

The Roman Catholic Community of Saint Joseph

16 East Somerset Street, Raritan, NJ 08869

We, the Catholic Community of St. Joseph, are committed to follow Jesus Christ. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we strive to be good stewards in our lives. We pray for peace, forgiveness, and for one another as Christ loves us!

Baptisms

Baptisms are usually held on Saturday mornings any-time throughout the year (**with the exception of the Lenten Season**). Parents must be registered parishioners and complete a Baptismal Preparation class. It is required that godparents are no less than 16 years of age and have completed the three Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Holy Communion and Confirmation. If the godparents are a married couple, they need to have been married by the Catholic Church. Please contact the Parish Office to arrange for the class and the date of Baptism.

Sponsor Certificates

Sponsors (Godparents) for Baptism and Confirmation are required to verify their eligibility. They must be fully initiated Catholic who actively practice their faith and are in good standing with the Church. For more information please contact the Parish Office.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

If you are considering becoming Catholic, or desire to complete your sacraments, please contact the Parish Office for more information about RCIA.

Pastoral Care of the Sick

Please call the rectory and let us know when a member of your family is in the hospital so a priest can arrange to visit them. Make sure you contact the Pastoral Care Office in the hospital so the Chaplain can bring you communion daily. **In the event of an emergency please call 908 392-7962 anytime of the day or night.**

Marriages

Please call the office to meet with the Pastor as soon as you become engaged and before any preparations are made. Arrangements should be made one year in advance. Couples preparing for marriage must attend required Pre-Cana sessions within the Diocese along with F.O.C.C.U.S. and sessions with your Parish Priest or Deacon.



Under the Pastoral Care of the Priests and brothers of the Congregation of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri

Rev. Kevin P. Kelly, C.O. Administrator
James Piccolo.....Parish Office Manager
Anthony Nardino.....Director of Music & Liturgy

Masses

Saturday.....4:00 pm
Sunday.....10:00 pm
Holy Days.....Vigil: 7:30 pm
.....on the Holy Day 8:00 am

Daily Masses

St. Joseph's: Monday & Friday.....8:00 am
St Ann: Monday & First Fridays.....7:00 pm
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday.....7:00 am
Saturday.....9:00 am
Holy Trinity: Tuesday & Friday.....7:00 pm
Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament
Monday-Friday.....12:15 pm

Confessions

Saturday.....3:00 –3:30 pm
or by appointment.

Parish Office

Hours.....Monday-Friday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Phone/Fax908 725-0163/908 725-2333
Email.....parishoffice@sjraritan.org
Fr. Kevin Email.....frkevin@sjraritan.org
Website.....www.sjraritan.org
www.sjraritan.com

**Our Church is open Monday through Friday
8:00 am to 12:45 pm for
prayer and quiet time in prayer with our Lord.**

Fifth Sunday of Easter May 2, 2021

Sunday's Readings

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)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. ©LPI

Readings for the week of May 2, 2021

Sunday: Acts 9:26-31/Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32 [26a]/1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8

Monday: 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 [5]/Jn 14:6-14

Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21 [cf. 12]/Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5 [cf. 1]/Jn 15:1-8

Thursday: Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10 [3]/Jn 15:9-11

Friday: Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12 [10a]/Jn 15:12-17

Saturday: Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5/Jn 15:18-21

Next Sunday: 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: 5th Sunday of Easter

Monday: Sts. Phillip and James, Apostles

Tuesday:

Wednesday: Cinco de Mayo

Thursday: National Day of Prayer

Friday:

Saturday:

Next Sunday: 6th Sunday of Easter; Mother's Day ©LPI

Somerset County National Day of Prayer 2021 NDP Theme

Lord, Pour Out Your Love, Life, and Liberty

"Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." *1 Corinthians 3:17*

Due to COVID restrictions on venues, we have decided to hold the event virtually again this year. The event will be livestreamed on Thursday, May 6, from 7:00-8:00 pm. We will have worship music, a devotional thought on prayer, and folks will pray for these major areas: *Military Personnel & Their Families, Government & Community Workers, The Media, Business & Industry, Education (all areas), Families, Parents, Children, & Youth, Pastors and Church Leaders.* You can join us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/NDPSomersetCountyNJ/live>
[youtube.com/channel/UCnzEn0F0_NBC9umLldcHjyQ/live](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnzEn0F0_NBC9umLldcHjyQ/live)

or to watch the National Broadcast at 8:00 pm ET:

[https://](https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/2021_national_observance)

www.nationaldayofprayer.org/2021_national_observance

We need the collective Body of Christ praying for the revival.

