



CHURCH OF ST. ANN

311 CARR AVE, KEANSBURG NJ | 732.787.0315 | STANNKEANSBURG@GMAIL.COM

SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2021

5TH 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

PARISH LIFE



Monday 8:00am	5-3-21 Thomas Padden <i>rq by Andrew & Lisa Padden</i>
Tuesday 8:00am	5-4-21 Joan Meyer <i>rq by Howard Meyer & Family</i>
Wednesday 8:00am	5-5-21 Italia Nigro <i>rq by Mark & Donna Wendland</i>
Thursday 8:00am	5-6-21 Robert O'Donnell <i>rq by Loving Sister Pat</i>
Friday 8:00am	5-7-21 James Pigott <i>rq by Loving Family</i>
Saturday 5:00pm	5-8-21 In Honor of all Mothers
Sunday 9:00am	5-8-21 In Honor of all Mothers
10:30am	In Honor of all Mothers
6:00pm	In Honor of all Mothers

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to receive weekly messages from St. Ann



THE SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp is available for special intentions. The Lamp burns weekly for deceased members of a family or requests for a special intention. The donation is \$20. Please call the Rectory for further information.. This week's Sanctuary Lamp burns for

The Menture Brothers
rq by Loving Family and Friends



Masses Mon - Fri 8A, Sat 5P, Sun 9A.

Office Hours Mon - Fri 9A - 1P.

Church Hours Mon - Fri 8:30A - 12P.

Confessions Sat 1P - 2P *inside* the church sacristy.



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SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2021 | 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 2, 2021

SUN 5/02	Acts 9:26-31/Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32 [26a]/1 Jn 3:18-24/ Jn 15:1-8
MON 5/03	1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 [5]/Jn 14:6-14
TUE 5/04	Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21 [cf. 12]/Jn 14:27-31a
WED 5/05	Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5 [cf. 1]/Jn 15:1-8
THR 5/06	Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10 [3]/Jn 15:9-11
FRI 5/07	Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12 [10a]/Jn 15:12-17
SAT 5/08	Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5/Jn 15:18-21
SUN 5/09	Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 [cf. 2b]/ 1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 2, 2021

Sunday:	5 th Sunday of Easter
Monday:	Sts. Phillip and James, Apostles
Wednesday:	Cinco de Mayo
Thursday:	National Day of Prayer
Next Sunday:	6 th Sunday of Easter; Mother's Day

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

Anyone familiar with gardening knows that proper and timely pruning is essential. The health of the plant depends upon it. An unpruned tree can quickly produce suckers that zap many of the essential nutrients from its body. Pruning requires patience and vision. Studies reveal that plants often respond defensively to being pruned, displaying reactions that are similar to hurt or discomfort. Pruning is not easy but necessary. A hard lesson for us to learn is that we also need to be pruned. We become far healthier when we allow God to stretch, refine, and form us into the best version of ourselves. The fruit that then comes from our vines will be more abundant, nutritious, and robust. Left to our own devices we can easily find ourselves running amuck and spiraling out of control. Without a proper vision and trust in the Master Pruner, we will never find the contentment we desperately desire. Nor will the work of the Gospel stand a chance of succeeding.



St. PHILLIP
& JAMES
A P O S T L E S

*Prayer
is the bridge
between panic
and peace.*

WORSHIP & MEDITATION



FIRST READING

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. (Acts 9:26)



PSALM

I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people. (Ps 22)
Or Alleluia.



SECOND READING

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. (1 Jn 3:23)



GOSPEL

"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." (Jn 15:5)

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GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

"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-checked 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.

LITURGICAL LIFE

RESPONDING *to the Call*

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

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Our parish is grateful for your continued support. Thank you!



WHY DO WE DO THAT?

Catholic Life Explained:

Question:

Is gossip a mortal sin?

Answer:

To really ask this question, we must consider the Eighth Commandment: "You shall not bear false witness."

