

Seeking to be Pruned

Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year B)

Jesus said to his disciples: "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. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you." [John 15:1-3](#)

Pruning a vine is an important part of helping it to grow and produce not only more fruit but the best fruit. If left unpruned, a grape vine will eventually produce less fruit and poorer quality fruit. Good pruning helps to direct the nourishment of the vine to the new buds that are most fruitful. Jesus' teaching above uses the imagery of pruning a vine to help us understand that faith must lead to charity. First, Jesus says that He is the "true vine." He is the only source of the nourishment we need for the new life of grace. He is the only way to Heaven and salvation. Knowing our Lord and being attached to Him firmly is faith. Second, our Lord says that He takes away every branch that does not bear fruit. This indicates that faith without the good fruit of charity is dead and is like a branch on a vine that produces nothing. Third, when Jesus finds a branch that bears good fruit, he doesn't leave it alone. Instead, He prunes it with loving attention so that "it bears more fruit."

To apply these teachings to your own life, begin by looking at your faith as if it were a branch firmly attached to a vine. Do you believe all that God has spoken through His holy Word? It is useful to regularly examine your conscience in regard to your faith. Since faith is the first step in the spiritual life, it must remain firmly grounded in the Truth God has revealed. This means we must regularly study the Word of God as it is revealed through the Scriptures and the catechetical teachings of the Church, and assent to those teachings with all our mind.

Next, after affirming your faith in all that God has spoken through the Scriptures and the Church, try to examine your charity. Do you see concrete acts of love in your life that result from your faith? In other words, we can "love" many things in a purely emotional sort of way. But charity is based on faith, not on how we feel. Charity is the fruit of faith. What acts of charity can you point to in your life? What have you sensed God calling you to do in a selfless and sacrificial way? Have you done it?

Finally, when you discover the ways that charity is alive within you, know that God will focus His pruning there. Pruning can be painful. It will require sacrifice, patience in the face of trial, overcoming selfishness, and doing things you don't feel like doing. In fact, sometimes God even makes charitable acts seem unpleasant as a way of pruning your motivations and making them more pure, based more on faith than on emotion. But this is good.

Reflect, today, upon this holy imagery from Jesus. It's a lesson from nature that reveals the supernatural life of grace at work. Don't be deterred by the pruning God wants to do. Embrace suffering with love, respond to injustice with forgiveness, offer mercy when you don't feel like it, and seek to serve selflessly those who seem undeserving. Doing so will prune you so that God will be able to build up His Kingdom in glorious ways through you.

... continued on the inside ...

Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish

April 28, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter



Parish Staff:

Parish Office: 509-723-1459

Parish email:

stannemedicallake@gmail.com

Parish website:

www.westplainscatholicparishes.org

Father Michael Ishida, Pastor

Father Peter Miller

Evie Noder, Parish Bookkeeper

Michele Flynn, Office Admin

Sacramental Emergencies – 509-998-7093

Pastoral Council

Father Ishida, Pat Whipple, Janet Whipple,,

Mario Cruz, Danielle Treis, Father Miller

Finance Council

Father Ishida, Eric Hanson

Physical Address: 200 W. Alder, Sprague, WA 99032

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 125, Medical Lake, WA 99022

Holy Mass and Sacraments Schedule

Sunday Mass: 10:30 am

12:30 pm English Mass

Daily Mass During Lent:

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays – Low Mass @ 7:00 am

Wednesdays & Fridays—Sung Mass @ 10:15 am

Saturdays—Low Mass @ 7:00 am

Reconciliation: Sundays at 10:00 am

Baptism and Holy Matrimony:

The family should be registered and active at Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish for a least three months prior to Baptism or Holy Matrimony. Couples are engaged to marry need to contact Fr. Ishida at least four months prior to the wedding date for marriage preparation.

Anointing of the Sick:

Please contact Father Ishida.

Parish Office:

Please email or leave voice message.

FORMED.org—“The Catholic NetFlicks

Step 1. **Sign up as a Parishioner (it's FREE)** : search for **St. Anne Medical Lake**

Step 2. Then enter your name and create a password.

welcome

to our parish

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Wednesday, May 1, 2024, 5:30 PM

St. Peregrine Prayer Service - Cathedral, Spokane
St. Peregrine Prayer Service - Prayer for healing for those and their families affected by cancer.

Wednesday, May 1, 2024, 7:00 PM

Young Adult First Wednesday Adoration,

St. Francis Xavier Parish

Adoration and Confession are available. Spokane Catholic Young Adult's Social to follow

Thursday, May 2, 2024, 7:00-8:00 PM

Holy Hours for Vocations - Bishop White Seminary
Join Cor Christi and Bishop White Seminary communities and the Serra Club of Spokane in a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration for the holy vocations and spiritual healing in our diocese. Holy Hour occurs monthly on the vigil of the 1st Friday.

Friday, May 3, 2024, 7:00 PM

First Friday Charismatic Mass & Social
- Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Spokane
Praise @ 7:00, Mass @ 7:30; Fellowship following.
You are welcome to bring a snack to share. More information, call Arlette 509-979-2255

Thursday, May 7, 2024, 7:00 PM

Tolton: From Slave to Priest - Cathedral, Spokane
A Saint Luke Production.

