

APRIL 28, 2024

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

# SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH



## PARISH STAFF

*Pastor:* Very Rev. Rob Adams, STL

*Deacon:* Dcn. Joe Jacobs

*Administrative Assistant:* Becky Griffith

*Custodian:* Lisa Scalf

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## MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, Vigil Mass: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, Mass: 10:30 a.m.

Adoration: Tuesday, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

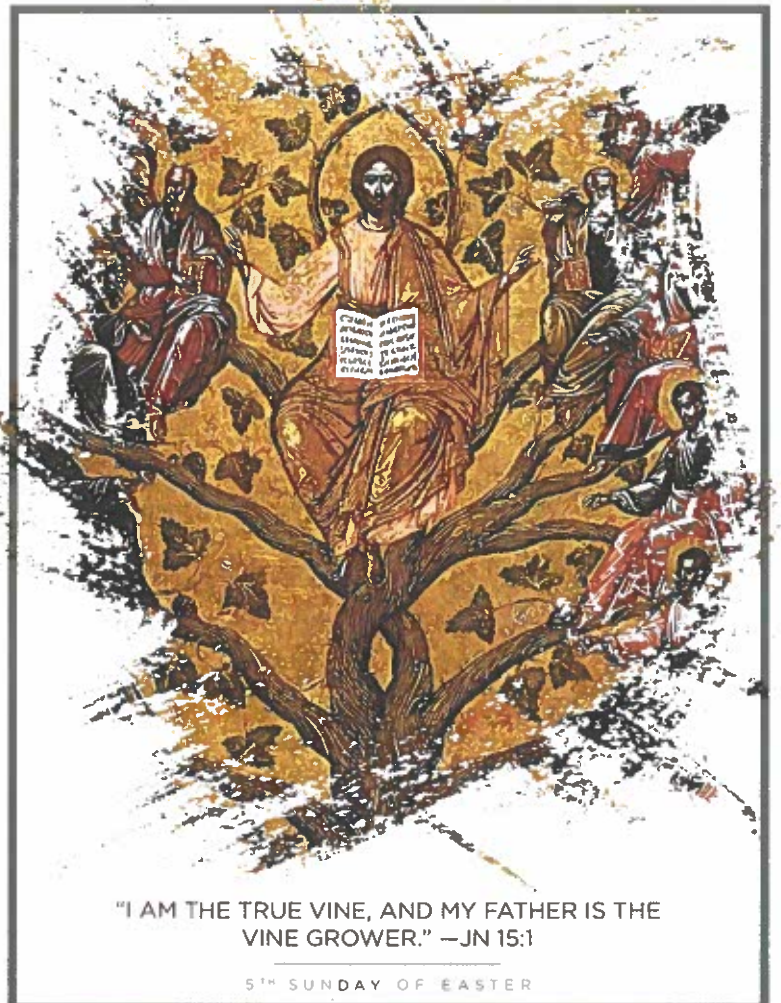
Saturday: 4:00 p.m. or by appointment.

## BAPTISM - 2 WEEKS NOTICE

Please call the office for an appointment.

## MARRIAGE PREP - 6 MONTHS NOTICE

Please call the office for an appointment.



"I AM THE TRUE VINE, AND MY FATHER IS THE  
VINE GROWER." —JN 15:1

5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIOINARY FOR MASS | 2001-1998-1970 CCD, SLP



## From the Pastor's Desk....

### Sunday Offertory

04-28-2024.....\$2,680  
 Weekly Budget.....\$2,700  
 Surplus/Deficit.....\$20

YTD  
 Offertory.....\$134,158  
 Budget.....\$116,100  
Surplus/Deficit.....\$18,058

Food Pantry .....\$25



**Acts 9:26-31**  
**1 John 3:18-24**  
**John 15:1-8**

Saul witnesses the risen Jesus and boldly proclaims his Lordship. We proclaim our belief in Jesus by our love for one another. He is the vine and we the branches. Together let us praise his name in our assembly of worship.

