

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

**SCRIPTURE MESSAGE:** Today's Scripture selections emphasize the need for Christians to abide in Christ as a condition for producing fruits of kindness, mercy, charity and holiness. The first reading, taken from the Acts of the Apostles, testifies to the abundance of spiritual fruits yielded by the apostles because of their close bond with the risen Lord. The reading tells us how the Lord pruned the former Pharisee, Saul of Tarsus, a fanatic who had persecuted the Church, to produce a fruit-bearing branch called Paul, the zealous Apostle to the Gentiles, entirely dedicated to the proclamation of the Gospel. Even Paul's forced return to Tarsus for a brief period is an example of God's pruning of the vine to bring forth a greater harvest, namely, the mission to the Gentiles. In today's second reading, John, in his first letter to the Church, explains that only if we remain united to Christ but putting our Faith in him and drawing our spiritual strength from him, will we be able to obey God's commandments, especially the commandment of love. In the Gospel, taken from the Last Supper discourse, Jesus uses his favourite image of the vine and branches to help his disciples understand the closeness of their relationship with him and the necessity of their maintaining it. They are not simply rabbi and disciples. Their lives are mutually dependent – as close as a vine and its branches. In fact, in using this image, Jesus is explaining to them and to us what our relationship with him should be like. Life messages: 1) We need pruning in our Christian life. Cutting out of our lives everything that is contrary to the spirit of Jesus and renewing our commitment to Christian ideals in our lives every day is the first type of self-imposed pruning expected of us. A second means of pruning is to practice self-control over our evil inclinations, sinful addictions and aberrations. Cordial mingling with people of different cultures, races, religions and orientations in our neighbourhood and society enables us to prune away our selfish and prejudicial tendencies as we treat others in the society with Christian charity and openness. Jesus prunes, purifies and strengthens us by allowing us to face pain and suffering, contradictions and difficulties with the courage of our Christian convictions. 2) We need to abide in Christ and let Christ abide in us. The four Gospels teach us how to become true disciples of Jesus and how to abide in him as branches abide in the main trunk of the vine, drawing their life from it. Personal and liturgical prayers, frequenting of the sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation, daily and meditative reading of the Bible and selfless, loving acts of kindness, mercy and forgiveness enable us to abide in Jesus, the true vine, as fruit-bearing branches.

**PAPAL PRAYERS FOR MAY:** Let us pray that the lay faithful may fulfill their specific mission, by responding with creativity to the challenges that face the world today.

<b>MASS SCHEDULE</b> <b>APRIL 28 – May 6, 2018</b>		
Saturday, April 28	5:15 p.m.	Our Parishioners
Sunday, April 29	8:30 a.m.	Walter and Verne Pashnicki
	10:00 a.m.	Lionel Burgess
Monday, April 30 - Friday, May 4		NO MASS
Saturday, May 5 FIRST SATURDAY	9:30 a.m.	Tom Barr
	5:15 p.m.	Our Parishioners
Sunday, May 6	8:30 a.m.	George Churney
	10:00 a.m.	Lise Steenburgh
<b>The Sanctuary Candle burns this week for:</b> <b><i>Our Parishioners</i></b>		

Weekly Target: \$3500.00	Actual Offering – April 22: \$ 3907.75	Operating Surplus: \$ 407.75
-----------------------------	---	---------------------------------

**PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:** Please pray for: Reggie Bernardo, Armand L'Anglais, Fr. Martin, Hilda Armstrong, Gerard Parker, Valerie Cooper, Mary Lambert, Denis & Norma Savage, Dorothy Meaney, Stella Alberry, Heidi Reid, Gerald & Irene Moriarty, Bibin John, Leone McIntyre, Justin Lefave, Ann Ruigrok, Maurice Belec, Margaret Smith, Grant Marshall, Margrite Dezainde, John Beriau, Debbie Freer, Shelley McCaffrey and Stella Popek.

### CALENDAR OF UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Tuesday, May 1	1:30 p.m.	Bible Reflection Group
Wednesday, May 2	7:00 p.m.	RCIA
Thursday, May 3	9:30 – 11:00 a.m.	Prayer Group in the Chapel
Sunday, May 6	After 10 a.m. Mass	Coffee Social for Father Jacob's 25th

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:** Prayerful best wishes to all who are celebrating wedding anniversaries in April and May:

John and Anne Howison	45 years	April 28
Brian and Julie McCarthy	17 years	April 28
Kevin and Karen Frech	32 years	May 10
Gerry and Cathey McNamee	52 years	May 14

