



Message from Fr. Leandro "Lines" Dela Cruz

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Dear Parishioners and Friends,

In the immortal words of Christ that we hear this weekend about the vine and its branches, as the Master of metaphor, our Lord speaks here of an intimacy between God and ourselves, the likes of which none of the pagan religions popular at the time could match.

Our Lord offers us an easy concept to grasp, even if our only connection to a vineyard nowadays is a tasty liquid bottled bound for our table. We know from any shrub how connected the parts are. When a heavy snow bears down on a branch and bends it low, it may snap. When it's green growth fades to a threatening brown, we know it's time for pruning.

In a way, we're just the same. At times we have bent to the pressure of temptation and broken away. Maybe we've "changed colors," from a red-blooded loyalty to Christ to the pale yellow of denying Him. But what is consoling at such times is the basic fact that the love energy in this relationship comes from God. He takes the first step. Remember, the vine exists before any branches. All that we really have to do is respond as best we can, staying fully attuned to His will and ways.

If we want to live forever, staying well-connected to the divine Vine, we occasionally have to prune away from ourselves any notion that we're doing just fine as we are, with no need for improvement. We all need Him, the Vine of our lives.

Tomorrow, May 1st, 46 of the little angels of our parish will be receiving their First Holy Communion. We will invite them back to attend our Sunday Masses wearing their first communion dresses and suits. It will be a good sight for us to remind us of our own First Holy Communion and how precious the feeling was. Let us congratulate these children and their families. We also thank our Religious Education team: Gary Maccaroni, Theresa Melendez, and our catechists, Erin Petra, Yvonne Daniel, and Teddy Meagher for preparing our children to receive this most precious Sacrament.

The following weekend, May 8 & May 9, which is the weekend of Mother's Day, our little angels who just received First Holy Communion, will have the honor to crown the Blessed Virgin Mary in this year's May Crowning and will offer flowers as a gift to our Blessed Mother. What a wonderful way to honor and recognize our Blessed Mother on this Mother's Day.

As a reminder, kindly start sending in your Mother's day envelopes. Please write on the envelope the names of mothers who passed away so we can include prayers for their eternal repose at all Masses from May 9 to June 13. For this year kindly write on a sheet of paper and place inside the Mother's day envelope the names and your prayer intentions for living mothers or grandmothers you want to pray for, so we can also include those intentions in all our Masses. Those envelopes will be placed on our altar for the whole month until Father's Day.

Let us continue to stay safe and healthy for one another. The pandemic trifecta still continues to help: wear a mask properly, sanitize constantly, and social distance.

God Loves You.