

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Ponca City, Oklahoma

May 19, 2019

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Dear parishioners,
I hope this Easter season is treating all of you well, and that you're still rejoicing in the risen Christ. His death and resurrection has conquered death and given us hope in eternal life, so let us continue rejoicing! In the following reflection, St. Cyril of Alexandria explores John 15 where Jesus says that He is the vine and we are the branches. Let us never get tired of clinging to Him, who is our life and our hope!

From a commentary on the gospel of John by Saint Cyril of Alexandria, bishop

The Lord calls himself the vine and those united to him branches in order to teach us how much we shall benefit from our union with him, and how important it is for us to remain in his love. By receiving the Holy Spirit, who is the bond of union between us and Christ our Savior, those who are joined to him, as branches are to a vine, share in his own nature.

On the part of those who come to the vine, their union with him depends upon a deliberate act of the will; on his part, the union is effected by grace. Because we had good will, we made the act of faith that brought us to Christ, and received from him the dignity of adoptive sonship that made us his own kinsmen, according to the words of Saint Paul: *He who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.*

The prophet Isaiah calls Christ the foundation, because it is upon him that we as living and spiritual stones are built into a holy priesthood to be a dwelling place for God in the Spirit. Upon no other foundation than Christ can this temple be built. Here Christ is teaching the same truth by calling himself the vine, since the vine is the parent of its branches, and provides their nourishment.

From Christ and in Christ, we have been reborn through the Spirit in order to bear the fruit of life; not the fruit of our old, sinful life but the fruit of a new life founded upon our faith in him and our love for him. Like branches growing from a vine, we now draw our life from Christ, and we cling to his holy commandment in order to preserve this life. Eager to safeguard the blessing of our noble birth, we are careful not to grieve the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, and who makes us aware of God's presence in us.

Let the wisdom of John teach us how we live in Christ and Christ lives in us: *The proof that we are living in him and he is living in us is that he has given us a share in his Spirit.* Just as the trunk of the vine gives its own natural properties to each of its branches, so, by bestowing on them the Holy Spirit, the Word of God, the only-begotten Son of the Father, gives Christians a certain kinship with himself and with God the Father because

they have been united to him by faith and determination to do his will in all things. He helps them to grow in love and reverence for God, and teaches them to discern right from wrong and to act with integrity.

Have a great week, and know that you're in my prayers!

In Christ,

Fr. Larson

| Weekly Income Report May 12, 2019 | |
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| Weekly Collection | \$16,905.18 |
| Catholic Relief Services | \$ 3,221.00 |
| CRS Rice Bowls | \$ 475.00 |

Masses for the week...

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| MONDAY, MAY 20, 2019 | 12:10pm NO MASS |
| TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2019 | 12:10pm †Martha Robinson/Keith & Sue Behara |
| WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2019 | 12:10pm †Joe Neylon/Mother of Mercy Rosary Group |
| THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2019 | 9:30am People of the Parish (St. Francis of Assisi, Newkirk, OK) |
| | 4:00pm †Judy Cocci/Chuck & Suzie Greenwood (Via Christi Chapel) |
| | 6:00pm 8th GRADE GRADUATION MASS , Church |
| FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2019 | 7:00am †Frank Otto/Eva & Amy Otto |
| | 8:20am Spec. Int. for the students of St. Mary's Catholic School |
| | 12:10pm †Patrick Farrell/Michel Gray |
| SATURDAY, MAY 25, 2019 | 9:00am †Dean Henson/Tom & Pat Courtney |
| | 5:00pm †Jack Hudack/Randy & Melinda Glasgow |
| SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2019 | 8:00am †Ted Thomas/Linda Cremers |
| | 9:30am MASS (St. Francis Church, Newkirk) |
| | 11:00am †Elmo Gilbert/Jarrett & Kathleen Auschwitz |
| | 1:00pm People of the Parish (Spanish Mass) |
| | 7:00pm People of the Parish |

| LOOKING ahead... May 20-26, 2019 | |
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| Monday | 6:00pm FALL FEST MEETING, Parish Hall |
| Tuesday | |
| Wednesday | |
| Thursday | FIELD DAY FOR ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL |
| | 6:00pm 8 th GRADE GRADUATION, Church |
| | 7:00pm 8 th GRADE DINNER, Parish Hall |
| Friday | 10:30am CONFESSION, Chapel Area |
| Saturday | 3:30pm CONFESSION, Church |
| Sunday | 6:30pm CONFESSION, Church |

