

Dear Friends,

We celebrate the Fifth Sunday of Easter this weekend. In St. John's Gospel, we hear of Jesus being the vine, and we are the branches. This is the time of year in which we plant. Think of a tomato plant. Out of the central vine comes many vines which bear great tomatoes. If one of the vines start looking a little less productive, we tend to that vine, nurse it along and soon it will be as strong as the rest of the plant. Jesus is our central vine from which we, the fruit bearing vines get our source of strength to flourish. Without Jesus, we will wither and die, as we have lost our source. With Jesus, we will stay strong and solid and be well nourished in our faith and be his disciples.

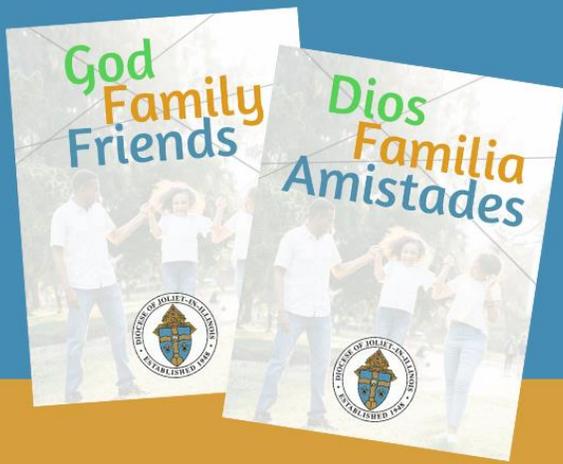
We begin the month of May this weekend, which is dedicated to Our Blessed Mother. Come and pray the Rosary together with our parish family on Thursday evenings-beginning on May 6th-at 6pm.

Our third graders in religious education will receive the Sacrament of Eucharist for the first time this Saturday, May 1st. Please keep them in your prayers, this weekend and always!

Attached is God, Family, Friends to use with your children, grandchildren, or neighbors in your Domestic Church. If you wish to attend one of our weekend liturgies, go to our parish website and click on "Reserve A Seat" to register you and your family. Join us!! We would love pray with you in person during this Easter Season.

Our Mother of Good Counsel, Pray For Us!

~Janet



Helping families focus on what matters most

5th Sunday of Easter

Theme: I am the true vine, you are the branches;
remain in me and you will bear fruit

GOD

Mass

Our weekend Mass is now livestreamed. Check our parish website for the link; www.omgccc.org. Click on "Livestream Available" or you can go directly to our Vimeo link, <https://vimeo.com/omgc>, where you can view our weekend Mass. Join us in person by registering through our parish website, simply click on "Reserve A Seat", choose your Mass time, enter your information and you will be registered



Readings

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/050221.cfm>

Gospel Video

<https://youtu.be/btojLhvXzUc>

Sunday Lectio Divina Guide

<https://catholicdotbible.files.wordpress.com/2021/03/easter-5-1.pdf>

FAMILY

Coloring Page: <https://christianpreschoolprintables.com/wp-content/uploads/CPP/BibleABC/Coloring/ColoringV.pdf>

Vine and branches fruit craft: <https://youtu.be/OhqBdOdfSg4>

Jesus vine games lesson:

<http://www.gloriadeikids.org/uploads/Jesus%20Vine%20Games%20Lesson.pdf>

Dinner Conversation:

Jesus tells us this week that he will always be connected with us if we stay connected with him. The Eucharist, in which wine becomes "our spiritual drink", is the ongoing sign of connection to Jesus. It's no accident that he uses the fruit of the vine to become his lifeblood in us. (During the pandemic we have not been able to share the cup, but we believe that the whole Eucharist is contained in each of the two "species" - the bread and the wine.)

Place a plant in the middle of your family table. Notice how there is a main stem, from which smaller branches grow. Explain to your children that when a branch is cut from a tree or large plant, that branch withers and dies. (We bet they have seen that.)

- How connected are we to Jesus?
- Have we been physically (or virtually) attending Mass?
- What have we missed about going to Mass if we have not been going?
- Why is it important to receive the Eucharist?

If any of your children are preparing for First Communion, be sure to follow through on any at-home preparation and to make sure your child knows how important this is, even though it may look a little different this year.

FRIENDS

It's Planting Time!

Time to plant a garden! New life and beauty are just around the corner. Maybe this is the year to plant a garden, or at least a few pots of outdoor plants or flowerboxes to show that your family has hope and trust in a future in which things can again be normal. Flowers will bloom, vegetable plants will produce food - planting a garden is a sign that you believe there will be goodness in the future.

Connecting with the Branches

How connected are we to other branches on Jesus' vine - our pastor, priests, deacons, staff and other Catholic families in our parish? Is it time to check in? Send a card, a child's drawing or make a caring phone call to someone in your parish you have not seen for a while, asking how they are doing - and letting them know you miss them.

Mary: Jesus' Mother is our Friend!

May is the traditional month to honor Mary. We can do that at home by praying the rosary as a family, having a family May Crowning, or planting a "Mary garden." Here are some activities:

With children

<https://www.catholicicing.com/honoring-mary-in-the-month-of-may-with-kids/>

Mary Mother of God Kit: <https://go.sadlier.com/religion/mary-mother-of-god-kit>