**Readings may be found  
 in the Saint Augustine  
 Hymnal Number 962**

Happy Sunday everyone,

Today the Church celebrates the Fifth Sunday of Easter. Our Gospel reading from John tells us that we must bear fruit to be recognized as Jesus' disciples. This means that our faith and the gift of God's grace can never be merely a personal spiritual experience. Salvation is not a one-and-done thing. We must grow the divine life that we received in baptism or we will lose it!

Fr. Rob

### Mass Schedule & Intentions

Saturday, April 27	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	+Jerome Wesley Garnett
Sunday, April 28	10:30 am Mass	For the People
Monday, April 29	No Mass	
Tuesday, April 30	Noon Mass	+Serafin Tanael
Wednesday, May 1	Noon Mass	Poor Souls
Thursday, May 2	Noon Mass	Poor Souls
Friday, May 3	Noon Mass	+Felina Tanael
Saturday, May 4	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	For Vocations
Sunday, May 5	10:30 am Mass 1:00 pm	For the People For the People



## Parish Calendar & Announcements

**LECTOR ROTATION** - Below are the names and dates of the lector rotation.

4/28 Sidney Cline  
5/5 Joseph Mata  
5/12 Lindsay May  
5/19 Lauren Vanderpool

"If you cannot make your assigned date, feel free to contact a fill in for yourself or contact Sidney Cline at 606-424-8118".

### **GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE**

My friend and fellow pastor, Father Paul, noticed unsightly, overgrown trees near his parish church. He asked the maintenance crew to cut back the growth, which they happily did, telling him the trees would be much healthier and even fuller after a good pruning. A few days later, Father Paul received a letter from an irate man in the neighborhood who wrote, "Jesus would never prune trees like that. He loves trees, unlike you."

I suspect that the neighbor was not familiar with this week's Gospel in which Jesus says of his Father, "He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit" (John 15:2) I don't mean to pick too much on that fellow. He was perhaps ignorant of arboriculture. But I'd wager his main confusion was the pruning and removing quality of God's love. That confusion afflicts us all to some degree, doesn't it? It is just so darn easy to react negatively when God cuts something out of our lives and assume it's not his work at all. In the moment, all we see is the loss, and not the loving desire for future flourishing.

The cross is the great pruning of Christ's body. Jesus' rising is the brand-new growth. It is God's promise to us that all the painful pruning in life is leading us somewhere beautiful. What has been cut back or out in your life? A friend, an opportunity, a sense of certainty, a job, health, a relationship? This week, offer those dry branches to the one who lovingly prunes us in order to make our lives burst with verdant growth.  
— Father John Muir ©LPi

**ROSARY**- We will be meeting at noon the first Saturday of each month to say the Rosary.

### **PRAYER – FOR EVERYDAY AND EVERYBODY**

#### **Prayer of Fruitfulness**

God in Heaven,

Your grace surrounds us every day as we seek to live and move and grow in You. Prune the spaces in our lives that distract us from You! Plant Your word more deeply within us! Amen. ©LPi

### **EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP**

When I was a teenager, I had an experience that truly changed my life and helped me to give Jesus all of myself. I had been baptized Catholic and always had faith, but it took a specific event to really shake me out of the comfort of my life and set me on a path devoted to God. I didn't get knocked off a horse or find an open tomb, but for me it was powerful enough to make a huge impact.

Testimonies of how people came to live as intentional disciples have great power. Often the stories do not include singular events or people; instead they speak of a gradual unfolding of faith. It is often the culmination of several events and the work of more than one person that brings a person to the point of real decision.

