



I AM THE VINE YOU ARE THE BRANCHES

THE 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 1/2, 2021

Throughout our lives, we're always striving for greatness. We want each day to be better and more fruitful than the one before it. Whether it's a personal goal, a relationship, our job, or even our spirituality, there's always room for improvement. There's always room to *grow*.

In this weekend's gospel reading, not only does Jesus encourage us to grow and 'bear much fruit,' but he also tells us *how* to do it: keep a strong, unwavering connection to him. Just like the main vine of a plant supplies all of the nutrients to the various branches, Jesus spiritually feeds our souls so we can constantly grow and be the best version of ourselves. God is our ultimate fan and our biggest cheerleader... God is our source of life and love.

But that's where it can become challenging:

We feel that being ambitious means being totally independent, and we get locked into the "I've got this" mindset. We don't want to rely on anyone else... *especially* not God. However, as much as we may think at times that we're strong enough to separate ourselves from God, in the end, we'll never fully be able to "*grow*" it alone. It's not a question of *wanting* God's help; it's the reality of *needing* it.

'Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.' Let us continue to strive to be the best versions of ourselves with the help of Jesus, the true vine from which we grow.

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FROM FR. STEVE...

Dear Family,

Have you ever really contemplated a vine? Some of them grow in our gardens and some in planters in our homes. They continue to get longer and longer and new leaves sprout up on them as they continue to grow. The more they grow, the farther the new leaves get from the source of their nourishment. But, they are still connected to that source, no matter the distance. Jesus uses this imagery in today's Gospel reading. He calls Himself the true vine and the Father is the vine grower. Jesus keeps us connected to the Father, the Source of all things. Jesus has been that Vine for over two thousand years, keeping every Christian connected. We are all individual leaves on that Vine and the passing of time does not diminish our connectedness to Jesus or the Father and to each other as Church! He nourishes us if we let Him! Only we can cut ourselves off from the Vine and the nourishment that Jesus gives us. When a leaf is broken off an earthly vine, it is destined to die as it cannot be reattached. A person who cuts himself off from the 'vine' Jesus can be reattached if he/she so chooses! Jesus will always allow us to be reattached through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and we will again flourish through the nourishment that only God can provide! Let us always remember that we are all connected to our fellow Christians throughout the world and across all time; past, present and future! We are all responsible for keeping each other attached to the Vine!

Happy Easter!!! Alleluia!!!

Praised Be Jesus Christ...Now and Forever!!!

Father Steve

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re The Diocese of Buffalo N.Y.
Case No. 20-10322

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT, On February 28, 2020, The Diocese of Buffalo N.Y., ("Diocese") filed for protection under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code").

The Bankruptcy Court has established August 14, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. (prevailing Eastern time) as the deadline to file proofs of claim against the Diocese (the "Bar Date").

If you have a claim against the Diocese, including, without limitation, a claim related to sexual abuse committed by any person connected with the Diocese, you must file a claim on or before the Bar Date.

Please visit <https://case.stretto.com/dioceseofbuffalo> or call (855) 292-7696 for more information on how to file your proof of claim.

IF YOU DO NOT TIMELY FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM, YOU MAY FORFEIT YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE ON ANY PLAN OF REORGANIZATION AND TO SHARE IN ANY DISTRIBUTIONS TO CREDITORS IN CONNECTION WITH THE DIOCESE'S CHAPTER 11 CASE.

THE 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading

Acts 9:26-31

When Saul arrived in Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. Then Barnabas took charge of him and brought him to the apostles, and he reported to them how he had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus. He moved about freely with them in Jerusalem, and spoke out boldly in the name of the Lord. He also spoke and debated with the Hellenists, but they tried to kill him. And when the brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him on his way to Tarsus. The church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria was at peace. It was being built up and walked in the fear of the Lord, and with the consolation of the Holy Spirit it grew in numbers.

The word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32

R/. I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

I will fulfill my vows before those who fear the LORD. The lowly shall eat their fill;
they who seek the LORD shall praise him: "May your hearts live forever!" **R/.**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of the nations shall bow down before him. **R/.**

To him alone shall bow down all who sleep in the earth;
before him shall bend all who go down into the dust. **R/.**

And to him my soul shall live; my descendants shall serve him.

Let the coming generation be told of the LORD that they may proclaim to a people yet to be born
the justice he has shown. **R/.**

Second Reading

1 Jn 3:18-24

Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth. Now this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts before him in whatever our hearts condemn, for God is greater than our hearts and knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence in God and receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And his commandment is this: we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us. Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them, and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit he gave us.

The word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Jn 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples: "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. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The Gospel of the Lord.

R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

DISCIPLES STAY IN THE KNOW

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NDA

• Are you a graduate of a South Buffalo Catholic Elementary School? Please check out this new Facebook group just for you! Search South Buffalo Catholic Elementary Schools Alumni Group.

www.notredamebuffalo.org

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

First Friday of every month, immediately following the 8:00am Daily Mass until 9:30am.

