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## Gospel Meditation

ENCOURAGE YOURSELF TO A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE



"Spiraling out of control," is a phrase that can easily describe the current display of human existence. In addition to the violence, unrest, uneasiness and turmoil that are common elements of our daily news, other essential pieces are misplaced or missing. Many lack an objective center around which to order and structure their lives or a clear

set of definable goals or mores to act as guideposts and life directives. It appears that "feelings" have become a "new god" and traditional structures and ideals set aside. It is almost as if history only shows that we got this whole thing wrong and many are determined to finally set things right. The real truth, however, is that while wrongs and errors are certainly a part of our often-checkered past, it is hardly the case that all was wrong. It is not our task to rewrite the history of our lives, but to learn from mistakes that were made, and preserve the perennial wisdom at the root of our successes. Learning is an essential part of being human. The question becomes, however, from whom do we learn? Some have such a hard time placing God in that position, but that is precisely where God needs to be. God is the Master Teacher from whom all of humanity learns and gets its cues. It is in and through this relationship with the Gardener of Life that we are fashioned and pruned into the people we are intended to be and can be. It is only in God that we are able to find our best selves. Sadly, many think that religion too, as well as history in general, has also gotten all this wrong. Yet, our resurrection faith tells us differently. We are reminded, today especially, that we are meant to remain in Christ as Christ remains in us. We are also reminded that Jesus, the Incarnate God, is the vine upon which we grow, the branches that flow from the source of God's life. Giving up our will to God's can be a painful endeavor. It is not easy to set our own desires and wants aside and allow God to step in and direct and guide our growth. But this is the only way to prevent deadly weeds from overtaking us and bringing us to a place of self-destruction. God's commandments are the very guideposts and benchmarks we need, yet many seek to remove them from all public view because they appear to limit self-expression and suppress what is considered by many to be "human freedom." They are the only way we can find freedom, however. And, until we learn this fundamental lesson, we will continue to spiral out of control, never really knowing who we are, what our potential can be or how life really can be lived. We will not know peace. ©LPi



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nzalez Marilynn Nienalt
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Parra Cheryl Mattas

#### **EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP**

Branching Out Isn't Always What It's Cracked Up to Be

"That's a really beautiful tree branch. Man, would you look at the bark on that thing? The others are real duds, but that low-hanging branch has really got it all together." I've never heard anyone say this. Maybe I just need to hang out with more arborists, but I can't recall ever hearing someone admire the particular beauty of a single branch. When someone comments on a tree, it's usually the whole tree — perhaps a visual element of it, like the color of the leaves or its height. But people don't usually zero in on one branch. Maybe that's because usually, if one branch is looking a little weak, chances are every other branch is, too. The Bible tells us that when we bear fruit as good everyday stewards, it is for the Father's glory. We are the branch on His magnificent tree. What we have is from Him, and what we do likewise points back to Him. We also tend to reflect how well the other branches around us are incorporating the nutrients coming their way. That's all fine and good in theory. In practice, it can be an arduous exercise in humility. When I do something virtuous or charitable or kind, there is a part of me that wants to stand out for it. I think that's true for all of us.

charitable or kind, there is a part of me that wants to stand out for it. I think that's true for all of us. We've given of ourselves in some way or overcome some human temptation to accomplish a little bit of good in this world, and even though we know God sees us, we'd really love for everyone else to see it, too. It's a struggle, for sure. But we need to remember that our fruit belongs to the whole tree.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



# MAY 2 2021 V SUNDAY OF EASTER

# First Saturday Mass 9:00am 1 First Friday Mass 7:00pm 9 60-0 2 90 0

# WEEKLY STEWARSHIP April 25, 2021 Envelope Giving \$1,205.00 Plate Giving \$1,796.00 Online Giving \$986,26 Total \$3,987.26 Funds needed a week to meet operations \$5,000.00 Overage/Deficit -(\$1,012.74)

Healing Patherays for Families

#### Embracing our Vulnerable Children

Supporting Foster Families in our Parishes

Fostering is a challenging ministry, especially for first-time foster families. How can parishes support this pro-life call to help vulnerable children in our churches and in our communities?

(S) WHEN? Wednesday, May 12 @ 7:00-8:30 pm on **ZOOM** 

Join us for this panel presentation where foster parents and representatives from organizations supporting foster families discuss what it means to embrace our vulnerable children.



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Missy Bell
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● SDCatholic.org/familylife

Presented by the Office for Family Life & Spirituality and the Mental Health Ministry Network

PRACTICES FOR MENTAL & SPIRITUAL WELLNESS

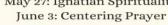
The pandemic has brought us a lot of exploration of coping mechanism usually regarding emotional or physical wellness.

Yet, our pain is also deeply spiritual.