A live drama performance on the remarkable life of the Venerable Father Augustus Tolton, America's first African American Priest.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR APRIL/MAY

| | | |
|----|-----------|-----------------|
| 28 | Sunday | Pro Populo |
| 29 | Monday | |
| 30 | Tuesday | |
| 01 | Wednesday | Harry Teaford † |
| 02 | Thursday | |
| 03 | Friday | |
| 04 | Saturday | |
| 05 | Sunday | Pro Populo |

St. Anne ... Pray for us!

Mary, Queen of Heaven ... Pray for us!

Seeking to be Pruned

Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year B)

Continued from back

Jesus, most glorious Vine, You and You alone are the source of all nourishment in life. From You all good things come. Help me to have a firm faith in You and all that You have revealed, so that this faith will bud forth and bring about an abundance of good fruit for the glorious building up of Your Kingdom. Jesus, I trust in You.

“The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus.”

St. John Vianney



Save the Date:

2024 Middle School Camp



“To the Heights”

August 11-16, 2024

Shoshone Mountain Retreat, Idaho

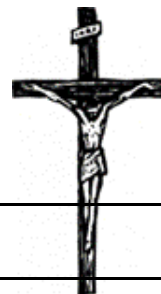
Current 6th –8th Graders

Registration opens May 1 @ 7:00 am

\$50 deposit required

Cost \$400—more info coming soon

Check dioceseofspokane.org



Welcome to Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish To all visitors who are joining us for worship today. May your time with us be grace-filled and may the Lord Jesus bless you and your loved ones today and every day.

Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish

Weekend Mass Schedule:

During Lent: Low Mass Saturdays @ 7:00 am
Sundays @ 10:30 am - confession @ 10:00 am
12:30 pm

Daily Mass Schedule During Lent:

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays – Low Mass @ 7:00 am
Wednesdays & Fridays—Sung Mass @ 10:15 am



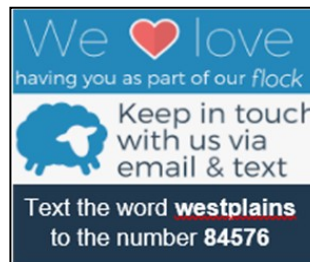
All Diocesan Priests, including Father Ishida will be on Retreat May 6–9 and May 13-17

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests. Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments. Help our priests to be strong in their vocation. Set their souls on fire with love for your people. Amen

FORMED.org

JOIN for free!

Directions on front of the bulletin
Catholic “net flicks”.



Seven Sisters Apostolate

That our prayers may find the heart of every priest and bishop.



A call to strengthen the Church by ensuring that a Holy Hour is prayed each day of the week for the sole intention of a specific priest or bishop—a “holy wasting” (cf. Mt. 26:10) or lavishing of prayer for his deeper conformity to Christ.

Please contact Linda Pearson if you are interested in joining her at 509-879-0753 or email sookiesue@msn.com

Seven Sisters Apostolate meet after 9:00 am Mass at St. Anne Parish, Medical Lake. For all those interested —Please join us in the Church.

Pilgrimage to the National Eucharistic Congress

INDIANAPOLIS
JULY 17 - 21, 2024

with Bishop Thomas Daly and
the Diocese of Spokane



Participate in this pivotal moment in the Church and draw into a deeper intimacy with our Lord. Join our diocese by registering today! Scan the QR code or click Book Now to attend this historic event.



[BOOK NOW!](#)



NATIONAL
Eucharistic
Congress

Adult Pricing*

\$1,049

Triple/Quad

\$1,249

Double

\$1,749

Single

*Price reflects an early booking discount of \$100 for registrations made before January 22nd

Family Pricing

-\$200

off prices above for children ages 3-12

FREE

for lap children (0-2) when rooming with two paying adults in double occupancy

A CATHOLIC EXPERIENCE UNLIKE ANY OTHER

Join your Catholic brothers and sisters at the 10th National Eucharistic Congress. This historic 5-day gathering of missionary disciples will be a new Pentecost, a powerful anointing and personal commission to invite others to know Christ.

Tour Inclusions

- NEC Congress Pass
- Four nights' accommodations in Indianapolis
- Continental breakfast daily (pending hotel assignment)
- Daily transportation from hotel to the Indianapolis Convention Center and Lucas Oil Stadium
- Gratuities payable to motorcoach drivers



Tour Does Not Include

- Meals and beverages not specifically identified
- Items not specifically mentioned above

3 Step Registration Process

1. Scan the QR Code on the cover of the flyer or click [HERE](#) to access our online registration site.
2. Follow the prompts to enter your personal information, select your rooming configuration, enter payment information, and acknowledge our terms and conditions.
3. Upon completion, you will receive a confirmation email with your diocesan code and a video tutorial providing instructions for finalizing your registration on the official National Eucharistic Congress' website.



Payment Schedule:

\$250 per person deposit due upon registration

\$500 per person due December 31, 2023

Remaining balance due April 17, 2024

All payments are non-refundable. By registering for this tour, you understand and agree to CTS Terms and Conditions and accept our CTS Liability Release. All cancellations must be received in writing.

Travel Insurance: Cancel for any reason ("CFAR") travel protection is highly recommended

See Travel Insured link: www.travelinsured.com/agency?agency=47907&p=CTS21

Cost does NOT include airfare.



866.468.1420 | NEC@CTSCENTRAL.NET