***“I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in them bears much fruit.”***  
*John 15.1-8*

APRIL 29, 2018

MINISTRY SCHEDULES				
MASS TIMES	HOSPITALITY	LECTORS	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	ALTAR SERVERS
Saturday, May 5 5:15 p.m.	Anne Peace Carol Ravnaas	Clancy and Sarah McDonald	Sylvia Shackles Cecile Houle	Samantha Glashan Lauren McDonald Grace Kelly
Sunday, May 6 8:30 a.m.	Margaret Bougie Rick Zabloski	Debbie Zabloski Judith Hart	Noreen Shepherd Marguerite Whiteland	Grace Whiteland Evan Duffy
Sunday, May 6 10:00 a.m.	Johanne Cardinal Donna Cody	Robin Reil David Cody	Deacon Shawn Souder Larry Baldissera	Isabelle and Liam Heffernan

**FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION:** Please remember our candidates in your prayers as they prepare for these special Sacraments –

May 10, 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Confirmation Retreat  
 May 11, 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. First Communion Retreat  
 May 13, 2:00 p.m. First Communion Mass  
 June 2, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. Confirmation Rehearsal  
 June 3, 2:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass

**CONFIRMATION PRAYER PARTNERS:** In February, seventeen candidates were enrolled for Sacrament of Confirmation. We are inviting parishioners to become a “Prayer Partner” with one of them. Sign up is easy – just add your name to the list, pick up your information letter at the back of the church and offer your prayers for the candidate. The cards will be presented to them on the day of their Confirmation retreat on **May 10, 2018**. Cards must be returned to the parish office or in the collection basket by **May 7, 2018**.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FLOWER PLANTING:** The Knights of Columbus will again be planting and maintaining flowers at St. Francis Xavier Cemetery at a cost of \$40.00 per gravesite. Contact Stewart Glashan 613-342-3855 by **May 20 to arrange**. Cheques should be payable to the Knights of Columbus Council 1049.

**CWL PLANT SALE:** We need the help of all gardeners to make this fundraiser a success. Please consider potting up plants that you are dividing and donating them to the sale. Drop off is **Friday, May 25 or very early Saturday morning May 26 at St. John Bosco Parish. The Plant Sale is Saturday, May 26 from 7:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.**

**GARAGE SALE, PLANT SALE AND BAKE SALE:** The Knights of Columbus and the CWL will be having a joint Garage Sale/Plant Sale/Bake Sale on **Saturday, May 26 at St. John Bosco Parish Centre from 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**. If you have any gently used items you would like to donate, please drop them off on **Friday, May 26 between 12:00 noon and 5:00 p.m. PLEASE NO CLOTHING, SKIS OR ENTERTAINMENT CENTRES – ONLY GOOD CLEAN SALEABLE ITEMS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

**THE POPE’S PASTORAL WORKS COLLECTION:** This collection which will be taken next weekend – May 5-6 provides an opportunity for Catholics to make a financial offering to assist the Holy Father. One-third of the funds collected is for what is traditionally known as Peter’s Pence: donations used by the Pope for his charitable contributions to those most in need. Two-thirds of the collection is to support the Holy Father in administering the Holy See and serving the Universal Church.

**BROCKVILLE ARTS CENTRE:** The Brockville Arts Centre is excited to announce that they have booked the film **I Can Only Imagine**, which was released in March 2018. The film is based on the popular Christian worship song by the same name, recorded by the band *Casting Crowns*. There will be four showings: **Wednesday, May 23 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and Thursday, May 24 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.** Tickets are \$10.00 each and can be purchased in person at the Box Office or over the phone at 613-342-7122. You can also order only at [www.brockvilleartscentre.com/i-can-only-imagine/](http://www.brockvilleartscentre.com/i-can-only-imagine/).

**SPRING SENIORS CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY SERIES: “EVERYTHING BELONGS”:** This series will take place on **Thursday, May 3 and May 17 from 9:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Providence Spirituality Centre**. The facilitator is Denise Berube, CND. What does it mean for us to “grow into belonging” to the whole of God’s creation? Senior or not - you are welcome! Cost: \$20.00/session including lunch. Contact Providence Spirituality Centre 613-542-8826

**JOKE OF THE WEEK: *The Gift of knowledge:*** A man went to the priest and said, “Father, I want you to say a Mass for my dog.” The priest was indignant. “What do you mean, say a Mass for your dog?” “It’s my pet dog,” said the man. “I loved that dog and I’d like you to offer a Mass for him.” “We don’t offer Masses for dogs here,” the priest said. “You might try the denomination down the street. Ask them if they have a service for you.” As the man was leaving, he said to the priest, “I really loved that dog. I was planning to give a five thousand dollar stipend for the Mass.” And the priest said, “Wait a minute! Why didn’t you tell me that your dog was Catholic?”

*Please support our bulletin advertisers.*