In its reflections on this commandment, The Catechism of the Catholic Church invites us to not only think about what bearing "false witness" means, but to also consider how we understand the truth and how we communicate more broadly. This is why so much of this section of the Catechism has to do with the gift of language. With this in mind, we will notice that the word "gossip" isn't used by the Catechism. Instead, we find the words "detraction" and "calumny," which are actually two forms that gossip can take, and both can be quite serious.

First, detraction is the of revealing "another's faults and failings to persons who did not know them," without morally valid reasons. Calumny, by extension, is saying something about another person that is untrue, and it is sinful because it "harms the reputation of others and gives occasion for false judgements" (see no. 2477).

In all of our communication, we have to always recognize that we have a moral obligation to the truth and to always work to protect the reputation and honor of our neighbors (see no. 2479).

Gossip can, in fact, prove to be a very serious sin. After all, the Catechism reminds us: "No one is bound to reveal the truth to someone who does not have the right to know it" (no. 2489). When we have gossiped, especially if we are aware we have damaged another person's good name or reputation, we want to make every effort to undo the damage we have done, including seeking the grace and forgiveness offered in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

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**"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

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LITURGICAL LIFE

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

Luke tells us how the conversion of Saul (Paul) and the acceptance by the disciples of him helped facilitate peace in the Church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria. What do you think is needed to bring about peace in our Church today?

Second Reading

John teaches his community that believing in Jesus and loving one another is the heart of God's commandment. How would you assess yourself in following this two-fold command?

Gospel Reading

Using the metaphor of a vine and branches, Jesus urges his disciples to "remain in me" in order to bear good fruit and thereby glorify God. What would be some examples of "good fruit" that you have produced?



5th SUNDAY OF EASTER



LITURGICAL LIFE

3 EASY STEPS

To Keeping Yourself & Others Healthy!

We are cautioned to be especially careful during the Coronavirus outbreak. Here are some simple ways to keep sickness away.



Wash Your Hands

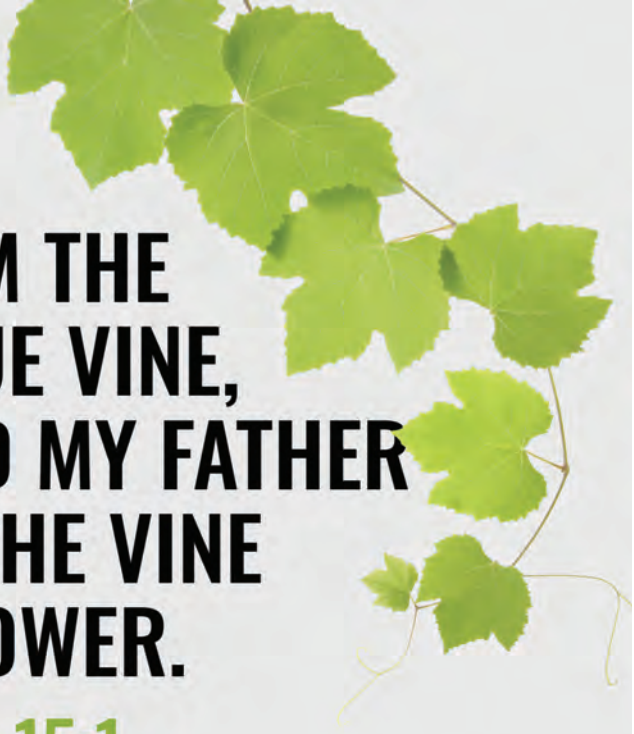
Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds using soap and water. If you can't wash your hands, use hand sanitizer frequently.

Don't Touch Your Face

Especially around the eyes, nose and mouth. If you must sneeze, use a tissue or your arm.

Keep Your Distance

Practice social distancing during this epidemic and stay away from large groups. Instead, call, email or check up on family and friends using social media.



**I AM THE
TRUE VINE,
AND MY FATHER
IS THE VINE
GROWER.**

John 15:1

©LPi

*“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.”*

- Jn 15:4-5

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