



28 April 2024

Today's Readings Pg 150
Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31
Psalm 22:26-32
1 John 3:18-24
John 15:1-8

The Pruning Process

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

The common myth is that we receive a new body every seven years as cells die and are replaced. However, stomach cells are renewed every two days or so because of acids and enzymes. Skin cells are replaced every two to three weeks. Bone cells last about ten years, and our brain cells stay with us for our entire lives. In a sense, then, we might say that our bodies are pruned, part of us remaining long-term to nurture and sustain like the trunk of a tree, and part of us severed so that life may be renewed and continue on.

If so with our bodies, are not our spirits also pruned? There is a core part of who we are that wends its way throughout our lives. Yet that "who" has rough edges in need of being smoothed; barbs need to be dulled; and certain inclinations simply need to be severed. Spouses tend to prune one another, the grace of a loving marriage. Children sometimes keep parents honest. Life events may grind down our independence and self-sufficiency. Illnesses, aging, job loss, the death of loved ones—all forcing us to recognize that we are not in control of life. We are thus pruned, forced to surrender much of what we once thought we could control.

Where is God in all of this? If God is woven into the warp and woof of all life, then all the events and rhythms of life can draw us closer to God, pruning us into goodness and fruitfulness. ●

Reflect

How have you been pruned and has this pruning led to new growth, new life?



[Jesus said,] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit."

JOHN 15:1-2

Lord, We Lift Up to You in Prayer...

Joan Rourke, April Hicklin, Mary Lou Weepie,
Lois Wickman, Carma Schmidtke, Charlie Corey,
Mitch Sauerbrei, Pam Miller, Marci Willey, Diana Snyder,
Michael McDonough, Rose Kalb, Dave Chase,
Marisa Davidson, Mary Ellen Youngblut, Karyn Beenken,
Elaine Ernst, Lindsey Ernst, Ron Babinat,
victims of hatred, racism, violence, natural disaster;
terrorism, and all in our parish, our community, and our hearts
who are suffering and in need of Christ's healing touch †
May they know His loving Presence in the eyes, hands and
hearts of those who give them care.

**May our prayers for help and
healing rise like incense
to our God of hope, love and mercy.**



► Communion To Our Sick Or Homebound Ministry:

contact Michelle Weepie 319-635-2428

► **I C Parish Prayer Chain Hotline:** Please contact
Vivian Rourke at 319-238-3225 (V) or 319-238-2083 (M)

► **Sacrament Of The Sick** ~ Anointing for the seriously ill
or dying, call the Sacred Heart Parish Center 319-283-3743,
or if having surgery speak with Father Atwood in the
Sacristy before or after Mass

► **Baptism Class For Parents:** All parents who wish to
have their child baptized at Immaculate Conception
parish are required to attend a baptism class prior to
scheduling the baptism. Please contact Deacon Jim
at 319-509-1210 for scheduling details.



► **I C Cemetery** – contact the parish office

► **Funeral Dinners: Group #2 May, June, July,, & August**
We provide desserts & serve a catered meal

I C STAFF

~ Fr. Ray Atwood, Pastor ~

IC Parish Office Wednesday Mornings after 8:30AM Mass
Office at Sacred Heart Parish Center 319-283-3743
Sacred Heart Rectory 319-283-9577
email: dbq151@dbqarch.org

~ Deacon Jim Patera ~

Office at Sacred Heart Parish Center 319-283-3743
Cell phone 319-509-1210

~Glenda Kleitsch IC Secretary/Bookkeeper~

I C Parish Office PH: 319-635-2211

located at 405 Fairbank St

I C Parish Office hours:

Mon-Thurs 8AM – 3PM Closed Friday

Mailing address: P O BOX 505 Fairbank IA 50629

email: icfairbank@gmail.com

website: <http://icfairbank.weebly.com/>
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~Kim Weepie, DRE & Youth Ministry~

PH: 319-240-5912 kim.weepie@gmail.com

DRE Office PH :319-635-2211

located in the Parish Center at 405 Fairbank St

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Jean Sauerbrei, Facility Rental Coordinator

PH: cell 319-296-8459

or email jmsauerbrei@yahoo.com



Pastor's Corner

April 28, 2024

“A Holy Society”

You may have been reading about the violence in Haiti recently. Street gangs are causing mayhem across that beautiful land, endangering both natives and tourists alike. Part of the reason for the chaos is that the gangs, which had been working apart, decided to band together toward the goal of taking over the country, and they have had success. Unity is great, but it must be unity for good in order to bear fruit pleasing to God. There was a gentleman from Haiti who can be a good example for us in this area.

Pierre Toussaint was born in 1766, in Haiti. He was a slave who fled to New York. He came with his so-called “masters,” the Berards, to New York, and later became famous for his service to the sick and poor. He was often treated with contempt, but responded with charity. He died in 1853, after a long life of loving service to his brothers and sisters.

