



FIFTH SUNDAY OF

Easter

MAY 2, 2021

By this is my Father glorified,
that you bear much fruit
and become my disciples.

John 15:8



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THE FRUIT OF FAITH

In today's Gospel, Jesus likens our relationship with him to a plant with many branches. We, the branches, are called to remain so close to Jesus that we bear fruit, loving one another as Christ loves us. Saul bore the fruit of his faith through powerful witness that drew others to Christ. And the branches that grew into the early Church were extraordinarily fruitful. What is the fruit of your faith in Jesus Christ?

VINES, BRANCHES, AND FRUIT

Few activities are as disappointing as cultivating garden plants, watering them, and ensuring that they receive sunlight and nutrients, only to receive one or two vegetables or flowers to show for all the effort. Jesus uses the metaphor of the vine and branches to describe how closely we are called to remain with him—so close that we bear the fruit of his life and love in the way we live. When we do this, Jesus says, we give glory to God the Father, which Jesus did perfectly through his life, passion, death, and resurrection. Like plants that rely on the sun and nutrients from the soil, we rely on the Lord Jesus through whom we can do all for which we are called. Without the Lord, we can do nothing.

LEARN FROM THE FIRST ONES

The story of the early Church that we hear from the Acts of the Apostles during the Easter season is instructive and inspiring. We learn how the community grew in their understanding of what it means to remain close to Jesus in the most challenging of situations. They lived in word and deed as Christ had taught and bore the fruit of their faith in their daily decisions, in small ways and in dramatic moments. Faced with Saul who had persecuted Christians and who presented himself as a disciple, Barnabas risked believing Saul's testimony. Through Barnabas, the community accepted Saul, with increasing numbers of people being led to belief in Christ as a result. We too are called to live in word and deed, taking to heart Christ's command to love one another, even when it is challenging to do so. We may find inspiration in the way the early believers drew consolation from the Holy Spirit, finding wisdom and strength to keep the commandments and do what pleases God.

TODAY'S READINGS

Acts 9:26–31

Psalm 22:26–27, 28, 30, 31–32

1 John 3:18–24

John 15:1–8

I am the vine, you are the branches.
Whoever remains in me and I in them will bear much fruit,
because without me you can do nothing.

John 15:5

Weekly Mass Intentions**Saturday, May 1, 2021**

5:00 pm..... Ann Bole (RIP)

7:30 pm..... Parishioner Intentions

Sunday, May 2, 2021

9:00 am..... Marie Barker Birthday

10:30 am (OLG)..... Parishioner Intentions

11:30 am (SH)..... Parishioner Intentions

6:00 pm..... All College Students

Weekly Parish Activities**May 2 - May 8**

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 2**St. Mary**

8:30 am..... Confession

9:00 am..... Holy Mass

Our Lady of Guadalupe

10:00 am..... Confession

10:30 am..... Holy Mass

Sacred Heart

11:00 am..... Confession

11:30 am..... Holy Mass

St. Brendan

5:30 pm..... Confession

6:00 pm..... Holy Mass

7:00 pm..... CCM/Al-Anon_Meeting

Monday, May 3

8:00 am..... Daily Mass (St. Brendan)

Mass Intention: For Richelle-Pregnancy**Tuesday, May 4**

8:00 am..... Daily Mass (St. Brendan)

12:00 pm..... Al-Anon Meeting (St. Brendan)

Wednesday, May 5

7:00 pm..... Daily Mass (St. Brendan)

Mass Intention: For Kate-Birthday**Thursday, May 6**

8:00 am..... Daily Mass (St. Brendan)

7:00 pm..... Al-Anon Meeting (St. Brendan)

Friday, May 7

8:00 am..... Daily Mass (St. Brendan)

Saturday, May 8

7:00 am TMIY (St. Brendan)

4:30 pm..... Confession (St. Brendan)

5:00 pm..... Holy Mass (St. Brendan)

7:00 pm..... Confession (St. Mary)

7:30 pm..... Santa Misa (St. Mary)

Online Giving is available on our parish

website: www.stbrendanscc.org

Prefer Mail:

Make check payable to your parish and

mail to 1444 W. Washington St.

Stephenville, TX 76401.

BEARING FRUIT**May 2, 2021**

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. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

TODAY’S READINGS

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

Psalms — 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).

