

[Jesus said,]
"I am the vine,
you are the branches.
Whoever remains in me and
I in him will bear much fruit."

JOHN 15:5

ALEXANDER VORONOV / SHUTTERSTOCK

In or Not at All

The little word *in* appears eleven times in the Greek text of today's short passage from John's Gospel (ten times in most translations), and it has the same meaning in all cases. It refers to an intimate relationship: We are in Christ; Christ is in us. This being *in* does not mean "inside," like being in a room or in a country. It means being an intimate aspect of something, like the relationship of a branch to the vine. Perhaps a way of understanding this intimacy is to remember that the branch cannot exist by itself, and there is no vine if there are no branches. We cannot be partially in. We are either in or out.

If we want to live and thrive, we must cherish and protect our relationship with Christ, who is our source of life and nourishment. Otherwise we risk being nothing more than dead branches, the usefulness of which is mere fodder for the fire. This sounds

like a harsh punishment. However, it is not really punishment. Rather, it is the inevitable consequence of cutting ourselves off from our supply of life-giving nourishment. Furthermore, being cut off does not happen accidentally; we choose it deliberately.

Finally, this metaphor of vines and branches is an image of the Church. Though each of us, by grace, is "in Christ," our source of life, the risen life of Christ surges through members of his body. Thus, when we are united to Christ by grace, we live in him as Christ lives in all of us.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ✧ Think for a moment of the ways Christ lives in you.
- ✧ Now think of how you might live in Christ.

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: Sat. 5:30PM & Sun. 8:15AM; Weekdays: Tue, 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 for scheduling 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.

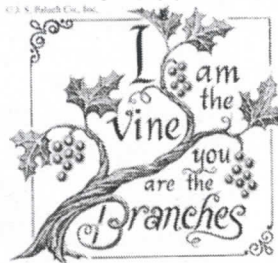
MAY 2, 2021— FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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.



4/25: Stewardship: Sunday Offering: \$1,580.00

4/25: Children's Offering: \$23.00

Thank you for Your Generosity!

Bulletin Information: **MARAK:** Patsy Gaines (254-482-0570) - Email—pagaines2002@yahoo.com

CYCLONE: Nancy Posvar (254-913-2696)

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

Ministries for May 9, 2021

Eucharistic Minister: Debra Vansa

Lector: Janice Marek

Altar Servers: Gracie, Carter, Tessa

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Rosary: Raymond Tomek

Offertory: Greg & Mary Hoelscher

Ushers: Raymond Tomek & George Tomek

Sanctuary Light: May 3rd- 9th: First Communicants by St. Ann's Altar Society

Prayer Chain... Please remember in your daily prayers the faithfully departed, those souls in purgatory, those of our community that are in special need of prayer, those who are homebound or in nursing homes, all those in the military and to all those who have been affected by the Covid-19 Virus and also that the vaccine for the corona virus will help to stop this pandemic & for the following: Colt Charanza, Baby Townes Bush, Paulette Hubnik Foster, Carolyn Klecka, Edward Brenek, Jr., Marilyn June Gonzalez, and Doris Matocha. Prayers are powerful!

To be added to the prayer chain:

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

MARAK MASSES —May 2-9, 2021

		Mass Intentions
Date	Time	
Today - 5/2	10:15am	+ Joe Vansa by Kevin & Anna Givens + Albina Vrazel by Richard & Betty Brenek + James June by Dennis & Carolyn Lazek
5/9—Sunday	10:15am	+ Gene Vaculin by Dolly & Bernard Hyzak + Henry Hubnik Sr. by Family + Daniel Hromcik by Victor & Mary Jane Balcar

CYCLONE MASSES —May 2-9, 2021

		Mass Intentions
Date	Time	
Today - 5/2	8:15am	+ Evelyn Green by Lois & David Skala
5/4—Tuesday	7:00am	Communion Service
5/6—Thursday	7:00am	Communion Service
5/7—Friday	7:00am	Communion Service
5/8—Saturday Vigil	5:30pm	+ Patrick Geistman by Sandra & Henry Mayo
5/9—Sunday	8:15am	+ Royella Roessler by Nelda & Larry Fritz & Louise Thompson

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

- **TODAY:** Second Collection for Building and Maintenance Fund.
- **MAY 5TH:** Altar Society Meeting at the Milam County Museum at 9am.
- **FOR YOUR INFORMATION:** Letter received from Bishop Vasquez—Effective May 23, 2021, Pentecost Sunday, the temporary protocols for the celebration of the sacraments initiated during the COVID-19 pandemic will be rescinded and the temporary dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass, which the Bishop granted because of the pandemic, will be lifted. Bishop Vasquez joyfully invites all Catholics back to In-Person participation in the sacraments and the life of the parish.
- **DEEPEST SYMPATHY:** The parish would like to express our deepest sympathy to Martha Tomek for the passing of her sister, Emma Vasicek. May God continue to watch over her and the family during this time of her loss.
- **EASTER LILIES:** Easter Lilies are in the East Altar room—please take one home and plant it in your yard.

Dear Padre,

Why is the Church considering a word change to the Our Father? It seems fine as it is.

Of the two versions of the Lord's Prayer in Luke 11:2-4 and Matthew 6:9-13, Luke's is more concise. The petition, "and lead us not into temptation" in Greek means both "do not allow us to enter into temptation" and "do not let us yield to temptation" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2846). The *Catechism* includes the explanation from James 1:13: "God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one," to certify that God "wants to set us free from evil. We ask him not to allow us to take the way that leads to sin." Consequently, Pope Francis reportedly approved the English wording, "do not let us fall into temptation" to replace "lead us not into temptation."

"It is not a good translation because it speaks of a God who induces temptation," the Pope said in 2017. "I am the one who falls. It's not him pushing me into temptation to then see how I have fallen." On the contrary, "a father helps you to get up immediately," he added. "It's Satan who leads us into temptation—that's his department."

However, unlike the change in the Italian Lord's Prayer that will appear in their third edition of *The Roman Missal*, no immediate plans have been made to change the wording in English-speaking countries.

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



THE TEMPTATION OF CHRIST BY THE DEVIL, BY FELIX JOSEPH BARBIAS, 1860 / INWIREDA

A WORD FROM Pope Francis

Let us not forget that the Our Father is the prayer of the poor. Our asking for bread expresses our entrustment to God for our basic needs in life. Everything that Jesus taught us in this prayer expresses and brings together the cry of all who suffer from life's uncertainties.

FIRST WORLD DAY OF THE POOR, NOVEMBER 19, 2017



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Calendar

Monday

MAY 3

Sts. Philip and James,
Apostles

1 Cor 15:1-8

Jn 14:6-14

Tuesday

MAY 4

Easter Weekday

Acts 14:19-28

Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday

MAY 5

Easter Weekday

Acts 15:1-6

Jn 15:1-8

Thursday

MAY 6

Easter Weekday

Acts 15:7-21

Jn 15:9-11

Friday

MAY 7

Easter Weekday

Acts 15:22-31

Jn 15:12-17

Saturday

MAY 8

Easter Weekday

Acts 16:1-10

Jn 15:18-21

Sunday

MAY 9

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:25-26,

34-35, 44-48

1 Jn 4:7-10

Jn 15:9-17

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