



In the Gospel today Jesus asks us to make our home in him. Jesus is the center of our lives holding us together. We are branches all around Jesus the vine. We were attached onto the vine, Jesus, on the day we were baptized.

The Eucharist, the sacraments, the Bible, the Rosary are just some of the ways in which we make our home in Jesus. There are many seductions and distractions in our world also inviting us to make our home in them but if we do our branch will wither and we will not bear fruit. There are many voices in the world telling us to eat the apple from the tree and then we will have life and all will be well. But after eating the apple we discover that we are worse and even unhappy. So we make our home in

Jesus. He alone is the Way, the Truth and the Life and when we make our home in him we bear fruit. Jesus said: ***“Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me.”***

It is not just a question of making our home in Jesus because it feels good. A branch which is connected to the vine bears fruit, grapes. Jesus asks us to bear fruit. He says in the Gospel: *“Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.”*

Jesus is the center of our lives holding us together. Jesus asks us to make our home in him so that we can bear fruit. Are we bearing fruit for the kingdom of God? Is our Christian love real and active or just words and mere talk?

“If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you”

MONTH OF MARY-MAY DEVOTIONS

Mary Crowning next Sunday at 9:00am mass

(Outdoor Statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary)



“God wills that all his gifts should come to us through Mary” (St. Bernard)

It was in Rome, towards the end of the eighteenth century, one fine evening in May. A child of the poor gathered his companions around him and led them to a statue of Mary, before which a lamp was burning, as is the custom in that holy city. There, these fresh young voices sang the Litany of our Lady. The next day, the little group, followed by other children, again gathered at the feet of the Mother of God. Next came their mothers, to join the little assembly. Soon, other groups were formed, and the devotion rapidly became popular. Holy souls, troubled by the disorderly conduct which always increases and becomes graver at the return of the pleasant springtime, saw in these growing practices the hand of God, and they cooperated with the designs of Providence by approving and promoting this new devotion, as a public and solemn act of reparation. The Month of Mary was founded.

This is the month in which, in the churches and individual homes, the most affectionate and fervent homage of prayers and devotions from the hearts of Christians are raised to Mary. It is also the month in which from his throne descend upon us the most generous and abundant gifts of the Divine Mercy.

In our own times, we Catholics, wanting to be close to her always, offer her special presents in May: pilgrimages, visits to churches dedicated to her, little sacrifices in her honor, periods of study and well-finished work offered up to her, and a more attentive recitation of the rosary.

During entire month of May, The Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be prayed as a conclusion of Daily Mass **AT OLM CHURCH** (from Monday to Thursday). On Tuesday and Wednesday litany will be said by the outdoor Statue of The Blessed Virgin Mary.



TODAY children from our parish receive their First Holy Communion. This is always a day of faith, joy, love and hope for our parish and for these children. We thank Susan Reilly and her assistants who work so hard in making our First Communion Program such a great success.

We thank the parents of these children for supporting and encouraging their children in the Catholic Faith. Parents are the primary teachers of their children in the faith and so what begins on a child's baptism day continues everyday as parents bear witness to the Risen Christ in their lives. Pope Francis reminds us that: *"The Eucharist is such a great gift. That's why going to Mass is so important. Going to Mass not just to pray, but to receive Communion, the Bread and Body of Christ. It saves us, forgives us and it makes us one with the Father. How beautiful!"*

The great gift received at First Communion Day is just the beginning for these children and their parents. They must strive to live the Catholic faith daily and be nourished by the Eucharist every Sunday. We pray for these dear children and their families that they may always stay close to the Eucharistic Lord and faithful to Sunday Mass.

"You, who make your First Communion, must always remember this day your whole life: the first day that Jesus came in to us. He comes, makes himself one with us, makes himself our food, our nourishment to give us strength." Pope Francis

Congratulations to our First Communion Class! Be well. Do good. God Bless. St. Mark our patron pray for us!