

Dear Padre,

Several months ago my son died in a tragic car accident. Life, work, family, and even religion seem so meaningless now. How can I find my way back?

You have suffered a great loss. When you are able, you can choose to live in a way that will respect both your son's memory and your own ongoing life. Here are a few gentle steps that might help.

- Expect to feel numb at first. This is nature's way of helping you deal with your loss. Keep following the normal patterns of your life and, eventually, meaning will return.
- Allow your friends to help. "Sorrows shared are sorrows lessened."
- If you are sad, let the tears come! Even Jesus cried at the death of his friend Lazarus (John 11:32-35).
- If you are angry, look for a healthy release. Focus the energy of your anger into productive work, even if it's just doing dishes or yard work.
- Use your experience to help others. While helping others, the Lord often reveals to us the meaning of our own losses.
- Don't be afraid to seek professional help. A therapist has the expertise to help you talk about your loss and cope with your grief.
- Pray for yourself, for your son, for all whose lives he touched, for all those who are grieving.
- After you have done everything you can, leave your loss in God's hands. The Lord will do for you what you cannot do for yourself. ●



The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
April 29 St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church Acts 14:5-18 Jn 14:21-26	April 30 Easter Weekday Acts 14:19-28 Jn 14:27-31a	May 1 Easter Weekday Acts 15:1-6 Jn 15:1-8	May 2 St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church Acts 15:7-21 Jn 15:9-11	May 3 Sts. Philip and James, Apostles 1 Cor 15:1-8 Jn 14:6-14	May 4 Easter Weekday Acts 16:1-10 Jn 15:18-21	May 5 Sixth Sunday of Easter Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48 1 Jn 4:7-10 Jn 15:9-17



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Jesus needs us, like the vine with the branches. Perhaps to say this may seem bold to us, and so let us ask ourselves: in what sense does Jesus need us? He needs our witness. The fruit that as branches we must bear, is the witness of our lives as Christians.

REGINA CAELI, ROME 2, 2021



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

April 28, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Easter (B)
Acts 9:26-31 / 1 John 3:18-24 / John 15:1-8



The Pruning Process

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

The common myth is that we receive a new body every seven years as cells die and are replaced. However, stomach cells are renewed every two days or so because of acids and enzymes. Skin cells are replaced every two to three weeks. Bone cells last about ten years, and our brain cells stay with us for our entire lives. In a sense, then, we might say that our bodies are pruned, part of us remaining long-term to nurture and sustain like the trunk of a tree, and part of us severed so that life may be renewed and continue on.

If so with our bodies, are not our spirits also pruned? There is a core part of who we are that wends its way throughout our lives. Yet that "who" has rough edges in need of being smoothed; barbs need to be dulled; and certain inclinations simply need to be severed. Spouses tend to prune one another, the grace of a loving marriage. Children sometimes keep parents honest. Life events may grind down our independence and self-sufficiency. Illnesses, aging, job loss, the death of loved ones—all forcing us to recognize that we are not in control of life. We are thus pruned, forced to surrender much of what we once thought we could control.

Where is God in all of this? If God is woven into the warp and woof of all life, then all the events and rhythms of life can draw us closer to God, pruning us into goodness and fruitfulness. ●

Reflect

How have you been pruned and has this pruning led to new growth, new life?



[Jesus said,] "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."

JOHN 15:1-2

Sunday, April 28, 2024 – 5th Sunday of Easter

ST. JUDE PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday Mass at 9:30 a.m.

Confessions by appointment or after Mass on Thursday

Adoration at 9:00 a.m. before weekly Thursday Mass at 10:30 a.m.

Rosary is the first Sunday of the month at 9:00 a.m. before Mass.

Website: www.stjudeparishgobles.com Office: (269) 628-2219

Pastor: Fr. Alan Jorgensen Office: (269) 657-4459

Pastoral Administrator: Deacon Jim Bauer Office: (269) 628-2219
P.O. Box 102, 13809 M-40 Cell: (269) 655-6510
Gobles, MI 49055
Email: deaconjimbauer@gmail.com

For pastoral emergencies, contact Deacon Jim on his cell phone.

