



ST. PETER'S CHURCH

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May 2, 2021

5th Sunday of Easter



LIVING OUR FAITH

In the parable of the True Vine we are given many tools to help us think about the spiritual life. Jesus urges us to “*remain*” in him, for it is only in “*remaining*” that we will be able to “*bear great fruit.*” In many ways, this offers us another way to look at morality. It is easier to think we are good people when we do good actions, think good thoughts and feel good emotions by force of our own will. This is not how Jesus describes religious life. Instead, he tells us that we will be truly righteous only through our connection with him, “*because without me you can do nothing.*”

Just as a branch clings to the vine and is able to bear fruit, the fruit of our spiritual lives comes about not through our own labor, but from our rootedness in the Lord. Today’s gospel invites us to ponder how we “*remain*” firmly connected to Jesus, our true vine. In our uniqueness, our way of “*remaining*” will very likely be different from those with whom we share our lives. The practice of remaining is not one that anyone can do for another; it is deeply personal, even as our remaining in the vine also connects us deeply to all the other branches we share it with.

Just as Jesus is the vine and we are the branches, we are told that God the father is the “vine grower.” He tends the vine with compassion, pruning as needed to help it flourish. As we continue to live into the Easter Mystery of the Lord who calls us to newness of life in him, let us consider how we are being pruned and how we are called to remain.

Questions for the week: *In today's gospel, the command to "remain" in Jesus is issued more than an exhortation to bear fruit. What spiritual practices help you to remain rooted on the true vine? What fruits are evident in yourself, your family, your community that give glory to God?*

This Sunday's Hymns

- # 282 The Church's One Foundation
- # 300 A New Commandment
- # 299 I Am the Bread of Life
- # 200 They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

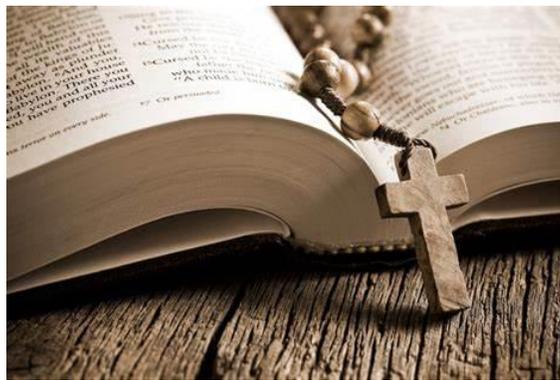


READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY – May 2nd

Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31 1 John 3:18-24 John 15:1-8

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY – May 9th

Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48 1 John 4:7-10 John 15:9-17



*Calling all teens of the Parish!
For more information, call Christy at the Parish office.*





**PARISH CLOTHES CLOSET AND FOOD PANTRY MINISTRIES
UPDATED HOURS OF OPERATION**

Our Parish Clothes Closet and Food Pantry ministries are now ***OPEN every Wednesday and Saturday morning*** from 9:00am until 12:00pm.

We are located downstairs in the St. Peter's School building.

To visit, simply come up the driveway next to the Rectory and you will see us set up outside (weather permitting).

In case of inclement weather, come to the gray door at the back of the building.

ALL ARE MOST WELCOME!

OUR PARISH FOOD PANTRY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Are you looking for a way to serve the community?

Well, we are looking for volunteers to help in our parish food pantry on Wednesday and Saturday morning from 8am – 12 pm!

We are following strict health protocols to keep everyone safe.

If you are interested, or have any questions, please contact Debbie Burke at 845-798-6056 or the Parish office.

SUNDAY EVENING MASS REMINDER

Just a friendly reminder –

We have added a 5:30PM Sunday evening Mass to our weekend schedule. This Mass tends to be less crowded, so it may be a good choice if you are looking to attend Mass in person with less people.

