



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.

—1 John 3:18

BEARING FRUIT

Few of us, even when we meditate on the image of the vine and branches, stop to really think about how God “prunes” us. For some there is the danger of thinking that we are already producing fruit for the kingdom, in deed and truth as John says, perhaps raising a family, being active in our parish, and so on. But even those branches which are bearing fruit, the Gospel tells us, can be pruned to produce still more. Today Saul, freshly “pruned” by his conversion, arrives in Jerusalem and meets resistance. Since he had been persecuting Christians, this was only natural. But even after he is accepted and begins to bear fruit, he meets further adversity, and his letters are filled with many accounts of how his trials “pruned” him to produce greater fruit for the kingdom. Like him, as long as we remain in Christ we will continue to bear fruit and, when the will of the Father determines it is time to prune us, the strength of the true vine must enable us to endure it.

FEAST OF FAITHThe Homily

The ambo, or pulpit, is a special place—it is the place for God’s word. That is why it is not used for all the spoken words of the Mass, even important words like the collects and the blessing. The ambo is only used for the scripture readings, and for the homily and the prayer of the faithful.

The homily is part of the Liturgy of the Word. It flows from the readings we have just heard, and helps us to understand the way in which God is speaking to us today. The homily is not a lecture, a catechism lesson, or a speech. It is more like an exhortation; it has an urgency about it, for it calls us to find ourselves in the scripture, to live the faith we profess, to see our world by the light of the Gospel. The homily, in itself a response to God’s word, demands a response from us. There are many styles of preaching and many ways to respond to the scriptures. But whether the homily is weak or strong, an open ear and an open heart can find in it an abundance of spiritual nourishment.

TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — Barnabas reported to the apostles how Saul had seen the Lord on the way (Acts 9:26-31).

Psalm — I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people (Psalm 22).

Second Reading — This is God’s commandment: that we may believe and love (1 John 3:18-24).

Gospel — I am the true vine; whoever remains in me will bear much fruit (John 15:1-8).

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The season of First Communions is here, and invitations pour in as the new communicants, mostly seven years old, gather extended families for their first reception of the Eucharist. Recently, the celebrations are often on Sundays, in the regular gatherings of the faith community. There, it becomes clear that First Communion is meant to initiate a regular pattern of reception, and that there is to be a second, third, hundredth, thousandth celebration.

Eastern Catholics and Orthodox children follow a different plan, since they are given a taste of the consecrated wine at their baptism as infants. We Western Christians delay until “the age of reason,” but many years ago, Communion was not for children at all. Twelve to fourteen was the typical time for Roman Catholics to receive for the first time, and in those days this was a transition into the adult world of work and marriage. The custom did not begin to shift to childhood until reforms set in place by Pope St. Pius X began to take hold in the 1920s. If you are going to a First Communion, you can give thanks that the table of the Lord is today open so much more lavishly than before.

May 9th
Lector Peggy

April 25th
BUDGET \$1351.00
\$975.00
HOME MISSION
\$25.00

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Cor 15:1-8; Ps 19:2-5; Jn 14:6-14

Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28; Ps 145:10-13ab, 21;
Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6; Ps 122:1-5; Jn 15:1-8

Thursday: Acts 15:7-21; Ps 96:1-3, 10; Jn 15:9-11

Friday: Acts 15:22-31; Ps 57:8-10, 12; Jn 15:12-17

Saturday: Acts 16:1-10; Ps 100:1b-3, 5; Jn 15:18-21

Sunday: Acts 10:25-36, 34-35, 44-48; Ps 98:1-4;
1 Jn 4:7-10 or 1 Jn 4:11-16; Jn 15:9-17
or Jn 17:11b-19

HOLiest FLOWER

Mary is the lily in
God’s garden.



The first Diocesan Multicultural Festival is being planned as a component of the Diocese of Memphis 50th Anniversary, to showcase and celebrate the different heritage and traditions that contribute to the cultural tapestry of our diocese. We are inviting all who would like to share their cultural heritage through cuisine, music, dance, performances and locally or globally made hand-crafted goods.

Dates & Locations of the Multicultural Festival

1. Saturday, August 28, 2021 11 AM- 7:00 PM
St. Louis Catholic Church, 203 S. White
Station Memphis, TN 38117

2. Saturday, September 11, 2021 11 AM - 7:00
PM St. Mary’s Jackson, 1665 Highway 45
Bypass, Jackson, TN 38305

3. Saturday, September 11, 2021 6:00 — 9:00
PM Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
1303 Reelfoot Avenue Union City, TN 38261

For more information or to participate please
contact: Sharon Kowalke at Pastoral Office:
901-373-1234 or email
sharon.kowalke@cc.cdom.org

St. Regina’s Church Staff

Pastor: Fr. ANTHONY ONYEKWE

Secretary: Patricia Humble

DRE: Christina Hammond

Facilities Manager: Jim Molitor

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Michaëlle Box, Fr Robert Ponticello ,
Emanuel Milligan, Leonard Humble ,
. Judy Hendricks , Martha Jo ,Peggy Moss