DEN FRUTOS**2 de mayo de 2021**

Pocos de nosotros, incluso cuando meditamos sobre la imagen de la vid y los sarmientos, nos detenemos a pensar realmente acerca de cómo Dios nos “poda”. Para algunos, existe el peligro de pensar que ya estamos produciendo frutos para el reino, de verdad y con hechos como dice Juan, tal vez criando una familia, siendo activos en nuestra parroquia y así. Pero incluso aquellas ramas que están dando sus frutos, nos dice el Evangelio, se pueden podar para producir aún más. Hoy Saulo, recién “podado” por su conversión, llega a Jerusalén y encuentra resistencia. Ya que había estado persiguiendo a los cristianos, esto era natural. Pero incluso después de que lo aceptan y comienza a dar frutos, se encuentra con más adversidad, y sus cartas están llenas de muchos relatos de cómo sus pruebas eran “podas” para que produjera más frutos para el Reino. Al igual que él, siempre y cuando permanezcamos en Cristo, vamos a seguir dando frutos y, cuando la voluntad del Padre, determine que es hora de que nos pade, la fuerza de la vid verdadera deberá permitirnos soportarlo. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

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; Jn 15:9-17

Giving during the COVID-19 pandemic: During this challenging time, we depend on online donations to keep our parish family going. Please take advantage of online giving by visiting our parish website at www.stbrendanscc.org.

The Annual Diocesan Appeal is underway throughout the Diocese of Fort Worth.

Through this annual campaign, the Diocese funds programs and ministries for its 90 parishes and missions throughout the 28 counties it serves.

Information sheets and commitment envelopes are in the back of 4 churches. Once completed please mail your contribution or pledge card directly to the Diocese office in Fort Worth. You can also go to <https://stbrendanscc.org/>.

Here is the latest ADA report from the Diocese:

As 4-22-21

Our Lady of Guadalupe...17 donors...Goal \$5000
Committed...\$5640 (112%) Paid...\$5440 (109%)

St. Mary's...37 donors...Goal \$16,500
Committed \$15,776(96%) Paid...\$15,651 (95%)

St. Brendan's...36 donors...Goal \$17,500
Committed...13,932 (80%) Paid...\$12,462 (71%)

Sacred Heart...22 donors...Goal \$6000
Committed...\$6507(108%) Paid...\$5907 (98%)

Remember to check the website

<https://stbrendanscc.org/> for important updates on Mass Schedules, Covid-19 guidelines, and Church Gatherings updates.

Please Remember:

1. There is no obligation at this time to attend Mass.
2. Masks are to be worn at all times inside parish buildings.

BULLETIN: Please direct all bulletin announcements to Nathan in the church office. Email them to catholic@embargmail.com by Wednesday at 12:00 pm.

Office Hours are Monday through Friday, **9 am – 3 pm**. Please be sure to call during these hours for assistance. **(254-965-5693)**

UPCOMING SECOND/SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

May 15-16.....Catholic Communication Campaign

PRAYER CORNER: Please pray for the different intentions of each person this week for: Lisa (RIP), Baby Lauren, Tom (RIP), Bill O'Neal, Mike Pallanez, Kathy Prentice (RIP), Flor Ortuño (RIP), Ray Brooks (RIP), Norman Moore, Bill Svadlenka, Mike Hill, Richelle, Ranisa, Tom Bole, Lt. Evan Flores and Caitlin Cook, Jody Cornell, Anne Blount, Tye Coapland, Laurie Tolboom Martin, Carter Brown, Neide Gonsalves, Jackie Demetruk, Natal Mello, Poplin family, Carl Volleman, John McCarthy, Irma Lopez, Jennifer Lancaster and Family, Della Munson and Husband, Isaac Montelongo, Mack McCormick, Ann Blair, Paulette Jones, Paul and Jami Dominguez, Amanda Nicholson, Jocelyn Lewis, Donnie H., Peter DeJong, Teresa Villadesanchez, Marisol Sanchez, Tino Bernal, Lupita Ojeda, Margie Derrick, Maria Bernal, Rudy Guerrero, Filegonio Cardenas, Chris Roemer, Mykal Jones, David Gonzales, Bole Family, Jeanna DeViney, Bill Luther, Pete Sanchez, Teresa Sanchez, Patrick Noonan, Estela Patlan, Cristino DeLeon, Jr., Janice Schuetz, Dorothy Casseqta, Jose Torres, Patsy Shafer, Cheryl Mauer, Lisa Bradshaw, Sara Maldonado, Mary Rose, Lagarde Family, Jerry Soape, Florin Schlautman, Linda Mitchell, Kayla Cambers, Stephanie Martinez, Crystal Lena Martinez, Colleen Carey Dotson, Nursing Home Patients, homebound parishioners, all who are ill, and for all the souls in purgatory.



Announcing the 2021 St Brendan **Voyager Project**

We don't have to tell you; everybody knows that the St. Brendan campus is showing its age. Our community has seen many good times over the years, but the demands of this modern world are also taking their toll.