In Acts of the Apostles, we are told, “*When Saul arrived back in Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples there, but it turned out that they were all afraid of him*” (Acts 9:26). To a degree, this was the same treatment given to Pierre Toussaint. Every day for sixty years, this man walked a long distance to Mass—in insufferable heat and freezing snow. Wealthy, white Catholics would pass by him in their carriages and refuse to give him a ride simply because he was black. Even though he was Catholic, they did not consider him to be “one of them.”

The church he attended nearly burned down, but Pierre helped raise the money to rebuild it. Then he went with some friends to the celebration of the church rededication. Sadly, he had to sit in back of church because he was black. Pierre Toussaint never allowed racial bigotry to cloud his judgment or dampen his spirit. He did his duty with love in his heart and commitment to doing God's will.

The *Catechism* tells us: “The vocation of humanity is to show forth the image of God and to be transformed into the image of the Father's only Son” (CCC 1877). We are here to know, love, and serve God in this life, and be happy with him in the next. As the *Catechism* puts it: “All . . . are called to the same end: God himself. There is a certain resemblance between the union of the divine persons and the fraternity that men are to establish among themselves in truth and love. Love of neighbor is inseparable from love of God” (1878). Pierre understood this truth deeply. His neighbors did not. Think of the beautiful witness those wealthy Catholics could have shown by picking up their fellow Catholic and sharing their carriage on the way to Holy Mass! Alas, it was not to be.

The *Catechism* further states: “The human person needs to live in society. Society is . . . a requirement of his nature. Through the exchange with others, mutual service, and dialogue with his brethren, man develops his potential; he thus responds to his vocation” (1879). That summarizes the life of Pierre Toussaint.

Jesus, using the image of the vine and branches in the Gospel (Jn. 15:1-8), reminds us of the organic connection we have with each other. In this Easter Season, may we bear witness to that connection by lifting each other up and serving each other's needs. **God Bless You!! Father Ray Atwood**

Parish Financial Support

Apr 21-25

Budget	\$2135
Offertory	\$327
Easter	\$100
Building Fund	\$215
Parish Center Debt	\$25



Thanks
for Your
Support!

Welcome Colleen Pasnik

Director of Mary's Inn Maternity Home

Please take a bottle and bring back with check or spare change before or on May 12. Goal is \$2500.00.

Another way to contribute is mail a check to

Mary's Inn Maternity Home

PO Box 3338

Dubuque, IA 52004-3338

Memo line **IC Fairbank**



Any questions, please contact Duane or Carma Schmidtke

Donut Sunday - Faith Formation Comm

Brief Presentation in the Parish Hall

Wapsie Valley FFA Omelet Breakfast

April 28 8-12PM Free Will Donation!!

Readlyn Elementary School Gym

Remember!

Pastoral Council Election May 12th

Elections Nomination Forms for Pastoral Council
are due next Sunday May 5

May 2024

Sat May 4 ~ First Sat Mass 8:30AM

Sat May 4 ~ Spring City Wide Garage Sale

Sat May 4 ~ Hall Rented Graduation Party

Sun May 5th - Peanut Butter Sunday

Sun May 5 ~ First Communion Mass at IC Church

Mon May 6 ~ Fairbank City Wide Clean-up Day

Tues May 7 ~ Card Bingo - Assisted Living 1:30PM

Wed May 8 ~ Faith Formation Mtg 7PM

Thurs May 9 ~ Parish Life Mtg 9:30AM

Thurs May 9 ~ KC Mtg 7PM

Fri May 10 ~ Hall Rented Graduation Party

Sat May 11 ~ Hall Rented Graduation Party

Sun May 12 ~ Class of 2024 Graduation Mass

Pastoral Council Election after Mass

Wed May 15 ~ Monthly Community Potluck 11:30AM

Wed May 22 ~ Pastoral/Finance Mtg 5:30PM

Fri May 24 ~ Hall Rented Graduation Party

Sat May 25 ~ Hall Rented Graduation Party



80+ Birthday

May 3 Elaine Ernst

May 9 Marilyn Steggall

50+ Years Anniversary

May 6 Denny & Paula Farrington

May 16 John & MaryLee Even

May 25 Curt & Kay Vorwald

Mass Intentions

Sun Apr 28 8:30 AM IC Michael & Jerry Shannon†
EM: Michelle Weepie, Diane Rourke
Altar Servers: Bailey & Hayden Szurley
Lector: Kevin Bodensteiner

Sun Apr 28 10:30AM SH For the People

Mon Apr 29 8:30AM SH Gary Stejskal †

Wed May 1 8:30AM IC David Beenken†

Thurs May 2 8:30 AM SH Anne Coselmant

Fri May 3 12:00 Noon SH NO Mass

Sat May 4 8:30AM IC Alexander J Smith†

Sat May 4 4:30PM SH Gary Gilsont

Sun May 5 8:30 AM IC For the People

EM: Joe & Cheryl Kleitsch

Altar Servers: Rachel & Wally Kaufman

Lector: Lori Beierschmitt

Sun May 5 10:30AM SH Felipe & Consuelo Ledesma†

Daryl & Frances Potter†

May 12, 2024 8:30 AM Mass

M: Deacon Jim EM: Julie Delagardelle

Altar Servers: Jensen Beck & Alivia Weepie

Lectors: Senior Class of 2024

April Ushers and Greeters

John W Even, Mitch Sauerbrei, Chad VanDaele

Mark & Donna Weepie, Rick Woods

May Ushers and Greeters

Bob Bellis, Adam Kaufman, Mike Buenzow,

Greg & Lori Beierschmitt, Tom Kleitsch

April Money Counters

Tom Kleitsch, Jean Sauerbrei

May Money Counters

Glenda Kane, Lynn Plaster

Thank you to all who gave memorial funds for the Easter flowers.