Live the Liturgy

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. ©LPI

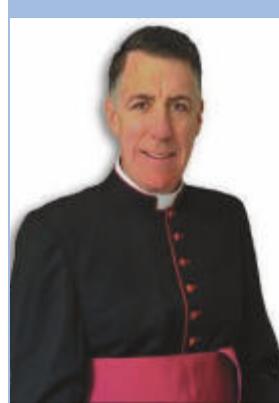
Visit our new website at

www.sjraritan.com

or

www.sjraritan.org

ST
S
PHILLIP & JAMES
APOSTLES ©LPI



Congratulations to Bishop James Checchio on his 5th Anniversary as Bishop of Metuchen. Please pray for him as he continues to lead and guide our Diocese. Ad Multos Annos



**FOR THE WEEK OF
MAY 2, 2021**

Monday, May 3, 2021

8:00 am + Helen & Francis Marcin
Priest of the Day – Rev. Michael Crummy

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

Priest of the Day– Rev. Msgr. Joseph Curry

Wednesday, May 5, 2021

Priest of the Day– Rev. Edward Czarcinski

Thursday, May 6, 2021

Priest of the Day– Rev. Arlindo Da Sliva

Friday, May 7, 2021

8:00 am + Frank Krachun, Jr.
Priest of the Day – Rev. James De Fillippis

Saturday, May 8, 2021

4:00 pm Vigil of the 6th Sunday of Easter
+ Jenna Magliulo

Priest of the Day– Rev. Joseph Desmond

Sunday, May 9, 2021

The 6th Sunday of Easter
10:00 am + People of the Parish
Priest of the Day – Rev. Rohan Dominic, CMF

Please pray for vocations to the Priesthood for our Diocese, and also for Religious Priests, Brothers and Sisters.

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle burning before the Blessed Sacrament this week is in memory of:

+ **Frank Krachun, Jr.**

Blessed Virgin Mary

The Candle burning before the Blessed Virgin Mary this week is in memory of:

+ **The deceased members of the Fattori & Sinibaldi Families**

St. Joseph

The Candle burning before St. Joseph this week is in memory of:

+ **The deceased members of the Krachun & Gall Families**

Paschal Candle-2021

In Memory of John M. Bauer

On May 31st, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This feast commemorates the Blessed Mother’s visit to her cousin Elizabeth and the encounter of Jesus and St. John the Baptist while in the wombs of their mothers. Join us in praying "A Novena for Life" from May 22-30.

OUR PARISH PRAYER LIST. PLEASE PRAY FOR THE

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Bill Bizub | Frank Krevis |
| Edna Carter | Antonia LaCorte |
| Joseph Carter | Ralph Lombardi |
| Jane Chiesa | Steve & Geri Max |
| Joan Chopay | Francis M. Mishak, Sr. |
| Jerome Costanzo | Betty Phelan |
| Elizabeth Anne Dwyer | Natasha Polinko |
| Randy Fisher | Michael Roehrich |
| Arthur & Maryann Gosenski | Jack & Mary Sullivan |
| Gary Johnson | Michael Velcheck |
| Donna Kelly | Richard Wisniewski |
| Roseanne Kielar | Al Walulik |
| Robert J. Kolibas | Fr. John Morley |
| Jerry Kovac | |

Our Weekly Offering

Weekend of April 24 & 25

Offertory.....	\$1,105.00
Easter (Residual).....	\$350.00
Catholic Relief.....	\$250.00
Insurance & Assessment.....	\$312.00
Parish Utilities.....	\$80.00
Holy Land (Residual).....	\$25.00

Online Giving

Offertory.....	\$200.00
Parish Utilities.....	\$55.00

St Joseph’s offers Online Giving thru ParishSoft; an easy option for donating to the Sunday Collection. It’s simple! Just visit <https://stjosephrاران.weconnect.com> and follow the easy registration instructions.

2021 Bishop’s Annual Appeal



To date, the Development Office has received pledges totaling \$ 11,785.00 and payments totaling \$ 9,816.25 from 51 parishioners. This represents 47.1% of your \$ 25,000.00 goal. Thank you for your efforts.

“Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.”
- 1 JOHN 3:18

Regarding our Catholic faith, do you “walk the talk?” Do your actions reflect what it means to be a good disciple? Are you an active participant at Sunday Mass? Are you joyful when participating in parish ministry? Do you give gratefully and generously with your financial support to your parish and other Church needs? If not, it’s not too late to start!

