



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

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF CYCLONE—MARAK

St. Joseph, Cyclone & Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Marak

Pastor: Rev. RanJan Cletus

Mailing address: 20120 FM 485, Burlington, TX 76519.....**Phone** 254-985-2280

Email: cyclone.marak@gmail.com **Website:** marakchurch.org

Masses: Cyclone: Saturday 5:30PM & Sunday 8:15AM; Weekdays: Tues., Thurs & Friday: 7AM

Marak: Sundays: 10:15AM and Wednesday 5:30PM(unless otherwise stated)

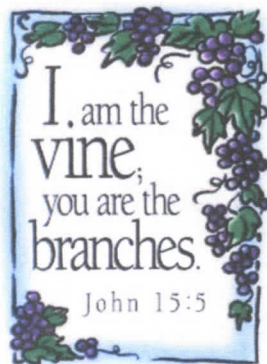
The Sacraments:

Baptism: On Sundays after Mass. Please contact the pastor to schedule a meeting with him; a preparation program may be needed. Parents must be registered parishioners of St. Joseph, Cyclone or Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Marak.

Confessions: Before Mass on the weekend and anytime by appointment.

Marriage: Couples planning to be married should contact the pastor at least six months in advance before you set the date of the wedding. Completion of required paperwork and a preparation program needed.

APRIL 28, 2024 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us that He is the true vine that God intended Israel to be—the source of divine life and wisdom for the nations (see [Sirach 24:17–24](#)). In Baptism, each of us was joined to Him by the Holy Spirit. As a branch grows from a tree, our souls are to draw life from Him, nourished by His word and the Eucharist.

Paul in today's First Reading seeks to be grafted onto the visible expression of Christ the true vine—His Church. Once the chief persecutor of the Church, Paul encounters initial resistance and suspicion. But he is known by his fruits, by his powerful witness to the Lord working in his life (see [Matthew 7:16–20](#)).

We too are commanded today to bear good fruits as His disciples so that our lives give glory to God. Like Paul's life, our lives must bear witness to His goodness. Jesus cautions us, however, that if we're bearing fruit, we can expect that God will "prune" us—as a gardener trims and cuts back a plant so that it will grow stronger and bear even more fruit. He is teaching us today how to look at our sufferings and trials with the eyes of faith. We need to see our struggles as pruning, by which we are being disciplined and trained so that we can grow in holiness and bear fruits of righteousness (see [Hebrews 12:4–11](#)). We need to always remain rooted in Him, as today's Epistle tells us. We remain in Him by keeping His commandment of love, by pondering His words, letting them dwell richly in us (see [Colossians 3:16](#)), and by always seeking to do what pleases Him. In everything we must be guided by humility, remembering that apart from Him we can do nothing.

As we sing in today's Psalm, we must fulfill our vows, turning to the Lord in worship, proclaiming his praises, until all families come to know His justice in their lives.

Bulletin Information: MARAK: Irene Kaulfus (254-248-2069) ikaulfus15@gmail.com

CYCLONE: Nancy Posvar (254-913-2696)

Bulletin deadline : Please call or e-mail info by Wednesday before the weekend!

MINISTRIES FOR MAY 5, 2024

Rosary: Lynne Hornung

Lector: Brad Vaculin

Ushers: Chester Hays & Raymond Tomek

Eucharistic Minister: Cindy Prcin

Offertory: Robert & Vicki Plachy

Servers: Cade & Cutter



Sanctuary Light: April 29th—May 5th: John & Hattie Tomek by Ronald & Irene Kaulfus

Prayer Chain... Please pray for Barbara Vansa McNeill, Martha Hubnik, Brandon Lewis (Cousin to the Tomek Family), Dorothy Vansa, Laddie Dohnalik, Joseph Ribar, Kay & Ed Moraw and Paulette Foster and those in need in the Book of Prayers. Prayers are powerful as we pray daily for those in need. To be added to the prayer chain:

