

# ST. CATHERINE CHURCH

[www.saintcatherine51.org](http://www.saintcatherine51.org) 5101 West Center Street, Milwaukee, WI 53210

*Here to Stay, Here to Serve!*

*We are a Christ-centered community, the vital and spiritual presence of the Catholic Church in Sherman Park and beyond. Living the Gospel, we welcome, learn, serve and celebrate.*

## Connection

After the COVID-19 pandemic hit the country, all gatherings were canceled—even church gatherings. We were forced to think out of the box on how to connect with our parishioners back at their homes. We started live streaming Masses, and it was well appreciated because the parishioners felt connected with their parish. As a priest, it was tough presiding at Mass without a congregation. When things started opening slowly, a few people were allowed to attend Mass with precautions. I would testify that, after such a long time, I was so emotional at my first Mass with people in attendance. We are social beings and it is our nature to gather together.

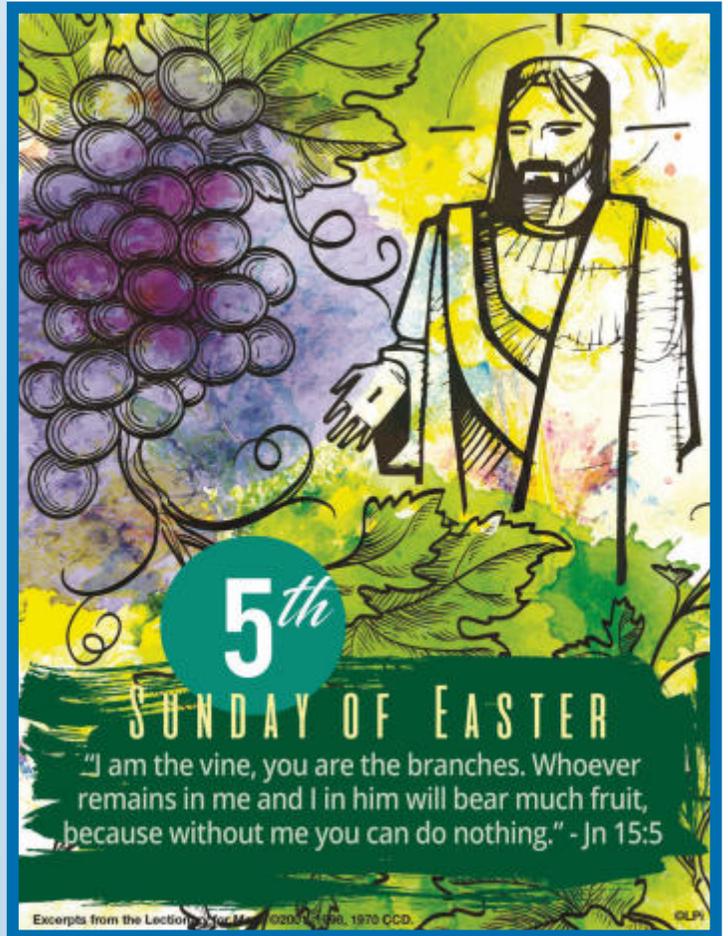
Today's reading theme is on connection. In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we hear Barnabas defending Saul who had converted to "the Way" as a follower of Jesus. Barnabas explained that Saul was now one of them, "connected" to them, not the one they knew before as a persecutor. In the gospel, Jesus says he is the true vine, and we are the branches. If we are connected to the vine, we will live.

Fruit is the excess, the overflow of life that a plant has taken into itself, producing more life. The plant with its branches doesn't have to force itself to grow. It simply needs to be in the right place, the place that the gardener has prepared for it. As Christians, we are the branches of the true vine, Christ, and we need to be attached to the vine so that we are able to produce fruit. Our fruits are our good deeds in life.

We remain connected to Jesus in three ways in particular: In gathering in his name, by listening to His Word, and by sharing His Body and Blood. During this time of pandemic, most people have continued to be blessed by listening to the Word of God through live streaming. Two ways are missing for most people because they are not able to gather because of fear of getting the COVID-19 virus. Jesus told His disciples, "Where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them" (Mt. 18:20). Those who are able to attend Mass miss other social events that we normally hold in the parish because that's what binds us together as a parish community.

Concerning eating and drinking His Body and Blood, Jesus told his disciples, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood, lives in me, and I live in him" (Jn. 6:56). Most of the people who appreciated live-streamed Masses have missed receiving the Eucharist. They have felt disconnected from the vine. I encourage those who haven't been to the church for a long time to come back. A good number of people have received the vaccine, and the parish continues to follow all the guidelines for sanitizing and social distancing, so I assure you it is safe to gather as a community.

*Fr. Peter Patrick*



**Member of the Milwaukee Westside Catholic Parishes with Saint Sebastian**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**



**May 2, 2021**



## Pray for Our Sick

Maryl Barrett, Michael Barton, Carol & Joe Brien, Tom Cavanaugh, Annie Coleman, Chuck Cooney, Ellie Cunningham, Barb Haig, Ernest Herre, Marianne Hondel, James Krutina, Evelyn Martinez, Bev Narus, Diane Neicheril, Steve O'Connell, Andréa Olds, Tom Plakut, David Pleskatchek, Ron & Trudy Ranallo, Don Richards, Margaret Schmidt, Sr. Mary Ann Schmidt, Doug Scott, Carmel Stage, Bill Steger, David Teufel, Larry Teufel, Nancy & Eduardo V, Kathy Zambo

## School News

Students completed the Forward Exam this week. This next week, Map testing will begin. Gina Snyder, communications director for Seton Schools, is contacting former students to look at how well St. Catherine School prepared them for high school. This information will help us evaluate our curriculum.