Where has God been in the overlapping crises of our personal and familial lives? How have our practices of prayer and spirituality "fortified" us for the unique challenges that the pandemic has brought? How do our prayer lives benefit our mental health?

Please join us starting May 6 for a five-part exploration of Catholic prayer practices and their potential for mental wellness.

May 6: Spirituality & Mental Health May 13: The Body & Prayer May 20: Praying with the Saints May 27: Ignatian Spirituality





THURSDAYS AT 7PM, MAY 6-JUNE 3



Bishop McElroy invites all faithful to come together for this special Pentecost celebration as we re-energize our mission to love and serve all of mankind in God's name. This event will be held at Good Shepherd Church on **Saturday**, **May 22**, beginning with a Call to Worship at 10 a.m. and Mass at 11. It will be an outdoor event – physical distancing and masks are required. The event will be livestreamed at www.sdcatholic.org/pentecost2021.

#### REPORTING SEXUAL ABUSE

Complaints about Sexual Abuse by a member of the Clergy, a parish Catholic Employee or a Volunteer can be made at https://www.safeinourdiocese.org/or call

(858) 490-8353 misconduct@sdcatholic.org.

#### **AMORIS LAETITIA**

Along with being the Feast of St. Joseph, March 19th was also the start of Amoris Laetitia Family Year. Marking the fifth anniversary of the apostolic exhortation Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love), Pope Francis has asked the Church to celebrate the family throughout the year and to reflect upon how her ministry supports married couples and families at every level of Church life. This year also happens to mark the fifth anniversary of our diocesan synod on the family. The USCCB's Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life, and Youth (LMFLY) is coordinating the anniversary celebration in the United States, which will run until June 26, 2022. Learn more about Amoris Laetitia Family Year, including resources from the USCCB (https:// www.usccb.org/topics/marriage-and-family-lifeministries/year-amoris-laetitia-family) and a brochure from the Vatican (http://www.laityfamilylife.va/ content/dam/laityfamilylife/amoris-laetitia/Brochure/ Brochure%20A4 ENG FlipBook.pdf).

#### LITURGICAL MINISTER WORKSHOPS

Online liturgical minister formation workshops will be held in May. Please check the diocesan website for registration and further information go to: http://www.sdcatholic.org/workshops.



#### WHY DO WE DO THAT:

Question: Is gossip a mortal sin?

Answer: To really ask this question, we must consider the Eighth Commandment: "You shall not bear false witness." In

its reflections on this commandment, The Catechism of the Catholic Church invites us to not only think about what bearing "false witness" means, but to also consider how we understand the truth and how we communicate more broadly. This is why so much of this section of the Catechism has to do with the gift of language. With this in mind, we will notice that the word "gossip" isn't used by the Catechism. Instead, we find the words "detraction" and "calumny," which are actually two forms that gossip can take, and both can be quite serious. First, detraction is the of revealing "another's faults and failings to persons who did not know them," without morally valid reasons. Calumny, by extension, is saying something about another person that is untrue, and it is sinful because it "harms the reputation of others and gives occasion for false judgements" (see no. 2477). In all of our communication, we have to always recognize that we have a moral obligation to the truth and to always work to protect the reputation and honor of our neighbors (see no. 2479). Gossip can, in fact, prove to be a very serious sin. After all, the Catechism reminds us: "No one is bound to reveal the truth to someone who does not have the right to know it" (no. 2489). When we have gossiped, especially if we are aware we have damaged another person's good name or reputation, we want to make every effort to undo the damage we have done, including seeking the grace and forgiveness offered in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. ©LPi

#### **QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK**

First Reading: Luke tells us how the conversion of Saul (Paul) and the acceptance by the disciples of him helped facilitate peace in the Church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria. What do you think is needed to bring about peace in our Church today?

**Second Reading:** John teaches his community that believing in Jesus and loving one another is the heart of God's commandment. How would you assess yourself in following this two-fold command?

Gospel: Using the metaphor of a vine and branches, Jesus urges his disciples to "remain in me" in order to bear good fruit and thereby glorify God. What would be some examples of "good fruit" that you have produced? ©LPi





#### LIVE THE LITURGY INSPIRATION FOR THE EEK

Anyone familiar with gardening knows that proper and timely pruning is essential. The health of the plant depends upon it. An unpruned tree can quickly produce suckers that zap many of the essential nutrients from its body. Pruning requires patience and vision. Studies reveal that plants often respond defensively to being pruned, displaying reactions that are similar to hurt or discomfort. Pruning is not easy but necessary. A hard lesson for us to learn is that we also need to be pruned. We become far healthier when we allow God to stretch, refine, and form us into the best version of ourselves. The fruit that then comes from our vines will be more abundant, nutritious, and robust. Left to our own devices we can easily find ourselves running amuck and spiraling out of control. Without a proper vision and trust in the Master Pruner, we will never find the contentment we desperately desire. Nor will the work of the Gospel stand a chance of succeeding. ©LPi

