I'm writing. My father's story happened about a month before he passed away in 1998.

My father arrived at his school and was walking up the stairs to his first period class. He was having a very difficult day because the Parkinson's was really taking everything out of him. He fell once and bruised his knee but he still kept going. Little did he know that someone was watching. As the day progressed his step began to get a little lighter and peppy. By the time he was ready to leave for the day, he was walking at a pretty brisk step. As he was gathering his things at the end of the day, a young girl entered his room. He knew this girl from seeing her in the hallways but she was not one of his students. He asked what he could do for her and she said, "I just wanted to Thank You for saving my life".

He looked at her and couldn't figure out what he had done. She then went on to explain. "When I got up this morning I was at the end of my rope and ready to kill myself. When I came in this morning, I saw you trying to get up the stairs and then you fell. I felt bad for you and the feeling of sadness just kept getting stronger. Then, at the end of the day, you were walking as spry as ever. I then realized that everything will get better as the days go on".

This story is true. My father had tears in his eyes the day he told me. I just hope that one day, my life could inspire someone else.

—Nancy Fidler

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. The Wife and Family of Duggan in loving memory of him on the 4th Anniversary of his death;
2. And a Parish Family Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

BEAUTIFUL LINES TO SAVE ANY FRIENDSHIP OR RELATIONSHIP

"Whenever you find me wrong, bad or rude at any point of time, at least tell me once before telling the whole world."

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED The Church Office will be closed this Monday, May 3rd.

A TRUE FRIEND

In life...

Some know you...

Some remember you...

Some understand you...

Some care for you...

**But a TRUE FRIEND does all above
and always hopes the best for you.**

FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER will be celebrated this Monday, May 3rd at 10:00 A.M. Everyone is asked to attend this Mass and bring tools to be blessed. The Society of Mary Immaculate will be taking care of the feast.

MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER SCHEDULE

MORNING PRAYER Monday thru Friday 9:30 a.m.
EVENING PRAYER Monday thru Thursday 3:30 p.m.

THANK YOU to a member for a \$100 donation in thanks to St. Expedite; a member for a \$100 donation in thanks to St. Expedite for the poor; a member for a donation in thanks to St. Joseph, a member for a donation in thanks to St. Expedite; a member for a donation in thanks to St. Expedite, St. Joseph, the Blessed Mother and the Infant of Prague for a favor received; a member for a donation in thanks to St. Anthony for a favor received.

MAY GOD GIVE YOU

- ❖ *For every STORM, a RAINBOW...*
- ❖ *For every TEAR, a SMILE...*
- ❖ *For every CARE, a PROMISE...*
- ❖ *And a BLESSING in each TRIAL...*
- ❖ *For every PROBLEM IN LIFE, a FAITHFUL FRIEND to share,*
- ❖ *For every SIGH, a SWEET SONG...*
- ❖ *And an ANSWER for each PRAYER.*

JOKE OF THE WEEK An exercise for people who are out of shape: Begin with a five-pound potato bag in each hand. Extend your arms straight out from your sides, hold them there for a full minute, and then relax. After a few weeks, move up to ten-pound potato bags. Then try 50-pound potato bags, and eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-pound potato bag in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute. Once you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each bag.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fifth Sunday of Easter
Monday: Ss. Philip and James
Wednesday: Cinco de Mayo
Thursday: National Day of Prayer
Friday: First Friday

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday: For the repose of the soul of Raid on the 17th Anniversary of his death.
Tuesday: In thanks to St. Jude.
Wednesday: In thanks to the Infant Jesus for the sick and the Holy Souls.
Thursday: For the repose of the soul of Rosie Girl on the 11th Anniversary of her death.
Friday: For the repose of the souls of Pat L.’s Ann Marie and Rosie Girl on Mother’s Day.

DREAMS

**Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.**

**Hold fast to dreams
For when dreams go
Life is a barren field
Frozen with snow.**

READERS

Sat., May 1st, 4:00 P.M. Reed & Cathy Lisa
Sun. May 2nd, 10:00 A.M. Jimmy Joseph & Jersey

Sat., May 8th, 4:00 P.M. Julie Ann & Mary Martha
Sun. May 9th, 10:00 A.M. Jimmy Joseph & Jersey

READERS – WEEKDAYS

Monday - Taneil
Tuesday - Fallon
Wednesday - Julie
Thursday - Dayna
Friday - Christina

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAY

Monday - Cathy Pole
Tuesday - Kim Gallon
Wednesday - Rosie Cat
Thursday - Mary Cat
Friday - Rose Marie

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND

Saturday 4:00 P.M. **May 1st**
Front Mary Margaret
Right Cathy Pole
Left Kim Gallon
Sunday 10:00 A.M. **May 9th**
Rose Marie
Mary Cat Rose Marie
Mary Cat

BAD ATTITUDE

A BAD ATTITUDE IS LIKE A FLAT TIRE,
YOU CANNOT REACH ANYWHERE UNTIL YOU
CHANGE IT.

IF YOU

**If you really want to do something:
You’ll find a way.
If you really don’t:
You’ll find an excuse.**

RISK

And then the day came, when the risk to remain tight in a bud
was more painful than the risk it took to blossom.

THE SECRET OF A HAPPY LIFE

- Give God the first part of your day.
- The first priority to every decision.
- The first place in your life.

~~~~~PRAYER CORNER~~~~~

A VISIT TO THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

I enter softly this hallowed place and kneel for a moment before Your Face. I know, though my eyes are too dim to see, with pitying love, You are looking at me, so I lay my burden down at Your feet, my sin and woe, and a feeling sweet of peace steals into my restless heart, for I feel I have chosen the “Better Part.” I tell you my troubles one by one, I speak of the good I have left undone, of hopes and fears, of each anxious care, for I know You are waiting and listening here. Amen.