## Senior Ministry

*No one escapes pain, fear, and suffering. Yet from pain can come wisdom, from fear can come courage, from suffering can come strength - if we have the virtue of resilience.* Eric Greitens  
The seemingly unremitting COVID pandemic has taken a toll on all of us. In addition to the often-devastating physical consequences, it has had a detrimental impact on every aspect of life. More recently, experts are focusing on the psychological and emotional trauma caused by both the virus and the restrictions necessary to reduce the spread. (More on this subject in future columns.) *Robert Best*

## Sustainability Tip

With Mother's Day just around the corner, let's consider honoring and celebrating the supportive mothers and mother-figures in our lives while keeping Mother Nature in mind — a houseplant instead of cut flowers, a home-cooked meal, support for her hobbies or help to cultivate new ones, a memory keepsake - be it a photo scrapbook, slideshow, or music album of her favorite songs. Visit: [terrapass.com/blog/eco-friendly-mothers-day](http://terrapass.com/blog/eco-friendly-mothers-day) or [justenergy.com/blog/eco-friendly-ideas-for-mothers-day/](http://justenergy.com/blog/eco-friendly-ideas-for-mothers-day/) for more ideas.

## Facing Racism

"May we choose to respond with civility and respect for the dignity of all of our brothers and sisters, as we continue the work of rooting out all injustices and systemic racism in our society." *Cardinal Wilton Gregory*

## Sherman Park's Bloom and Groom Plant Sale

If you have pre-ordered plants, you may pick them up at Sherman Park, Saturday, May 22, from 10:30 till noon. Additional plants will be available for those who did not order.

**Book Club** is reading "When We Believed in Mermaids" by Barbara O'Neal and will meet virtually, Friday, May 14, at 6:30.

## Recovery Groups-All groups meet in the Community Ctr.

AA: Sunday 11:00 am      AAA: Thursday 7:00 pm  
Tuesday 6:30 pm  
Friday 6:30 pm



We welcome into our faith community

*Lucas Ralph Garhart*

May we, as a loving community, support him and his family in their faith journey.

## Mother's Day Roses . . .

will be available after Mass next Sunday, May 9, for \$2 each. The proceeds will be used by the Wisconsin Right to Life Milwaukee Chapter for educational purposes and to support pregnancy help centers. Remember Mom or Grand-mom with a red rose, the symbol of life. A memorial vase will be located in the outdoor Blessed Mother Shrine. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, please have exact amount of your donation ready.

## Common Ground's Spring Delegates Assembly

Plan to attend the Assembly virtually, **tomorrow, Monday, May 3**, 6-8 pm. Common Ground's success in getting out the vote for the November election was phenomenal! The Assembly will present plans for future campaigns. Get a Zoom link at: [commongroundwi.nationbuilder.com](http://commongroundwi.nationbuilder.com)

## Silent Preached Midweek Retreat for Women

"Living in Joyful Hope" will be the theme of the retreat at the Redemptorist Retreat Center, June 1-3, Tuesday, 4 pm, through Thursday, following the noon meal. Jennifer Christ, well-known author and retreat director, will lead the retreat. To register go to: [redemptoristretreat.org](http://redemptoristretreat.org) or call 262-567-6900. The retreat center is located in Oconomowoc. Fee is \$265.

## May's Centennial Trivia Question

Where was the first permanent worship space for St. Catherine Parish located? (Hint: the answer can be found on our website.) The correct answer to April's Centennial Trivia Question: Name the priests who served at both St. Catherine's and the parishes that formed Blessed Trinity is: Fr. Joe Aufdermauer, Fr. Joe Juknialis and Fr. Charlie Wester. Thanks to those who responded: Mary Brooks, Mary Krolikowski, Eileen Scheer and Bernadette Davel. Bernadette named all three priests correctly.

## Reflections of Faith . . .

is YOUR faith voice. Consider how the Gospel influences your understanding - and practice - of simplicity. How can the practice of a simple lifestyle enrich your life? What saint, living or dead, is your model of simplicity? Send your reflections to [secretary@saintcatherine.org](mailto:secretary@saintcatherine.org). The deadline is Monday, May 24.

**Eucharistic Liturgies** are celebrated on Sundays at 9:00 am. Weekday Mass is at 8:30 am in church, T & F; at St. Sebastian, 8:30 am, M.

For an **Infant's Baptism**, contact the parish office during the prenatal time to begin preparation.

Those discerning a call to **Marriage** should contact the parish office at least six months prior to the wedding date.

For **Non-Infant Baptisms, First Communion, First Reconciliation, Confirmation** and **Information about the Catholic Church**, call the parish office.

**Confessions/Reconciliation** -Schedule with Fr. Peter Patrick at 445-5115 for an appointment.

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