Please contact: Merlene Slavik—254-697-1247 or email—Slavik@farm-market.net

MARAK MASSES—April 28, 2024—May 5, 2024

Date	Time	Mass Intentions
Today—4/28	10:15am	+ Stanley Hubnik by Alice Vrazel + Jennifer Pelzel by Rebecca Barton
5/1—Wednesday	5:30pm	+ Stanley Hubnik by Cecelia Marak + Rosalie Kostroun by Louis & Mary Frances Vansa
5/5—Sunday	10:15am	+ Valeria Kostiha by Johnny & Donna Dohnalik + Jerry Wade by Robert & Vicki Plachy In honor of Mike & Janice Marek's 40th Wedding Anniversary

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

- **CONFIRMATION:** Congratulations to all that will be confirmed Tuesday, April 30th, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Cyclone. Blessings to: Claire Kopriva, Savannah Dorskocil, Kenley Harris, Garrison Prcin, Patryn Hunt, Carter Dorskocil, and Landon Moraw. May God continue to bless you and your faith in God.
- **MAY 19TH — ORDINATION CELEBRATION FOR FR. RANJAN:** The Cyclone and Marak Parishes will be joining hands to have a Celebration Luncheon for Fr. Ranjan's 40th Ordination on May 19th at Marak Parish Hall after Mass. All are encouraged to come and support Father Ranjan at this special time in his life and priesthood. The parishes will provide meat and Marak families are asked to bring covered dish veggies. Cyclone families will be providing deserts. There is a signup sheet in the church entry.
- **SCHOLARSHIP:** St. Anne's Altar Society is sponsoring a scholarship for graduating high school seniors. Applications are in the church entry.
- **PICNIC RAFFLE:** Our homecoming picnic has been a very successful fundraiser because you have been so **GENEROUS!** We are a little over four months away from our 2024 picnic (September 8th). We are asking for your help again this year. Please consider donating a prize (or help sponsor a prize) for the raffle. Contact Kelly Laurence (254-931-5992) or Julie Motyka (254-722-0394) if you would like to donate. Thank you for all that you do to make our picnic successful.

4-21: Sunday Offering: \$1,291.00 Children's Offering: \$8.00
Building Fund: \$25.00

Dear Padre,

Several months ago my son died in a tragic car accident. Life, work, family, and even religion seem so meaningless now. How can I find my way back?

You have suffered a great loss. When you are able, you can choose to live in a way that will respect both your son's memory and your own ongoing life. Here are a few gentle steps that might help.



- Expect to feel numb at first. This is nature's way of helping you deal with your loss. Keep following the normal patterns of your life and, eventually, meaning will return.
- Allow your friends to help. "Sorrows shared are sorrows lessened."
- If you are sad, let the tears come! Even Jesus cried at the death of his friend Lazarus (John 11:32–35).
- If you are angry, look for a healthy release. Focus the energy of your anger into productive work, even if it's just doing dishes or yard work.
- Use your experience to help others. While helping others, the Lord often reveals to us the meaning of our own losses.
- Don't be afraid to seek professional help. A therapist has the expertise to help you talk about your loss and cope with your grief.
- Pray for yourself, for your son, for all whose lives he touched, for all those who are grieving.
- After you have done everything you can, leave your loss in God's hands. The Lord will do for you what you cannot do for yourself. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
April 29 <i>St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church</i> Acts 14:5–18 Jn 14:21–26	April 30 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 14:19–28 Jn 14:27–31a	May 1 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 15:1–6 Jn 15:1–8	May 2 <i>St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</i> Acts 15:7–21 Jn 15:9–11	May 3 <i>Sts. Philip and James, Apostles</i> 1 Cor 15:1–8 Jn 14:6–14	May 4 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 16:1–10 Jn 15:18–21	May 5 <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i> Acts 10:25–26, 34–35, 44–48 1 Jn 4:7–10 Jn 15:9–17



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Jesus needs us, like the vine with the branches. Perhaps to say this may seem bold to us, and so let us ask ourselves: in what sense does Jesus need us? He needs our witness. The fruit that as branches we must bear, is the witness of our lives as Christians.

REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 2, 2021