St. Jude Parish Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Office Email: st.judeparishgobles@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant-Bookkeeper: Lauren Gilbert (269) 628-2219
Choir Director: Laura Woods (269) 628-4866
Religious Ed Coordinator: Jennifer Price (269) 377-6734
Safe Environment Coordinator: Jennifer Rossell (269) 744-2582

Mass Intention for today: April 28, 2024 – Rosemarie Patricio by Sadie Payne

NEXT SUNDAY, May 5th, 2024

READER: CCD Students

ALTAR SERVERS: Alexa, Bella, Alanah, Emma

Mass intention for Thurs., May 1, 2024: Carson Dominick by Laine Reisch

Mass intention for Sun., May 5th, 2024: Roberta Sites by Sadie Payne

Weekly Collection Information

Collections:	Target	Received	Over-(under)	Attendance
April 21, 2024:	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 1642.00	\$ -258.00	131
Year to Date:	\$ 79,600.00	\$ 79,438.31	\$ -161.69	4924

When we remain in Jesus, his word bears fruit in Us

Spring is the season for preparing fields and gardens for growth. Debris is cleared away. Soil is turned over for seeding. Dormant plants are nurtured for regrowth. A skilled grower knows how to trim and prune to encourage new, revitalized growth. The field or garden will be a beautiful and abundant sight with care and tending.

Jesus uses this imagery of pruning and growth to teach us about our nurturing relationship with the Father. The Father is the vine grower, Jesus is the true vine, and we are His branches. By remaining in Jesus as branches of the vine, His Word remains in us and bears good fruit.

All we need to do is remain. Jesus says “remain” eight times in the eight verses of this Gospel. *Remain in me, as I remain in you*, He says. Remaining together in Him, His Word bears fruit in us. As in today’s second reading, Jesus’ word is to *love one another*. As the Father trims and prunes us, we grow and flourish, bearing more and more fruit of love for one another.

We remain in Jesus and leave the pruning and tending to the Father. The Father knows what we need – and don’t need –to flourish and be fruitful. He knows what sins need forgiving and what fears and bad habits need breaking. He knows what regrets and old hurts need forgetting and what brokenness needs healing to make way for new, revitalized growth.

With his care and tending, the Father makes us – his vineyard – a beautiful and abundant sight. Imagine a vineyard at the height of the season. The fully blossomed leaves are bright green and open wide. The vine branches intertwine into an ideal shape and form along trellised rows. The purple, green, or red grapes are heavy with juicy sweetness. So it is with us. With the Father’s care and tending, we flourish. We are fully alive with hearts open wide to His love. We grow together as a fellowship of disciples nourished by Jesus’ word.

Like Saul in our first reading, who speaks out boldly in the name of Jesus, we give witness to a flourishing and fruitful community. Those who need Jesus and his saving love are attracted to the beauty and abundance they see. They are drawn to our fellowship. They desire the nourishment of Jesus’ word, the Father’s care and tending, and the community’s love.

Anyone who is new here or returning after time away knows that all are welcome in this vineyard. Remain with us, and together we will remain in Jesus as his disciples. This is all we need to do: remain. Remain in Jesus, remain together, remain in His love. By the grace of His Word and sacraments, we will grow and flourish together. What a wonderful way to give God glory as we continue to celebrate this Easter season.

FROM OUR DRE:

Congratulations to Emma Klein, Hazel Secondi, Elise Peterson, and Shane Percival on making their First Holy Communion today.

Our next student Mass will be on 5/5. Our Middle School class will lead us.
No CCD 5/12 because of Mother's Day.
5/19-CCD Annual Clean up day (Last class)

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL: Fran Sage, Father Richard, Zane Miller, Pete & Barb Percival, Steve Klein, Garry Adams, Joan Rumery, David Vana, Phil Boyer, Margie Burris, Lillian B. Wheeler, Frances Parsons, Sonny and Mary Laughlin, Donna Murphy, Jack Secondi, Mary Heinz, Vicki Clark, Vivian Polomcak, and all those on our Prayer Chain.