Due to a conflict with NDA, Eucharistic Adoration on Friday, May 7th, is canceled and will be rescheduled during the month of May.

DISCIPLESHIP SCHEDULE

Monday, May 3rd, 6:30pm - 7:30pm

In person at the Blessed Mother prayer garden at the St. Ambrose site. Join us for May Crowning!

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE PREPARING FOR ORDINATION

Priesthood (June 5)

Charles Johnson, Michael James Johnson, Ryan Keating, Daniel Richard Ulmer

Permanent Diaconate (May 22)

Gregory P. Gaulin, William D. Broderick Timothy J. Coughlin

Transitional Diaconate (May 15)

Joseph W. Tokasz

Pastor

Fr. Steve Jekielek
Fr.Steve@olcp.org

Deacons

Deacon Tim Maloney
Deacon Steve Schumer

Business Manager

Elaine Williams
E.Williams@olcp.org

Director of Music & Worship

Brian Meyer
music@olcp.org

Administrative Assistant

Diana Deck
d.deck@olcp.org

SBCS at NDA Principal

Tristan D'Angelo
824-0726

Sacramental Preparation

Maureen Brown
Kathleen Mulqueen

Weekend/Weekday Help

Fr. Richard (Duke) Zajac
Fr. Robert (Bob) Hora

Prayer Link

768-4022
823-2067

COMMUNITY DINNERS

If you are interested or would like some more information please contact the parish office at 822-5962 or Mary Anne at 822-1837. Thank you!

Sponsors for the coming weeks include:

May 7: MAK & Friends
May 14: In Memory of Barbara & Mary Jo Guenther
May 21: Marianne Dixon
May 28: Liturgy Committee

SOCIAL ACTION

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Bottles for Babies Campaign! Through your generous donations, Harvest House collected **\$2,348.00!** Thank you again for your support! We couldn't do it without you!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Attention all gardeners and weed pullers! Our Holy Family Church site is in need of volunteers to weed and prune plants around the Church and rectory. Anyone interested please call Elaine 313-2618 during regular office hours.

MUSIC MINISTRY

After more than a year, our choir is back! (Masked and totally social distanced, of course.) Sundays at the 11:30am Mass - Holy Family Site.

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday

4:00pm (St. Ambrose Site)

Sunday

8:30am (Holy Family Site)
10:00am (St. Ambrose Site)
11:30am (Holy Family Site)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday, 8:30am - 4:30pm
Currently by appointment only.

(Office will be closed 12:00pm - 12:30pm for lunch)

Friday, closed

(716) 822-5962

Please consider remembering our parish community in your will.

DISCIPLES STAY ACTIVE



SAVE THE DATES



• Discipleship •

Monday, May 3rd, 6:30pm - St. Ambrose Site

Outside in the Blessed Mother Prayer Garden

Come watch the crowning of our Blessed Mother statue!

• Sacramental Meeting •

Monday, May 24th, 6:15pm - St. Ambrose Site

Children making their First Reconciliation or First Eucharist are required to attend. Your child must already be registered.

GET INVOLVED!

Are you interested in becoming an usher, lector, or eucharistic minister?

Just give the parish office a call (822-5962), and we'll get you set up to get started!

POT O' GOLD MEETS SUMMERFEST!

We missed not being able to gather together for a proper Irish party as a parish community this year and realize there is still a need for you, our parish family, to stay connected... so after much thought we've decided to pair up with Summerfest 2021. Due to COVID-19 social distancing guidelines, Summerfest/Pot of Gold will be an online 'FaceBook Live Event'. There will be no activities held at the Parish except for our Drive-thru chicken dinner (details will follow). Although it will be different, we hope you will find it a wee bit fun with more chances to win! 25 chances to win for \$25! (2021 decreased cost, increased prizes!)

Early bird draws will be drawn on the following Saturdays after the 4pm Mass: June 26 (\$200), July 3 (\$250), July 10 (\$300) and July 17 (\$500)

Prizes to be drawn on July 31:

Grand Prize - \$10,000

First prize - \$2,500

Second prize - \$1,000

3rd - 5th prizes - \$500

6th - 10th - \$100

11th - 20th - \$50

A limited number of tickets will be printed so buy early and buy several! Don't miss out and they make great gifts! Winners will be notified by phone. TICKET PRICE: \$25.00 each, with multiple chances to win as all tickets will be returned to the drum giving you more chances to win!