Now those lovely flowers are fading and are ready for new homes! Please adopt one today and take it home with you. You will find them in the choir room.

Called by Name to be a Child of God

Sawyer Elizabeth Ruehs

Daughter of John & Kayla (Even) Ruehs

Tate LeRoy Westemeier

& Isla Rae Westemeier

Children of Ryan & Kasey (Soldwisch) Westemeier

who has been given new life and welcomed

into God's family through the Sacrament of Baptism!

Congratulations!!



June 2 Riverside Gazebo Park
Mollie B Returns to IC Church, Fairbank

****10:30AM Outdoor Mass****

Lunch provided by NCCY
(free will donation)

1-3PM Mollie B performance

Gospel Reading

John 15:1-8

Jesus teaches that he is the vine and that his disciples are the branches.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's reading from the Gospel of John is part of Jesus' discourse at the Last Supper. Recall that John tells the story of Jesus' Last Supper differently from the other Evangelists. In John's Gospel, the Last Supper begins with Jesus washing his disciples' feet. Jesus then provides them with a series of instructions. We call this section the Last Supper discourse or Jesus' farewell discourse. In these chapters of John's Gospel, Jesus instructs his disciples about the importance of following his example of love and service, about the gift they will receive when Jesus sends them the Holy Spirit, and about their relationship with Jesus and with the world. The Last Supper discourse concludes with Jesus' prayer for his disciples.

Today's Gospel reading is taken from middle of the Last Supper discourse. Jesus speaks about his relationship to his disciples. In his metaphor of the vine and the branches, Jesus is referencing the Hebrew Scriptures. In the Hebrew Scriptures, Israel is the vineyard, and Yahweh himself tends the vineyard. One of the primary themes of John's Gospel is to show Jesus to be the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel.

In this passage, Jesus teaches his disciples that his relationship with them will not end after his death; he will remain with them always. This unity between Jesus and his disciples is the basis for their ability to continue to do the work that he began. Similarly, Jesus' presence with us through the Gift of the Holy Spirit enables us to continue the work of love and reconciliation that he began.

Jesus also teaches his disciples about the importance of the words he has taught to them. Just as Jesus will remain in the disciples, so too will his words. We come to know Jesus through the Scriptures, the living Word of God. Our commitment to be Christ's disciples is sustained through God's Word. This commitment is also strengthened by our life of prayer and nourished by the Eucharist. Through the Eucharist, Jesus dwells in us, remains with us, and transforms us so that we might bear fruit in his name.

We observe many people who act in ways that show their commitment to serve their neighbor. Christians and non-Christians feed the hungry, care for the sick, shelter the homeless, and give alms to the poor. These actions become acts of Christian discipleship when they are motivated by our relationship with Jesus. Whatever the immediate results, Jesus promises us that these actions will bear fruit when we undertake them in his name.



Save the Date: Totus Tuus will be at St. Athanasius, Jesup on July 7-12. Totus Tuus is a summer Catholic youth program for 1st-12th grade students. It not only teaches the faith through prayer and educational activities, but also through fun and games that your child is likely to look forward to year after year! Registration and more information will be coming soon. Please contact Lori Schutte at dbq109ff@dbqarch.org with any questions.

Question of the Week: 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?

Choose one of the following activities as a way to further reflect on the Sunday readings:

- Talk about ways we stay in contact with the vine that is Jesus. Do we take time every day to pray? How often do we read the Bible? Is there a quiet place where we can go sometimes to be alone with God? Are we fruitful vines?
- Discuss at the dinner table a good deed that you will do for someone this week. Ask each family member to talk about how he or she will help spread the kingdom of God.
- Take time to visit a parishioner who is not able to come to Mass on Sunday. Perhaps you can read the Sunday readings with the person.

MONDAY

April 29

St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

Acts 14:5-18

Jn 14:21-26

TUESDAY

April 30

Easter Weekday

Acts 14:19-28

Jn 14:27-31a

WeDNESDAY

May 1

Easter Weekday

Acts 15:1-6

Jn 15:1-8

THURSDAY

May 2

St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Acts 15:7-21

Jn 15:9-11

FRIDAY

May 3

Sts. Philip and James, Apostles

1 Cor 15:1-8

Jn 14:6-14

SATURDAY

May 4

Easter Weekday

Acts 16:1-10

Jn 15:18-21

SUNDAY

May 5

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:25-26,
34-35, 44-48

1 Jn 4:7-10

Jn 15:9-17

Bloom
where you
are
planted

