

Sacred Heart – St. Louis Parish

13 May 2020

Wednesday of the Fifth Week of Easter

“Let my mouth be filled with your praise, that I may sing aloud; my lips shall shout for joy, when I sing to you, alleluia.”

(readings are from the Easter weekday)

Reading 1: Acts 15: 1-6

Psalm 122: **Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**

Gospel: John 115: 1-8

Homily for Wednesday of the Fifth Week of Easter

Having grown up having many different types of plants that would need pruning each year, this reading that we encounter today in the Gospel is one that I can easily relate to. Every spring I would spend countless weekends helping my mom and my grandfather prune a number of fruit trees as well as pruning back various types of blackberry and raspberry canes into submission. The hard work always paid off throughout the summer as we were given all types of berries to eat and enjoy and then in the fall to be able to pick all the apples and have apple sauce and apple pie. Yum!

The same is true for ourselves. We need to have all of those new shoots on the trees and such cut back so that there will be more

energy to produce good fruit. We also want to have all of the dead vines and branches cut out as well. We want to be able to produce the best fruit possible.

As we need to be pruned, we soon realize that we do not prune back ourselves. The fruits trees don't. They have to have someone else do it for them. Hence, a young Fr. James picking up tree clippings infinitely every weekend. For us, we need God to help us. We need the word of God. We need our prayers and devotions and help from spiritual leaders (priests, bishops, pope) and our Christian brothers and sisters to help us with this task.

Right now, God has certainly trimmed back our lives. Many of the things that are not as important as we want to think that they are have been taken away from us. Many of these things that have been taken away are the very things that are keeping us from being able to produce good fruit. What has God pruned away that will help you to produce good fruit? What still needs to be pruned? Let us open our hearts to Him and trust that what He prunes away will only make us better, but also stronger Christians.