A Novena for Life
honoring the Feast of the Visitation

Join us in prayer May 22-30.
Sign up:
respectlife.org/visitation

From the desk of Fr. Kevin:

“What does love look like? It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like.”- St. Augustine

St. Augustine’s meditation on the “look of love” reminds us that love is not simply a feeling or emotion but an action that calls us to extend the love of God to others in need God’s compassion, mercy and grace. I believe that this need is found in every single soul. As followers of Christ we are called to give our lives away that others may live; this was and *continues to be* the mission of Christ in the world that, as the baptized, we have been called to be participants. I have witnessed, firsthand, the generosity of many people here in the parish in my very short time as administrator. People who have responded to the needs of others without even being asked to do so. It is such a blessing to see how the love of God flows through us when we are open to his will. Let us pray that we would allow the Holy Spirit to guide us and continue to open up our souls to the needs of those around us and to respond with generosity and grace. Each time that we do so, we live in the certain hope that God will bless us immensely with His infinite love.

In Christ & St. Philip Neri,
Fr. Kevin

Why Do We Do That? -

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. ©LPi



As I have loved you

Marriage Encounter

Now that Spring is around the corner, why not shake off those winter blues and pump some new life into your marriage. A World-wide Marriage Encounter Experience gives you the time and tools to revitalize romance, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage. Join us from the comfort of your home via Zoom for eight evening sessions, 7 - 9:30pm, presented on Sunday & Wednesday evenings from April 11 - May 4. Phone Tom & Ruth DeFalco 1-732-904-9636 for application and information. Visit us at: www.aweekendforyourmarriage.org for more information.

Everyday Stewardship -

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*

©LPi

COME AND CELEBRATE SPRING!
SATURDAY, MAY 8TH | 11AM-7PM
@Manville/Hillsborough Elks | 1500 Brooks Blvd. in Hillsborough

HILLSBOROUGH FOOD TRUCK FEST 2021

WWW.STANNCLASSICAL.ORG/FOODTRUCK

Legalization of Recreational Marijuana Use

On November 3, 2020, New Jersey voters approved Ballot Question #1, legalizing recreational marijuana use for individuals over the age of 21. The approval of the ballot question made the possession and recreational use of marijuana a constitutional right for individuals 21 years of age and older in New Jersey. This constitutional right went into effect on January 1, 2021.

On Monday, February 22, 2021, Governor Murphy signed a series of bills that will:

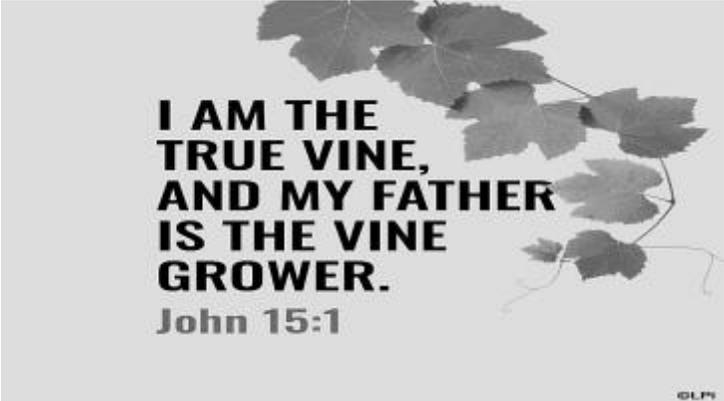
- Establish the Regulatory system for the production and sale of Adult use Marijuana;
 - Decriminalize the possession of marijuana; and
 - Address the penalties for underage use/possession of marijuana.
- More information and resources, prepared by the New Jersey Catholic Conference Public Policy Committee, to assist Catholics with understanding the complexities and the potential negative health effects related to the use of recreational marijuana can be found by visiting:
<https://njcatholic.org/substance-abuse>.

Bearing Fruit

To be a follower of Jesus is to be in communion with the word of God, to be at peace and filled with the Spirit, and to bear fruit. This calls for nourishment, connectedness, evaluation and reflection. In seeking to understand the will of God in our lives, each of us is in relationship with the word of God, the company of believers, and the world in which we live. We are called to be church not for our own comfort and wholeness, but for the world. Isn't there someone in your world who wants to know more about being a follower of Jesus in the Catholic Church? Bring them to an RCIA Inquiry Session. Inquiry sessions are for inquiries and questions, not commitments. All who are unbaptized, baptized into another Christian denomination, or baptized Catholic but have never received BOTH Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. Inquiry Sessions will continue through the summer. For more information, call the Parish Office or, RCIA at St. Ann's 908 725-1008.