The annual Diocesan safety audit has pointed out several deficiencies in the buildings that make up our campus. Safety for the youth in CCD and CCM should be the most important responsibility that we have and ignoring safety concerns is never a good practice. The aging facilities have an ever-growing number of issues that can no longer be ignored.



The exits in the Church and CCD buildings do not meet modern safety requirements while at the same time, the doors could allow unwanted strangers (predators?) access to the classrooms. Easy to get in, hard to get out in an emergency.

We are proud of our youth programs for both adolescents as well as our college community, but the CCM program has not been allowed a dedicated facility in a Catholic Community ultimately design for them!



All said, we believe that is time for a change. The Building Committee selected by Father Sanka has worked very hard over the past two years to address the issues of the Parish. Working with the Diocese and an architect we would like to introduce a new design option which has met the approval of the Diocese. This plan will update the St Brendan campus to support all our needs:

- Updated church that meets all safety guidelines
- A Religious Education facility with 12 classrooms
- Dedicated space for the CCM program
- Parish offices with space for all staff, equipment, and visitors

Please join us for an open discussion of the proposal

**A parish meeting is planned for Sunday, May 2nd after the 6pm mass.
Pizza and refreshments will be provided.**

Announcements and Events happening this week:

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

On **May 15-16**, we will have a collection for the **Catholic Communication Campaign**. Your gift to the Catholic Communications Campaign is used to connect communities to Christ via the internet, television, radio and print media here at home and around the world.

The St. Brendan Voyager project will host another presentation of the designs and proposals for the St. Brendan Building Project **this Sunday, May 2nd after the 6pm Mass**. Food will be provided and all are welcome to attend.

The **1st Thursday Rosary** for May will be held on **May 6th at 6:00 p.m.**

The **1st Friday Adoration** will be held on **May 7th from 5:00-7:00 p.m.**

Both services are at St. Brendan's.

Elizabeth Anders, CCM student and Vice-President, has an incredible opportunity this summer to participate with FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) Summer Projects in Sea Island, Georgia. Please consider reading her insert in the bulletin, and any prayers and support you could give would be greatly appreciated!

Dear Parishioners,

My name is Elizabeth Anders, and I the Vice-President of the Catholic Campus Ministry (CCM). This summer, I have an incredible opportunity to participate in FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) Summer Projects in Sea Island, Georgia. While there, I will be working at Sea Island Resort while receiving faith formation and community alongside the other workers and participants in the program. I am excited to embark on this experience as this past year, I have grown in my faith immensely and am excited to continue this growth.

Each person is called to a unique and critical role in God's plan and I am asking you to join me in this endeavor. You can provide support in a couple of powerful ways with your prayers and financial gifts. My employer, Sea Island Resort will be taking on the vast majority of costs associated with the program, making it such that I can receive world-class missionary formation at a very low price. With that being said, I do need to raise \$2600 in total to attend this missionary training! This covers missionary education, outreach costs, transportation, lodging, and some meals. If you would like to join my support team you can go online and make donation via credit card or bank transfer at the link below. All gifts made online through FOCUS are tax deductible. My deadline to be fully funded by is May 12th. Thank you for supporting me through prayer and monetary donations! Please contact me if you have any questions. Thank you and God Bless!

Elizabeth Anders (832) 945-7542

http://www.focusonline.org/site/Donation2?df_id=5483&5483.donation=form1&set.custom.Fund_ID=84163



Monthly Baptism Preparation Classes:

Monthly Baptism classes (English and Spanish) are for **children UNDER the age of 7**. Please contact the office (254) 965-5693 for information/enrollment.

Children 7 and older prepare for Baptism via the RCIA-Adapted for Children program. Contact Karen Harper for information/enrollment.

God-parents **MUST** be practicing Catholics.

If you cannot receive Communion you cannot be a God-parent.

The following requirements **MUST** be met in order to be a God-parent:

Baptized

Confirmed

If Married, they **MUST** be married in the Catholic Church

If Single, they **CANNOT** be cohabitating

Clases para preparación de Bautismo Mensual:

Clases de Bautismo mensuales (Inglés y Español) son para **niños que tengan MENOS de 7 años**. Comuníquese con Irma Chacón (254) 965-2078 o (325) 642-4473 para el horario de clases

Niños que tengan 7 años o más serán preparados para el Bautismo por acabo de él programa RCIA-Adaptado para niños. Llame a Karen Harper para obtener información

Padrinos **TIENEN** que ser Católicos practicantes.

Si no puede recibir la Comunión, no puede ser un padrino.

Los siguientes requisitos **TIENEN** que ser cumplidos en orden de poder ser Padrinos:

Tiene que ser Bautizados

Tiene que estar Confirmados

Casados por la Iglesia Católica se están casados

Si no están casados no pueden estar viviendo con una pareja

FAITH CORNER

FEAST OF FAITH: The 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.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

FIESTA DE LA FE: ¡Aleluya!

