

St. Mary's Catholic Church

5th Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Jesus often used metaphors to describe the intimate nature of the relationship between His followers and Himself. In last week's Gospel passage Jesus described that relationship in terms of a Good Shepherd and His care and concern for His flock of sheep. In today's Gospel Jesus characterizes His intimate relationship with His followers in terms of an image of a vine and its branches. Jesus presented this image to His disciples at the Last Supper on the night before He died at a time when He wanted to impress upon them the most fundamental aspects of His teachings. This image of the vine and branches presented an important truth: God the Father is the vine grower, Jesus is the **Vine** and His disciples/followers are the branches. By identifying Himself as the **True Vine** and His Father as the vine grower, Jesus shows the deep intimacy that exists between them. Added to this are the branches (disciples) that are also intimately connected to the **Vine**. Jesus lives in His disciples and His disciples live in His life. His disciples are expected to produce fruit and they will **only** bear fruit if they **remain** in Jesus.

Jesus used the vineyard metaphor because His disciples were already well aware of the vineyard imagery that was used of Israel in Scripture to convey both divine benediction and divine malediction. Over and over the Jewish Scriptures pictured Israel as the vineyard of God and the Jewish people as the branches of God's vine. The Psalmists and prophets had used the vineyard imagery/symbolism throughout the Old Testament expressing the special relationship between God and Israel. Their writings expressed the fact that for centuries God had carefully selected and cared for Israel, provided for her in her need and protected her in times of danger. Their vineyard imagery describes both God's abiding love for Israel and His frequent disappointment in the Israelites. Psalm 80 (9-20) speaks of Israel as a vine God uprooted from Egypt and planted in the Promised Land. In Jeremiah 2:21 God tells the Jewish people: "I had planted you, a choice vine of fully tested stock" followed immediately by, "How could you turn out obnoxious to me, a spurious vine." In the "Song of the Vineyard" (Isaiah 5:1-7) Isaiah tells a parable describing God as a friend who had a vineyard in which he planted the choicest of vines expecting good grapes, only to get sour grapes. Isaiah then identifies God's vineyard as the House of Israel and the people of Judah as His cherished plant which produced sour grapes instead of good juicy grapes.

Behind all this imagery of the vine grower, the vine, and the branches in today's Gospel passage is **our** call to **discipleship**.

Continued...



Weekend Masses

Sat May 1	4:00 p.m	Special Intention
Sun May 2	8:00 a.m.	Urban Selhorst
Sun May 2	10:00 a.m	Alfred Hohenbrink
Sat May 8	4:00 p.m	Jim Alt + Kathy Sehlhorst
Sun May 9	8:00 a.m.	Fr. Cleo Schmenk + Fr. Chris Bozar
Sun May 9	10:00 a.m	Gene Badertscher

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$1,470.00	Loose \$355.00
	Total	\$1,825.00
	39 envelopes returned = 20%	



*Thank you for your generosity!
Thank you also to those who give
electronically!!*

Assignments for May 8 & 9, 2021

Money Counters: Chad Wolford, Janet Begg

4:00 p.m.

Cantor: Choir
Ushers: *Confirmation Mass*
Lector: *Confirmation Mass*
E.M.: *Confirmation Mass*
Servers: *Confirmation Mass*

8:00 a.m.

Cantor: Katie Hohenbrink
Ushers: *Volunteer*
Lector: *Volunteer*
E.M.: Rachel Rader
Server: *Volunteer*

10:00 a.m.

Cantor: Katie Hohenbrink
Ushers:
Lectors:
E.M.:
Servers:

Readings for May 9, 2021

Sixth Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48
2nd Reading: 1 John 4:7 - 10
Gospel Reading: John 15:9 - 17

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