TICKET PURCHASES – must be 18 or over to purchase tickets and/or win. Send completed form below with payment (Cash or Check) payable to: OLCP. Mail to: Our Lady of Charity Parish, 260 Okell St, Buffalo, NY 14220 **or** Drop off: at the Parish Office mail slot (anytime) **or** Sunday Collection (Drop form with payment in Envelope MARKED "Pot of Gold Raffle" **or** In person (After weekend Masses beginning May 8) **or** On our website (click on the Donate now button, and tickets will be mailed within 1-2 weeks of receipt). TICKET SALE DEADLINE: Thursday, July 29, 2021, 12:00pm.

If you would like to take tickets to sell, please see the ticket sellers after Masses or go to the office. Please make sure all tickets whether sold or not are returned by the deadline. All proceeds benefit our parish! Thank you for your continued support and Good Luck to all!!

Name _____ Number of Tickets _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

(Please include a self addressed stamped envelope and be entered into a mystery raffle!)

DISCIPLES PRAY TOGETHER

VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY

Virtual Bible Study this coming week is **canceled**. Please stay tuned for more information on the continuation of our weekly meetings. We encourage you to get together in some way virtually to talk about scripture during this Easter Season

PRE-BAPTISM SESSION

Before your child's Baptism, parents must virtually attend a Pre-Baptismal instruction class. The next session will be on **Wednesday, May 5th at 6:30pm** via Zoom. Please call the office (822-5962) to register. **Parents, remember you must have letters of recommendation from the godparents before the Baptism date can be set.**

LIVING ROSARY

Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Msgr. Nelson H. Baker #1043 will conduct a Living Rosary on Monday, May 10th at 6:30 in the park at the corner of South Park and Ridge Rd. across from OLV Basilica. All are invited to attend and participate. Bring a chair if you want/need. We will be praying for the unborn and peace in the world. In case of rain, we will meet in the church.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

Paige Vivian and Aron Borzillieri will be married at the Holy Family site on May 15, 2021. Please keep this couple in prayer as they prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

"MASTER, THE ONE YOU LOVE IS ILL." (JOHN 11:1-2)

Edna Albert, Irene Andrzejewski, Irene Barrett, Louise Beamish, Teresa Beamish, Lillian Beyers, Ann Alvira-Buchnowski, Patricia Cajak, Maureen Canney, Cheryl Clontz, Patricia Colern, Caroline Dominesey, Dottie Eberle, Vara Jones, Linda Kurcz, Madisyn Ledder, Janet Murray, Karen O'Neill, Mary Pilon, Maryann Rigby, Sandy Riley, Jane Rozek, Mary Sands, June Stebbins, Ruth White

Daniel Barry, Michael Beyers, Leon Bolick, Owen Chase, Eric Crawford, Vincent Crawford, Frank Czapezyk, Francis Davis, Larry Deskiewicz, Richard Dinnocenzo, Paul Fitzpatrick, Jason Florea, John Godwin, Eric G., Emmett Jakubowski, Rob Karr, Pat Kuhn, Andrew Kuper, Robert Maggio, Dr. Thomas Raab, George Rodriguez, Josean Rodriguez, The family of Coach Frank Rossi, Jeremiah Smith, Jim Sweeney

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat./Sun., May 1/2 - 5th Sunday of Easter

- SA • 4:00pm
Deaune "Dwyer" Bennett (Birth. Rem., req. by his family)
- HF • 8:30am
People of the Parish (req. by Patricia Watkins)
- SA • 10:00am
Peg Thexton (Anniv. Rem., req. by her husband, Roger)
- HF • 11:30am
Deceased Members of the Renzi Family (req. by the Renzi family)

Mon., May 3 - SS. Phillip & James, Apostles

- SA • 8:00am - **Thomas Sarach** (req. by Jack Driscoll)

Tues, May 4 - Weekday of Easter

- SA • 8:00am - **William McClure** (req. by Neicy MacDonald)

Wed., May 5 - Weekday of Easter

- SA • 8:00am - **Clara Reese** (req. by Jeanine & Steve Ryndak)

Thurs., May 6 - Weekday of Easter

- SA • 8:00am - **People of the Parish** (req. by Fr. Steve)

Fri., May 7 - Weekday of Easter

- SA • 8:00am - **Peg Thexton & Peg Sullivan** (req. by family)

Sat./Sun., May 8/9 - 6th Sunday of Easter

- SA • 4:00pm
Michael Pasinski (Wedding Anniv. Rem., req. by his wife, Linda)
- HF • 8:30am
Elizabeth Eagen & Elizabeth Maloney (req. by Deacon Tim & Barb Maloney)
- SA • 10:00am
Helen & Gina Strianese (req. by the Strianese & Peyton family)
- HF • 11:30am
Sabina Noworyta (req. by her family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

Let us remember all those who have gone before us:
+Helen Weisknar, +Alva Bertrami, + John Litwin.
May they rest in peace.

SANCTUARY LAMPS

St. Ambrose Site (May 2 - 8)
Don Herbert (Birth. Rem. req. by Linda Herbert & family)



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