#### MAY 2 2021 V SUNDAY OF EASTER

02	03	04	05	06	07	08
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Triday	Saturday
Sunday Masses 8:30am 11:00am 12:30pm (Spanish)	Bible Study (Virtual) 7:00pm	Daily Mass 7:30am	Daily Mass 7:30am	Daily Mass 7:30am Adoration 8:30am— 5:00pm	First Friday 7:00pm	
Please pray for: Bishop Robert McElroy Acts 9:26-31/ Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31- 32/1 Jn 3:18- 24/Jn 15:1-8	Please pray for: Bishop John Dolan 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Jn 14:6-14	Please pray for: Bishop Ramon Bejarano Acts 14:19-28/ Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21/Jn 14:27-31a	Please pray for: Bishop Robert Brom Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/Jn 15:1- 8	Please pray for: Rev. Msgr. William Elliott Acts 15:7-21/ Ps 96:1-2a, 2b- 3, 10/Jn 15:9- 11	Please pray for: Rev. Peter Escalante Acts 15:22-31/ Ps 57:8-9 10 and 12/Jn 15:12-17	Please pray for: Rev. Armando Escurel Acts 16:1- 10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5/Jn 15:18- 21

### MASS Intentions

May 02	Sun	8:30am	For the Parishioners
) ( O O O	G	11.00	For the First
May 02	Sun	11:00am	Communicants
May 02	Sun	12:30pm	(SI) Flor Hernandez
May 03	Mon		NO MASS
			+Giovanna Moreci
May 04	Tues	7:30am	+Castenze Difranco
May 05	Wed	7:30am	(SI) Karla & Tomas
May 06	Thur	7:30am	For the Parishioners
May 07	Fri	7:00pm	For the Parishioners
May 08	Sat	5:00pm	+Jesus Duran



#### Observances for the week of May 2, 2021

Monday: Sts. Phillip and James, Apostles
Wednesday: Cinco de Mayo
Thursday: National Day of Prayer

Remain in me, as I remain in you. 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. I am the vine, you are the branches.

Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing." — 10 15:4-5



Masses will continue to be livestreamed or taped as necessary and available on our website www.stpiusxjamul.com or on the Diocesan website www.sdcatholic.org



#### MAY 2 2021 V SUNDAY OF EASTER

#### **Indoor Mass Guidelines**

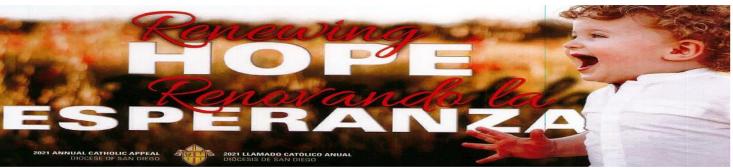
Per Bishop McElroy, under NO condition are we to violate the following procedures:

- Everyone over 2 years old will be required to wear a mask.
- Parishioners will be expected to use hand sanitizer provided on the entrance/exit table.
- Practice social distance of 6 feet between family groups.
- No Handshakes at the Sign of Peace.
- Holy Communion will be distributed only in the hand and the usual time.
- The Most Precious Blood will not be distributed.
- Bulletins will be placed on the entrance table for parishioners to pick up.
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation is by appointment only.

All Catholics in the Diocese continue to be dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until further notice.

We ask for your patience and support as we continue to help our tiny church with a big heart follow all these guidelines and requirements in order to succeed in our Spiritual Journey.





Special Chank you to all those that have responded to this year's Annual Catholic Appeal Chewing Hope

#### MAY GOD BLESS:

2 2021 V SUINDAY OF EASTER

MAY

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Agustin & Marcia Godinez Richard & Chelita Flores Rebecca Urguijo Tom & Theresa Mascarenas Tomas & Carmen Chavez Bill & Roxana Martes Jose & Angelina Jaime Jesus & Maria Avitia Joe & Linda Coppola Ralph & Waffa Dallo Aide Arredondo Rob & Chervl Brown Terry & Carmen Carroll Iose & Alma Olivares Rick & Roseanne Rinear Patricia Terry Rod Snow Silverio & Sandra Chavez Denise Minyard Will & Julie Ashton Gray Maria Juarez David & Paula Block Desmond & Rose Fonseca George & Rosemary Jenkins Marilyn Brells

**Bob & Marty Fowler** 

# Our Goal is \$39,000 Amount Pledged: \$22,885/Paid: \$15,035/ Owed: \$7,850. Please help our Parish reach our ACA goal by turning in your pledge.