Please Pray For those who need prayers: Jeanette Vassar, Charlotte Meyer, Charlene Vap, Dora Behar, Cindy Wardlow, Fran Baur, Don Schiltz, Jeanne Glaser, Patsy Hastings, Bennie Westerman, Keith & Sue Behara, Eileen Spellman, Linda Courtney, George F. Brown, Martha Begwin, Elaine Gray Calahan, Gary Kirchmeyer, Donna Schlitz, Jim Sheets, Asher Dailey, Tyson Rutter, Mark Ramsey, Betty Pino, Kaye Cunningham, Vivian Rose Graeff, Sue Odom, Barbara Spore, Jim Smith, Scarlett Wimer, Alicia Aguilar, Marcus Roggenbuck, Dakota Miller, Brian McCallen, Marianna Counter, Janet Wilson, James Hess, Gabriel Dietz, Sue Duckett, Ed O'Neill, Theresa Lane, Don Raulston, Lelah Tracy, Angi Jones, Marlene Taylor, Fred Boettcher, Thomas Taylor, Brent Roberson, Jillian Beekman, Joe Badley, Sandy Hudack, Pamela Cline, Sherry Burgell, Ben Delapaz, Tom Courtney, Mary Knori, Nick Patterson, Jr., Helen Bloxson, Jill Kestler



CFO Golf Tournament

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma's 18th annual golf classic is **June 3 at the Quail Creek Golf and Country Club**. Shotgun starts 8 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Sessions limited to 120 players each and are first-come-first-serve, so register early at www.cfook.org/annual-golf-classic. Tournament benefits Catholic schools and endowments for Catholic schools in the archdiocese. Contact (405) 721-4115.

Adoration Time Available for Sign-Up

Adoration is a great way to spend some quiet time in prayer with our Lord, and it is available from 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM EVERY Friday! We have an open time slot from 1:30-2:00 PM. Please consider signing up! If you are concerned that you won't be able to attend every week, don't let that keep you from signing up! A contact list is available to assist you in finding a substitute. Please contact Genesta King at [580-718-0838](tel:580-718-0838).



Please do yourselves a favor. . . **do US a favor!!!** Sign up to have your (and/or family) picture taken for the new Church

Directory. You can go online to the Church website: www.stmarypc.com OR call Maria in the parish office. **Remember**, you will receive a FREE 8x10 portrait and FREE directory just for participating. **Also**, let Maria know of new phone numbers or address so the information will be up to date in the new directory. If you have done away with your land-line, please let us know. There is only ONE WEEK left....**please schedule today!**

The youth group will be accepting donations for our annual rummage sale! Please bring your items to the parish hall from May 28-30 between the hours of 8AM and noon. Our sale will be on May 31 and June 1 from 8AM-1PM.

SAVE THE DATE! June 1st St. Mary's Catholic Church will be celebrating 125 years in Kay County! The evening will begin with Mass at 5:00pm then a BBQ Dinner, Games, Music, reminiscing with old friends and meeting new ones! See you there!



There will be no youth group this Wednesday. We will begin our summer program in June with regular Wednesday night activities. We are doing something new this summer, and will be having

bible study on Wednesday nights starting at 6PM followed by youth group from 7-8PM. All 7-12th grade youth are invited to both! Also starting in June, all teens entering 7th grade in the fall are invited to join us for all activities.



Calling all teens and adult volunteers!

VBS 2019 needs people to help during the week of July 7-12 and the weeks before to prepare for VBS. Call Bridgit if you are available and interested!

VBS 2019!

Register soon to order a VBS t-shirt.

Join us for a Marvelous Mystery:

The Mass Comes Alive!

July 7-12, 2019 8:30am-12

Registrations available at SMCS or at the Church Office.

We need an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our archdiocese and God desires to grant this. We only have to ask. I have shared many times with you that this has been a constant prayer of mine since my installation as your archbishop. I have prayed earnestly for a new Pentecost for our archdiocese. Daily text reminders, including links to the prayers for each day, will be available to all who want them. There are two ways for parishioners to sign up:

Text **Pentecost2019** to 84576

OR Go to

<https://ArchOKC.Flocknote.com/Novena2019>

Rest in Peace: Please pray for the souls of Jack Ciskowski, husband of Eleanor Ciskowski, for Dan Marino, brother of Pat Morris, and for Dean Henson. May God Grant them eternal peace.