Living as good stewards, we can help move people forward in their journey with God. Giving of ourselves freely can move human hearts like few other forces. God working through us can bring others to see that simply saying that Jesus is the Savior of the world does not mean we live our lives differently. It takes more thought and reflection on our part to move past words to intentional acts with intentional results. I don't know if all those involved in that event when I was a teenager knew what an effect their good stewardship would have on me, but I am so thankful they provided a way for God to touch me. I have spent my entire life trying to pay them back by allowing God to touch others through me. Just what person might God touch through you today? --Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



Mary Jo Potensky, Mary Ann Sisco's cousin

Terry Reed, cancer and kidney failure

Sharon Collins, cancer

Alex Wells, car accident

Sidney Tackett

Wilson Vanzant, Lisa Scalf's stepdad

Sister Kathy Avery

Ransom McCoy, Lindsay May's dad

Jimmie Goss

Tim Deskins

Melba Schmidt, Kenny Schmidt's mother

Erica Hunt, Lisa Scalf's friend (kidney failure)

John Flichman, stroke

Wanda Baker

Jeffrey Scalf, Lisa's son

Sandy Lowe, cancer

Ron Saros

Kenny Blackburn

Helen Altman

Margarita Gomez

Fran Sykes

### **VOTIVE CANDLES:**

Suggested donation: Large votives \$3.00 and small votives \$0.50





## The Pruning Process

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**T**he common myth is that we receive a new body every seven years as cells die and are replaced. However, stomach cells are renewed every two days or so because of acids and enzymes. Skin cells are replaced every two to three weeks. Bone cells last about ten years, and our brain cells stay with us for our entire lives. In a sense, then, we might say that our bodies are pruned, part of us remaining long-term to nurture and sustain like the trunk of a tree, and part of us severed so that life may be renewed and continue on.

If so with our bodies, are not our spirits also pruned? There is a core part of who we are that wends its way throughout our lives. Yet that "who" has rough edges in need of being smoothed; barbs need to be dulled; and certain inclinations simply need to be severed. Spouses tend to prune one another, the grace of a loving marriage. Children sometimes keep parents honest. Life events may grind down our independence and self-sufficiency. Illnesses, aging, job loss, the death of loved ones—all forcing us to recognize that we are not in control of life. We are thus pruned, forced to surrender much of what we once thought we could control.

Where is God in all of this? If God is woven into the warp and woof of all life, then all the events and rhythms of life can draw us closer to God, pruning us into goodness and fruitfulness. ●

### Reflect

***How have you been pruned and has this pruning led to new growth, new life?***



[Jesus said,] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. 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.

JOHN 15:1-2



# Dear Padre,

*Several months ago my son died in a tragic car accident. Life, work, family, and even religion seem so meaningless now. How can I find my way back?*

You have suffered a great loss. When you are able, you can choose to live in a way that will respect both your son's memory and your own ongoing life. Here are a few gentle steps that might help.

- Expect to feel numb at first. This is nature's way of helping you deal with your loss. Keep following the normal patterns of your life and, eventually, meaning will return.
- Allow your friends to help. "Sorrows shared are sorrows lessened."
- If you are sad, let the tears come! Even Jesus cried at the death of his friend Lazarus (John 11:32-35).
- If you are angry, look for a healthy release. Focus the energy of your anger into productive work, even if it's just doing dishes or yard work.
- Use your experience to help others. While helping others, the Lord often reveals to us the meaning of our own losses.
- Don't be afraid to seek professional help. A therapist has the expertise to help you talk about your loss and cope with your grief.
- Pray for yourself, for your son, for all whose lives he touched, for all those who are grieving.
- After you have done everything you can, leave your loss in God's hands. The Lord will do for you what you cannot do for yourself. ●



**The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
April 29 <i>St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church</i> Acts 14:5-18 Jn 14:21-26	April 30 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 14:19-28 Jn 14:27-31a	May 1 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 15:1-6 Jn 15:1-8	May 2 <i>St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</i> Acts 15:7-21 Jn 15:9-11	May 3 <i>Sts. Philip and James, Apostles</i> 1 Cor 15:1-8 Jn 14:6-14	May 4 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 16:1-10 Jn 15:18-21	May 5 <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i> Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48 1 Jn 4:7-10 Jn 15:9-17



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*Jesus needs us, like the vine with the branches. Perhaps to say this may seem bold to us, and so let us ask ourselves: in what sense does Jesus need us? He needs our witness. The fruit that as branches we must bear, is the witness of our lives as Christians.*

REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 2, 2021