



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

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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206 EAST 25TH STREET, CHICAGO HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS 60411

PUZZLE
 Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

viae	Father	honored
joined	pray	gardener
branch	fruit	clean

inev v i n e

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MISSION
 Read Galatians 5:22-23 with your family. Write down the nine different kinds of fruit that will grow from your faith, when you stay connected to Jesus.

GROWING WITH THE Gospel
 CYCLE B

COLOR
 Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.

5th Sunday of Easter • John 15:1-8

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.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of a tall vine with one branch for every person in your family. Write Jesus' name on the vine, and write the names of your family members on the branches.

Mission for the Week

Read Galatians 5:22-23 with your family. Write down the nine different kinds of fruit that will grow from your faith, when you stay connected to Jesus.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

“Spiraling out of control,” is a phrase that can easily describe the current display of human existence. In addition to the violence, unrest, uneasiness and turmoil that are common elements of our daily news, other essential pieces are misplaced or missing. Many lack an objective center around which to order and structure their lives or a clear set of definable goals or mores to act as guideposts and life directives. It appears that “feelings” have become a “new god” and traditional structures and ideals set aside. It is almost as if history only shows that we got this whole thing wrong and many are determined to finally set things right. The real truth, however, is that while wrongs and errors are certainly a part of our often-checkered past, it is hardly the case that all was wrong. It is not our task to rewrite the history of our lives, but to learn from mistakes that were made, and preserve the perennial wisdom at the root of our successes. Learning is an essential part of being human.

The question becomes, however, from whom do we learn? Some have such a hard time placing God in that position, but that is precisely where God needs to be. God is the Master Teacher from whom all of humanity learns and gets its cues. It is in and through this relationship with the Gardener of Life that we are fashioned and pruned into the people we are intended to be and can be. It is only in God that we are able to find our best selves. Sadly, many think that religion too, as well as history in general, has also gotten all this wrong. Yet, our resurrection faith tells us differently. We are reminded, today especially, that we are meant to remain in Christ as Christ remains in us. We are also reminded that Jesus, the Incarnate God, is the vine upon which we grow, the branches that flow from the source of God’s life.

Giving up our will to God’s can be a painful endeavor. It is not easy to set our own desires and wants aside and allow God to step in and direct and guide our growth. But this is the only way to prevent deadly weeds from overtaking us and bringing us to a place of self-destruction. God’s commandments are the very guideposts and benchmarks we need, yet many seek to remove them from all public view because they appear to limit self-expression and suppress what is considered by many to be “human freedom.” They are the only way we can find freedom, however. And, until we learn this fundamental lesson, we will continue to spiral out of control, never really knowing who we are, what our potential can be or how life really can be lived. We will not know peace. LPi



Quinto Domingo de Pascua

El domingo pasado, el Señor Jesús se presentaba como el Buen Pastor, y ahora nos da la imagen de la vid y los sarmientos. “Yo soy la vid verdadera y mi Padre es el labrador. Toda rama que no da fruto en mí, la corta. Y todo sarmiento que da fruto, lo limpia para que dé más fruto”. (Juan 15:1-2). La vida del cristiano es de un constante cambio de limpieza y permanencia. Todos los días se presentan oportunidades nuevas de crecimiento humano y espiritual. Aquí se trata de crecer en Dios y dar fruto, y darse cuenta que sin Dios no se hace, ni se es nada. Es la prueba del discípulo, dar fruto en las cosas ordinarias, en las cosas sencillas. Haciéndolas extraordinarias por el amor.

¿Cómo estamos vinculados a Jesús en el mundo actual? ¿De qué manera doy fruto en este tiempo? Muchas veces, es difícil permanecer unidos, hay tantas cosas que nos separan de Dios. La frialdad hacia el que sufre, el enfermo, el pobre y desamparado. Nos urge un cambio radical en el amor y en la confianza, de que unidos podemos movernos hacia el amor cristiano. Debemos esforzarnos día a día en hacer el bien, especialmente para dejar algo provechoso a las generaciones venideras. Jesús lo afirmó claramente, al permanecer en él podremos pedir lo que queramos y sea de provecho para la salvación, y se cumplirá. Ese es el testamento. No hay vuelta de hoja. ¡Padre Santo, ayúdanos a permanecer muy cerca de Jesús siempre! Especialmente, en tiempos de prueba. Te pedimos fe y esperanza. ©LPi

Readings for the week of May 2, 2021

Sunday: Acts 9:26-31/Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32 [26a]/1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8

Monday: 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 [5]/Jn 14:6-14

Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21 [cf. 12]/Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5 [cf. 1]/Jn 15:1-8

Thursday: Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10 [3]/Jn 15:9-11

Friday: Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12 [10a]/Jn 15:12-1

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Branching Out Isn't Always What It's Cracked Up to Be

“That’s a really beautiful tree branch. Man, would you look at the bark on that thing? The others are real duds, but that low-hanging branch has really got it all together.”

I’ve never heard anyone say this. Maybe I just need to hang out with more arborists, but I can’t recall ever hearing someone admire the particular beauty of a single branch. When someone comments on a tree, it’s usually the whole tree — perhaps a visual element of it, like the color of the leaves or its height. But people don’t usually zero in on one branch.

Maybe that’s because usually, if one branch is looking a little weak, chances are every other branch is, too.

The Bible tells us that when we bear fruit as good everyday stewards, it is for the Father’s glory. We are the branch on His magnificent tree. What we have is from Him, and what we do likewise points back to Him. We also tend to reflect how well the other branches around us are incorporating the nutrients coming their way. That’s all fine and good in theory. In practice, it can be an arduous exercise in humility.

When I do something virtuous or charitable or kind, there is a part of me that wants to stand out for it. I think that’s true for all of us. We’ve given of ourselves in some way or overcome some human temptation to accomplish a little bit of good in this world, and even though we know God sees us, we’d really love for everyone else to see it, too.

It’s a struggle, for sure. But we need to remember that our fruit belongs to the whole tree.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

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Counseling Services

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Misas de la Semana † Masses for the Week

Saturday/sabado May/mayo 1, 2021

6:30 Por la Salud de Adela Carrasco
+Rosario Carrasco

Sunday / domingo May/mayo 2, 2021

8:00 +Margarito Soto Torres
+Angelita Salinas
+Graciela Avila
+Sam Garcia

10:00 +Anna Roy
+Ann Martisek
+John Martisek

12:00 En Acción de Gracias Nereyda Ibarra
+Maurilio Rodríguez
+Ma. Concepción Valadez
+Federico Sahagún

2:00 En Acción de Gracias Noé Martínez
En Acción de Gracias Verónica Martínez
En Acción de Gracias Nicolás Martínez
En Acción de Gracias Naborina Martínez
Por las Animas del Purgatorio
+Vicente Horta Rodríguez
+Ma. Guadalupe Ramírez
+Ma. De Jesús Vázquez Muñoz

**Pastor/Párroco
Rev. Orlando Flores**

**Associate Pastor/Vicario
Rev. Misabet Garcia Gil**

**Deacon/Diácono
Martin Horta**

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