TRANSITIONAL DIACONATE ORDINATION ON MAY 18th at 10 AM

Please pray for
Paul Thuantho

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR APRIL – facial tissues, mustard, packages of taco seasoning, chili mix, over-the-counter products for allergies, pain relief, acid reducer. If someone is 60 years of age and over, and their monthly income is \$1580 a month for one person, they can apply to receive CSFP/Senior Commodities each month. If you have any questions, feel free to call 269-501-0224.

RECAP OF DEACON JIM'S ANNOUNCEMENT FROM LAST SUNDAY - Bishop Loshe appointed me the Operations Manager for the Diocese. I will assist the Bishop and Father Fabio, ensuring the diocesan staff works together to assist and serve all 59 parishes in our Diocese. I will still be at Saint Jude taking care of OUR parish and our members. Nothing is changing about that. Effective May 1, 2024, Father Robert Creagen will be appointed our new pastor. Also, on May 1, Saint Jude will move from its current collaboration with St. Mary's, St. John Bosco, and St. Margaret Mary to a collaboration with St. Augustine. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

THE BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL. If you make a pledge this spring, you will begin receiving reminders from the diocese in July. Thank you again for supporting this important effort. If you have not made a pledge yet, now is the time. Your support will make an important difference in not only reaching our goals of 100% participation and \$17,962.00, but more importantly, in ensuring that the Catholic Church in Southwest Michigan continues spreading the gospel and tending God's people as Jesus Christ asked us to do. Pledge envelopes are available on the table in the hallway.

A NEW WAY TO REMEMBER A LOVED ONE – Here at St. Jude, you can sign up to have a loved one remembered by having the Sanctuary Candle lit for one week in their name (which will be announced in the bulletin). Donations are \$10.00. If you are interested, please call the office at 269-628-2219.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE - Like the vine grower in today's gospel, parents must "prune and cleanse" the branches in their family if their children are going to be rooted. Discipline, limits and setting goals are a necessary part of parenting so our children will grow and "bear fruit."

FROM THE DIOCESE

Love Outpoured: Regional Eucharistic Congresses held throughout Archdiocese of Detroit for those who are unable to attend the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis this summer. Each regional Eucharistic Congress will feature dynamic speakers, amazing music, time in prayer, and more. **Socorro Truchan, Associate Director of Marriage and Family for the Diocese of Kalamazoo will be one of the keynote speakers at the Northwest Regional Eucharistic Congress on Saturday, May 11.** St. Andrew Catholic Church, Sat., 5/11/24, St. Andrew Catholic Church, 1400 Inglewood Ave., Rochester, MI 48307. For more info./RSVP or to check out the other Congress locations, visit AOD.ORG/LOVE-OURPOURED

BISHOP LOHSE TO LEAD PILGRIMAGE TO ROME IN MARCH 2025 – Bishop Lohse and Father Bob Creagen will lead a jubilee pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi March 19-27, 2025. More details and information are available at www.diokzoo.org

Widowed Men and Women Are Invited to Participate in the Widowed Friends Support Group - The Widowed Friends Support Group meets once a month (typically the third Wednesday of each month) at the Diocesan Pastoral Center from 4-5:30 p.m. Various activities and events are organized throughout the year. Gather with fellow widows and widowers to share in relevant topics and offer support and fellowship. Contact Socorro Truchan, struchan@diokzoo.org

THE CATHOLIC BISHOP ABUSE REPORTING SERVICE (CBAR) has been established to receive reports of sexual abuse and related misconduct by bishops and to relay those reports to proper Church authorities for investigation. To make a report, visit ReportBishopAbuse.org or phone (800) 276-1562. When a report includes a crime, such as the sexual abuse of a minor, it will also be reported to civil authorities. Otherwise, reports will be kept confidential.

RETURN OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD THIS JUNE –

Bishop Lohse has announced that the regular distribution of the Precious Blood at Mass will return to Parishes across the diocese on June 23rd. Prior to the return, Parishes will participate in catechesis on three Sundays (June 9, 16, 23). More information will be available on the diocesan website.