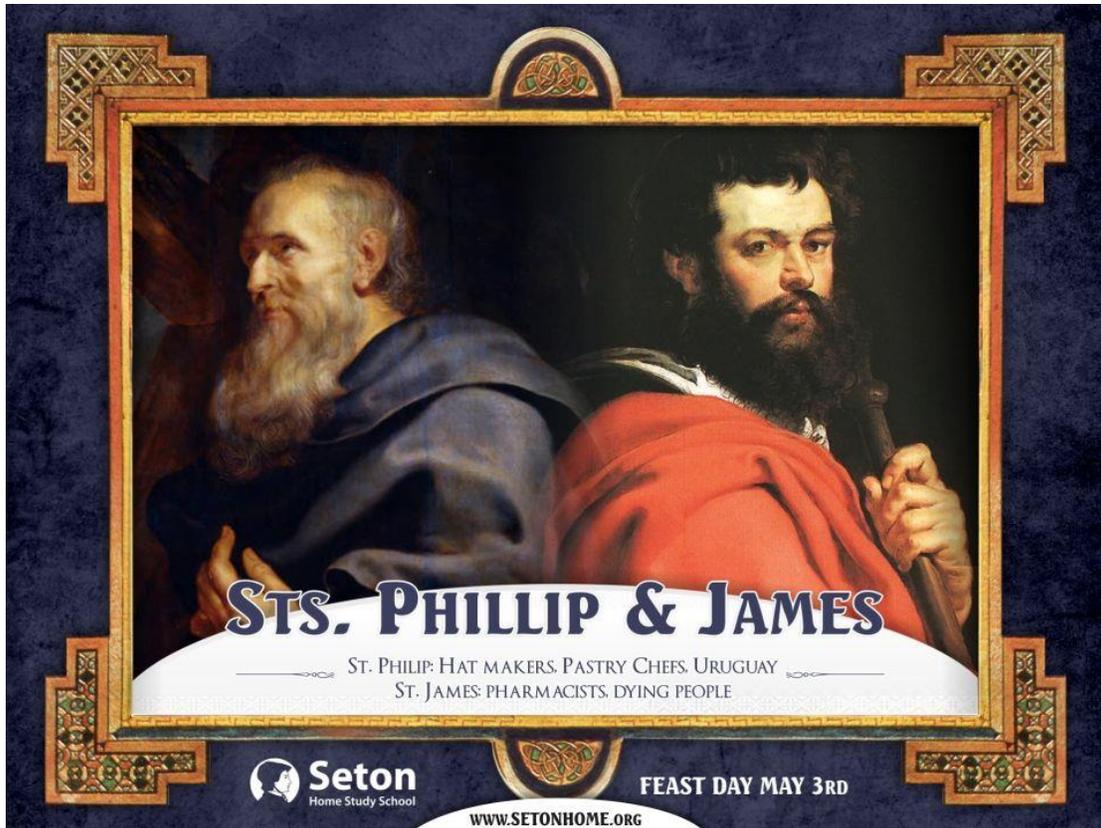


DAILY PRAYER

Father will continue to gather with us for daily prayer Monday-Friday on Facebook Live. We will pray morning prayers at 9AM and evening vespers at 6 PM. Please send your prayer petitions to Father and he will include them in prayer.

WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE

Our parish website and Facebook page are updated regularly with pertinent information, special announcements and spiritual resources! Please be sure to visit often to keep up to date on what's happening in our Parish and our Church!



On May 3rd, we celebrate the Feast of St. Phillip and St. James!

Almighty God,

Your Son revealed Himself to Philip and James and gave them the knowledge of everlasting life.

Grant us perfectly to know Your Son, Jesus Christ, to be the way, the truth, and the life, and steadfastly to walk in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



Saturday evenings at 7 PM:

Mass in Spanish

Sunday mornings at 10 AM:

Mass in English

Sunday evenings at 5:30 PM:

Mass in English

We will continue to livestream our Sunday morning Mass on Facebook Live. You can join us for Mass in person, or by logging on to www.facebook.com and visiting our page - St. Peter's Church, Liberty, NY. A recorded video of the Mass will also be published to our page at the conclusion of Mass.

If you plan to join us for Mass in person, please see the end of this bulletin for details on the protocols we have put in place to keep us all safe.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Please note that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended. While the church is open for Mass, those who are not yet comfortable attending in person are encouraged to stay home and participate in the Mass on Facebook Live.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

For those who continue to join us for Mass on Facebook Live who would like to receive the Eucharist, you may come to the church following the conclusion of Mass to receive. Father Ed or Deacon Don will be waiting on the front steps of the church, weather permitting, each Sunday until 11:30 AM to distribute Holy Communion. They will only be able to offer the Eucharist in the hand. Please be sure to wear a face covering, maintain a distance of 6 feet from others, and most importantly, we ask that you follow the directions of the ushers.

PROTOCOLS AND PROCEDURES FOR IN PERSON MASS ATTENDANCE

BEFORE MASS

We ask you to arrive at the church no later than 9:45 AM for 10 AM Mass. (Please arrive by 6:45PM for 7 PM Spanish Mass.)

When approaching the church, please keep in mind that all individuals and groups must keep a distance of at least 6 feet from other individuals and groups.

Everyone must wear a face covering at all times.

There will be hand sanitizer available for those who would like to use some before entering the church.

Before entering the church, everyone will have their temperature taken using a contact free thermometer. Anyone with a temperature of 100 degrees or higher will be asked not to enter the church.

Everyone will be escorted to a seat by an usher who has been designated and trained by Father Ed. Seating will be assigned from the front of the church to the back, and will be based on the next available seat, keeping social distancing in mind. Single individuals will be seated on one side of the church and families of 2 or more will be seated on the other side.

There will be no holy water in the church.

We will continue to send bulletins to parishioners electronically. There will be no paper bulletins in the church.

DURING MASS

Please keep your mask on during the entire Mass, except for the brief moment when receiving Holy Communion.

The collection will not be taken up in the traditional way. Instead, you may place your offering in the basket at the back of the church. ***Page 8 of 9***

Missalettes and hymnals have been removed from the pews. You are invited to take a missalette from the table at the back of the church at the beginning of Mass. That will be your missalette. Please take it home with you and should you wish, bring it back for use at future Masses. Hymnals will not be available for the time being.

There will be no offertory procession.

Please refrain from physical contact at the Sign of Peace. Please offer a gesture such as a wave, bow or nod. Of course, this does not apply to families who have come together.

When it is time for Communion, Father Ed and Deacon Don will make their way through the church to offer the Eucharist. There will NOT be a Communion line. When either Father or Deacon approaches your pew, please stand if you would like to receive. You may remove your mask for the brief moment of receiving Communion. Please note the Eucharist can only be offered in the hand at this time.

DISMISSAL

At the conclusion of Mass, please remain in your seat until an usher approaches your row and dismisses you. Rows will be dismissed from the back of the church to the front. Upon leaving the church, please make your way to your car as quickly as possible, so as to avoid groups of people gathering.

BATHROOMS

We ask that the use of the bathroom be reserved for emergencies only. If you do need to use the bathroom, please use the handicapped bathroom located in the old Convent building. Ushers will direct you should you need assistance.

