



## 5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

"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 everyone that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit." - Jn 15:1-2

*Saint Mary's Church of the Immaculate Conception  
Our Lady of Fatima Parish  
134 South Washington Street  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701  
(570)823-4168*

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 2, 2021



### THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

ACTS 9:26-31  
1 JOHN 3:18-24  
JOHN 15:1-8

FATHER,  
MAY YOU BE GLORIFIED  
BY OUR DISCIPLESHIP,  
*(gospel reading)*

THAT WITH THE CONSOLATION  
OF YOUR HOLY SPIRIT,  
*(first reading)*  
WE MAY PROCLAIM  
TO COMING GENERATIONS  
THE JUSTICE YOU HAVE SHOWN,

### NEXT SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE *(responsorial psalm)*

ACTS 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48  
1 JOHN 4:7-10  
JOHN 15:9-17

A JUSTICE THAT GUIDES OUR LOVE  
IN DEED AND IN TRUTH.  
*(second reading)*

***Alleluia!***

## GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

May 2, 2021 — 5th 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.*



## Sacrificial Giving

### WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH God's Plan For Giving

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR INCREASED OFFERINGS**

**APRIL 25, 2021**

<b>Sunday Offering</b>	<b>\$ 3,122.00</b>
<b>Sunday Loose</b>	<b>\$ 93.00</b>
<b>12:10 Masses</b>	<b>\$ 27.00</b>
<b>Parish Membership</b>	<b>\$ 753.00</b>
<b>Diocesan Charity</b>	<b>\$ 116.00</b>
<b>Holy Thursday</b>	<b>\$ 5.00</b>
<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>\$ 5.00</b>
<b>Easter Flowers</b>	<b>\$ 10.00</b>
<b>Easter</b>	<b>\$ 350.00</b>
<b>Parish Maintenance</b>	<b>\$ 105.00</b>
<b>Un Bazaar</b>	<b>\$ 15.00</b>
<b>Diocesan Priest Health</b>	<b>\$ 42.00</b>
<b>Religious Education</b>	<b>\$ 30.00</b>
<b>Mother's Day</b>	<b>\$ 30.00</b>
<b>Insurance</b>	<b>\$ 112.00</b>
<b>Utilities</b>	<b>\$ 30.00</b>
<b>Home Missions</b>	<b>\$ 235.00</b>
<b>Catholic Schools</b>	<b>\$ 22.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 5,102.00</b>

*Mass Count*  
**4PM—82    10AM—70**  
**12:10PM—70    7PM—80**  
**Total—302**

### PARISH MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one:

I am new in the parish & wish to register

Change of Address

Moving out of Parish

Please drop Membership Form into the offertory basket or mail to the Parish Office: 134 S. Washington Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701.



### Wedding Anniversary Mass

His Excellency, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton, and the Office for Parish Life wish to invite couples celebrating their 25th or 50th wedding anniversary in 2021 to a Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, June 6 at the Cathedral of St. Peter. The Mass will begin at 2:30PM, and attendance will require advance reservation. To register for the celebration you may go to the following website:

<https://www.dioceseofscranton.org/parish-life/community/marriage/enrichment/wedding-anniversary-mass-june-6-2021/>.

For questions or concerns, or if there are issues registering online, please reach out to Jen Housel, Director for Community and Family Development. (jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org, 570-207-2213 x 1104)

### Word of Life

*"Even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God's creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect."*

USCCB Respect Life flyer quoting Pope Francis' "Day for Life Greeting"

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### MISSION STATEMENT

**WE, THE CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, ARE CALLED TO A FOUR\*FOLD MISSION:**

- **TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION REVEALED IN JESUS CHRIST;**
- **TO WORSHIP GOD IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH;**
- **TO BE TRANSFORMED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT IN A COMMUNITY OF FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE;**
- **TO BRING GOD'S JUSTICE AND PEACE TO OTHERS THROUGH SERVICE.**

"Due to the Pandemic we have lost our major Fundraising-Drive, '*The Mother's Day Carnation Sale.*' Any donation to help keep the Pro-Life Center in Wilkes-Barre open would be greatly appreciated. Thank You."