The Dignity of All Human Life

"Through the Incarnation of Christ, God reveals to us the dignity of all human life. Each of us is made in the image and likeness of God, reflecting his glory and his imprint. We are therefore called to 'respect, defend and promote the dignity of every human person, at every moment and in every condition of that person's life.' (Gospel of Life) By reaching out to lovingly support and care for pregnant women and their children, we witness to the sanctity of every human person, in every stage and every circumstance." (USCCB)



Questions of the Week

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:

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? ©LPI

5th SUNDAY OF EASTER



How to Report Sexual Abuse
 If you were sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or you know of someone who was, you are encouraged to report that abuse to law enforcement and/or by contacting the Diocesan Response Officer at (908) 930-4558 (24 hours/7 days a week). For more information on how to report abuse, visit our diocesan website: <https://diometuchen.org/report-a-suspected-abuse>.

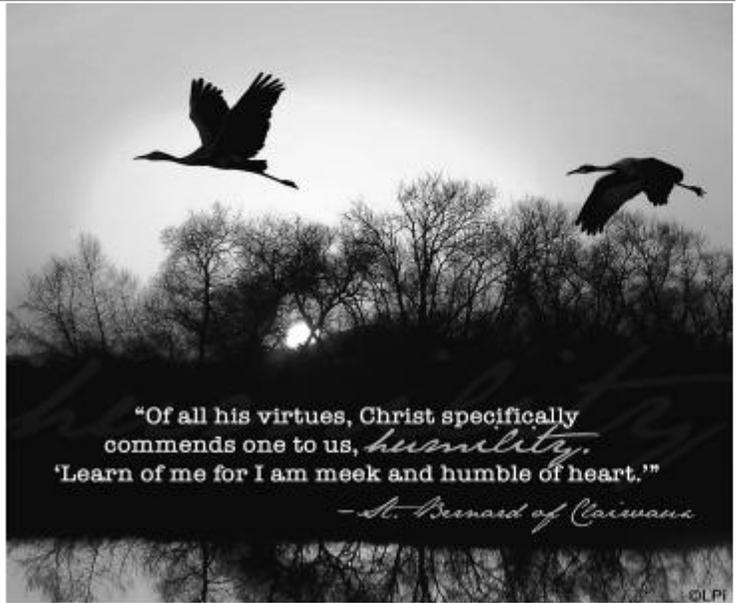
Gospel Meditation -

May 2, 2021, Fifth Sunday of Easter

“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-checkered 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. ©LPI



St. Ann Classical Academy



WE ARE OPEN!

**IN-PERSON EDUCATION
SPACES STILL AVAILABLE
2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR**

*Catholic Classical education is all about
God’s children discovering the joy of learning when
education is presented within the context of
the Coming of the Lord Jesus. He comes as Gift for us,
inviting us to discover the gift that we can become.*

40 Second Avenue, Raritan, NJ 08869

Telephone: 908-725-7787

Website: www.stannclassical.org

Facebook: [St. Ann Classical Academy](https://www.facebook.com/StAnnClassicalAcademy)

Call for more information or
Email: kalbright@stannparish.com

Free Tuition Raffle!

to take place at our Food Truck Fest on Saturday, May 8th



St. Ann
Classical
Academy

Discover Our Uncommon Core
www.stannclassical.org

Enter to win one year of tuition for one child of a new family who enrolls their child for the 2021-2022 school year! No cost to enter raffle. Must complete an entry form at the May 8th Food Truck Fest event.

Information materials about St. Ann Classical Academy will be available for all who are interested in finding out about our classical method of education and about St. Ann Parish's pre-k through 8th Catholic school. We're excited to meet you!

Help spread the word about this amazing opportunity to relatives and friends you know who have grade school age children!

Kids Corner

READ THE GOSPEL & COLOR



Put a brand new light bulb in a lamp. Turn the lamp on. It shines brightly. Now, unplug the lamp. The lamp goes dark. It might be a nice lamp. It might have a new light bulb. Yet, without being plugged in to electricity, the lamp cannot shine. In today's Gospel, Jesus is the vine and you are a branch. As long as you are attached to Jesus, your faith can grow fruit like love, kindness and gentleness. If you break away from Jesus, your faith will die, and you will not grow any fruit. Stay plugged in to Jesus, so you can shine. Stay connected to Jesus, so your faith can grow fruit.

PRAYER

God, help me to stay connected to Jesus.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

Read Galatians 5:22-23 with your family. Write down the nine different kinds of fruit that will grow from your faith, when you stay connected to Jesus.



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Bongiovi Funeral Home

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(908) 725-1887



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Family Service to the Community*

Anna Louise Bongiovi, CFSP, Mgr/Owner
NJ Lic. No. 2817

NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED



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dshaller@4LPi.com or (800) 477-4574 x6458



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THIS SPACE IS
AVAILABLE