Aunque la asamblea está familiarizada con esa palabra, es bueno recordar el significado: ¡Alaben a Dios! ¡Gloria a Dios! Este vocablo de origen hebreo fue tomado por los cristianos y adaptado a su liturgia, para cantarse, precisamente antes de la proclamación del Evangelio. En su naturaleza más profunda, esta aclamación exige ser cantada, exige movimiento. Movimiento físico y ritual. Estamos sentados, hemos escuchado la promesa de Dios en el Antiguo Testamento, hemos escuchado los escritos apostólicos y, después del debido silencio, la asamblea canta a Dios una alabanza y se pone de pie, como pueblo libre que escuchará el mensaje de su Señor. Alaba a Dios no sólo porque es bueno, sino porque se nos ha dado en el Verbo, que es Cristo y Cristo sigue dándose en su palabra, que es el Evangelio. Este rito “en el cual la asamblea de los fieles recibe al Señor que está por hablar en el Evangelio, lo saluda y confiesa su fe con el canto” (IGMR, 62), constituye la cima de la Liturgia de la Palabra. Porque esto es una oración de alabanza, lo gritamos, lo aclamamos, lo cantamos. ¡Aleluya! ¡Gloria a Dios! ¡Gloria al Señor! ¡Aleluya!

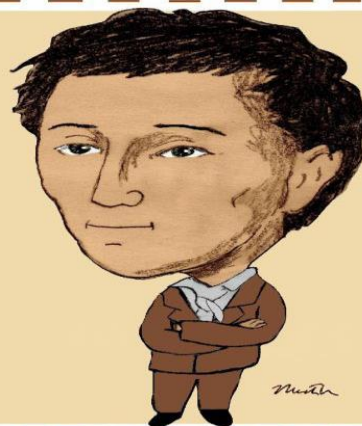
—Miguel Arias, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co

saint snippets

“Let no one have contempt for your youth, but set an example for those who believe, in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity.”
—1 Timothy 4:12

St. Nunzio Sulprizio
19th-century Italian who lived a brief life filled with faith and piety, even in the midst of very poor health. He was canonized in 2018.

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Excerpt from the NAB © 2010, 1991, 1970, CCB

May 5

If you've ever wanted to understand the Bible, this podcast is for you!

In *The Bible in a Year* podcast, **Fr. Mike Schmitz** walks you through the entire Bible in 365 episodes, providing commentary, reflection, and prayer along the way.

Listen and... Read the ENTIRE Bible, feel more confident about your understanding of Scripture, experience the transformative power of God's Word in your daily life, and start seeing the world through the lens of Scripture. Tune in and live your daily life through the lens of God's word! Click here: [Bible In A Year](#)

The Eucharist and Adoration: Will you let Him love you?

[The Hour That Will Change Your Life](#)

[Adoration 101](#)

[The Power of Eucharistic Adoration](#)

[What Do We Do In Adoration?](#)

"Hallow is an excellent resource for people searching for deeper spiritual lives, especially the younger generation of Catholics today. It helps make clear that a relationship with God is and can be extremely personal and can be a great source of peace, joy, and strength."

Most Reverend Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades(Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend)

[Hallow-Catholic Prayer App](#)



Saint Story: SAINTS PHILIP AND JAMES, APOSTLES

Feast Day: May 3

Call Philip the gospel's "Answer Man." "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Nathaniel asked Philip, who had proclaimed Jesus "the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the prophets" (John 1:45). Jesus asked Philip, "Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?" (John 6:5). Greeks brought Philip their request: "We would like to see Jesus" (John 12:21). Philip's answer to each question: bring people to Jesus! At the Last Supper, finally, Philip had a request of his own: "Show us the Father!" (John 14:8). Jesus had three last questions for Philip: "You still don't know me? How can you ask that? Don't you believe?" And an answer: "I am in the Father and the Father is in me" (John 14:10). Today's James is not John's brother, Zebedee's son, but, tradition says, author of the New Testament Letter of James, who died praying for his murderers in Jesus' words: "Forgive them, for they know not what they do." Few historical details for either saint, but lessons aplenty: Bring every question we have and everybody we meet to Jesus; be, as James' letter challenges, "doers of the word and not hearers only" (James 1:22). —Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

"Know this, my dear brothers: everyone should be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath, for the wrath of a man does not accomplish the righteousness of God. Therefore, put away all filth and evil excess and humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you and is able to save your souls. Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves." James 1:19-22

"But the wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, without inconstancy or insincerity. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace." James 3:17-18





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