Sincerely,  
 Betty Caffrey, Director (570-826-1819)  
 Pennsylvanians for Human Life  
 31 Hanover Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18702

### Mass Schedule

#### WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE —IN CHURCH

**Saturday, 4PM — Sunday, 10AM, 12:10PM and 7PM**

*With social distancing, face masks are required NO EXCEPTIONS.*

#### WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE—ST. THERESE CHAPEL

Monday, and Friday 12:10PM

There will be **no** Wednesday Mass until further notice

*With social distancing, face masks are required NO EXCEPTIONS.*

## **Masses For The Week**

**MONDAY— MAY 3** (STS. PHILIP and JAMES)

**12:10PM      Deceased Members**

*of the Pope and Collins Family*

**TUESDAY— 4 (EASTER WEEKDAY)**

**\*\*NO MASS\*\***

**WEDNESDAY— 5 (EASTER WEEKDAY)**

**\*\*NO MASS\*\***

**THURSDAY— 6 (EASTER WEEKDAY)**

**\*\*NO MASS\*\***

**FRIDAY— 7 (EASTER WEEKDAY)**

**12:10PM      John Chamberlain**

### **WEEKEND SCHEDULE**

**SATURDAY— MAY 8**

**4:00PM      MASS**

**SUNDAY— MAY 9**

**10:00AM      MASS**

**12:10PM      MASS**

**7:00PM      MASS**

### **REST IN PEACE**

This past week our Parish Community celebrated one funeral. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family of:

**Geraldine Kranson**

Please remember her and all the faithful departed in your prayers.

### **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

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis has called for a global prayer marathon for the entire month of May, praying for the end to the pandemic. “The initiative will involve in a special way all shrines in the world” in promoting the initiative so that individuals, families and communities all take part in reciting the rosary, “to pray for the end of the pandemic,” said the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization in a press release April 21.

*“It is the heartfelt desire of the Holy Father that the month of May be dedicated to a prayer marathon dedicated to the theme, ‘from the entire church an unceasing prayer rises to God,’ ”* it said.

The theme refers to the miraculous event recounted in the Acts of the Apostles (12:1-12) when all the church prayed for Peter, who was imprisoned until God sent an angel to free him, illustrating how the Christian community comes together to pray in the face of danger and how the Lord listens and

performs an unexpected miracle.

Anabel Mutune, a third grader at Transfiguration Catholic School in Oakdale, Minn., prays during a Children’s Rosary Pilgrimage at Transfiguration Church in this Oct. 7, 2020, file photo. Pope Francis has called for a global prayer marathon

during the Marian month of May to petition God for an end to the COVID-19 pandemic. (CNS photo/Dave Hrbacek, The Catholic Spirit)

Each day in May, there will be a livestream from one of 30 chosen Marian shrines or sanctuaries to guide the prayer at 6 p.m. Rome time (noon EDT) on all Vatican media platforms. The pope will open the monthlong prayer May 1 and conclude it May 31, the council said.



#### POOR BOXES IN THE VESTIBULE

*Our deepest thanks to all who give to the poor via our parish poor boxes. God bless you for your Christian generosity.*

A Novena to St. Anthony of Padua will be conducted every Tuesday at 5:30PM at Our Lady of Hope Parish, 40 Park Avenue, Wilkes-Barre. The devotion will be for 13 consecutive Tuesdays starting March 16th to June 8th. The theme of this year's Novena is "Venerable Matt Talbot, Patron Saint of those Fighting additions to Alcohol. For more information please call 570-824-7832.

It is with happiness and enthusiasm to formally announce the 4th Annual Catholic Women's Conference (CWC), whose theme is "*With Merciful Love*", at the Marywood University on Saturday, June 19th. Last year's conference was postponed due to the pandemic and we hope this year with the vaccine, we will be able to have women throughout and beyond our diocese, with many more wishing that they had attended. The Conference will begin with Mass with The Most Reverend Bishop Joseph Bambera, with the Sacrament of reconciliation available all day. Keynote speaker will be Theresa Bonapartis, author and pro-life advocate. Tickets are \$40.00 (in person), \$20 (virtual). For more information or to register please go to [www.cwcnepa.com](http://www.cwcnepa.com).

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