



Building Faith@HOME

1st Reading: Acts 9:26-31
Responsorial Psalm: Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32
Second Reading: 1 Jn 3:18-24
Gospel: Jn 15:1-8

The Vine and the Branches

Last week we were reminded that we are “children of God,” loved by our heavenly Father and called to love one another. Jesus showed us his Father’s love by laying down his life for us, the ultimate sacrifice of love. Today’s readings continue to share that message. St. John, in his letter, reminds us that love is empty without “deed and truth”. In other words, actions speak louder than words. God gave to us his commandments to know how to love God and others; Jesus exemplified this by demonstrating his love for us and that we are to love one another in the same manner. This is how we remain with Jesus.

We then hear in the Gospel of John, more of what it means to remain with Jesus through the parable of the “Vine and the Branches.” Societies throughout the world and throughout history all have some form of hierarchy. Within societies, there may be political agitators, political tyrants, groups fighting for power. The same was true in Jesus’ time, but Jesus gave a different view of how to live with each other in a much more gentle and loving way. The image of the vine and branches is completely opposite of any hierarchical structure, Vines are so intertwined that it is hard to see where one branch begins and another ends. The tangling of the vines continue to grow from the one stock, branching out to give more and more fruit. But, fruitfulness depends on pruning.

As we reflect in our own hearts, what is not true of the love of God, is to be pruned. What is not sharing the love of Jesus is to be pruned away, so that all that remains is the fruitful branch.

Family Table Talk

Children: How do you keep yourself connected to Jesus in your daily life?

Youth: Jesus is the vine – we are the branches, connected to Him as our life-source. When do you feel most connected to Jesus in your everyday life? How can you go there more often?

Adults: How does your own connection to Christ, the vine, affect your daily life? What image from this reading helps you see the importance of this connection to Christ? Retrieved from lifelongcatechesis.com

Catholic Kids Media

5th Sunday of Easter Cycle B



bit.ly/5th-Sunday-Easter-B

St. Catherine of Siena - April 29

SAINTS FUN FACTS

by John Sheppard

As a child, St. Catherine Siena had mystical experiences, seeing guardian angels of others. She was a Dominican and one of the most brilliant theological minds of her day. She continued to have visions of Christ, Mary and the Saints. She was given the Stigmata which became visible after her death. St. Catherine’s letters are considered the most brilliant writings in the history of the Catholic Church.



You are rewarded not according to your work or your time but according to the measure of your love. (St. Catherine of Siena)

APRIL DEVOTION: Holy Eucharist

In the Eucharistic prayer, listen for the words “Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you:

fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink.

Jesus is the true vine and his Presence is in both the consecrated bread and the wine.

What fruits can I bear when I remain with Christ?

Answer



bit.ly/Fruits-of-the-Spirit

Links for More Ideas, Activities & Resources FYI

catholic-daily-reflections.com - .Being Pruned (Adult Faith Builder)

ncregister.com - Christ is the True Vine, and We Are the Branches (Adult faith builder/Scripture in Art)

VibrantFaith.com - Give and Grow (Family Faith Builder/Service Activity)

TeachingCatholicKids.com - St. Catherine of Siena (Kids Faith Builder)



April 28, 2024

2024 - A Year of Prayer

'Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him,

"Lord, teach us to pray..." - Luke 11:1



Prayer@HOME

Cut & Pray!



From now until Pentecost, practice the prayer to the Holy Spirit.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,
and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created,
and you will renew the face of the earth.

Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit
you have taught the hearts of your faithful.
In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right
and always rejoice in your consolation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Scripture Verse of the Week From Sunday's Mass



Those who keep his
commandments remain in
him, and he in them, and
the way we know that he
remains in us is from the
Spirit he gave us.

1 Jn 3:24

Practice:
Use the Acts & Actions below to
grow strong in your faith! Create
a prayer time plan to help you
develop good prayer habits.

Take Time to Abide (Remain) in Christ

Use this template or create your own to use as a reminder to pray. Use the empty squares to write one action you did as a disciple of Jesus.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Pray the Scripture Verse of the Week	Adoration	Practice the Prayer of the week.	Confession	Thanksgiving	Supplication	Prepare for Sunday Readings.

Building Prayer Time @ Home

This will be a series of family activities to try as your families start or strengthen prayer time.

ACTS & ACTIONS

Prayer is an important part to staying connected with God and "abiding" in Him. But along with prayer is the actions that we do to "bear fruit." This week think about ACTS and Actions. This prayer will help you to stay close to Jesus. It has a simple formula using the acronym, ACTS. Spend time reflecting and sharing on the following prayer prompts. As Actions, reflect on how you and your family are keeping God's commandments and sharing God's love in the world.



ACTS Prayer

- A—Adoration—I praise You, God, for...
- C—Confession—I am sorry for...
- T—Thanksgiving—I am thankful for...
- S—Supplication—I ask You for...

ACTIONS

- Invite someone to Mass with you.
- Donate to the food pantry or Catholic Charities.
- Stand up for someone being bullied.
- Do a random act of kindness.