



The Pruning Process

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

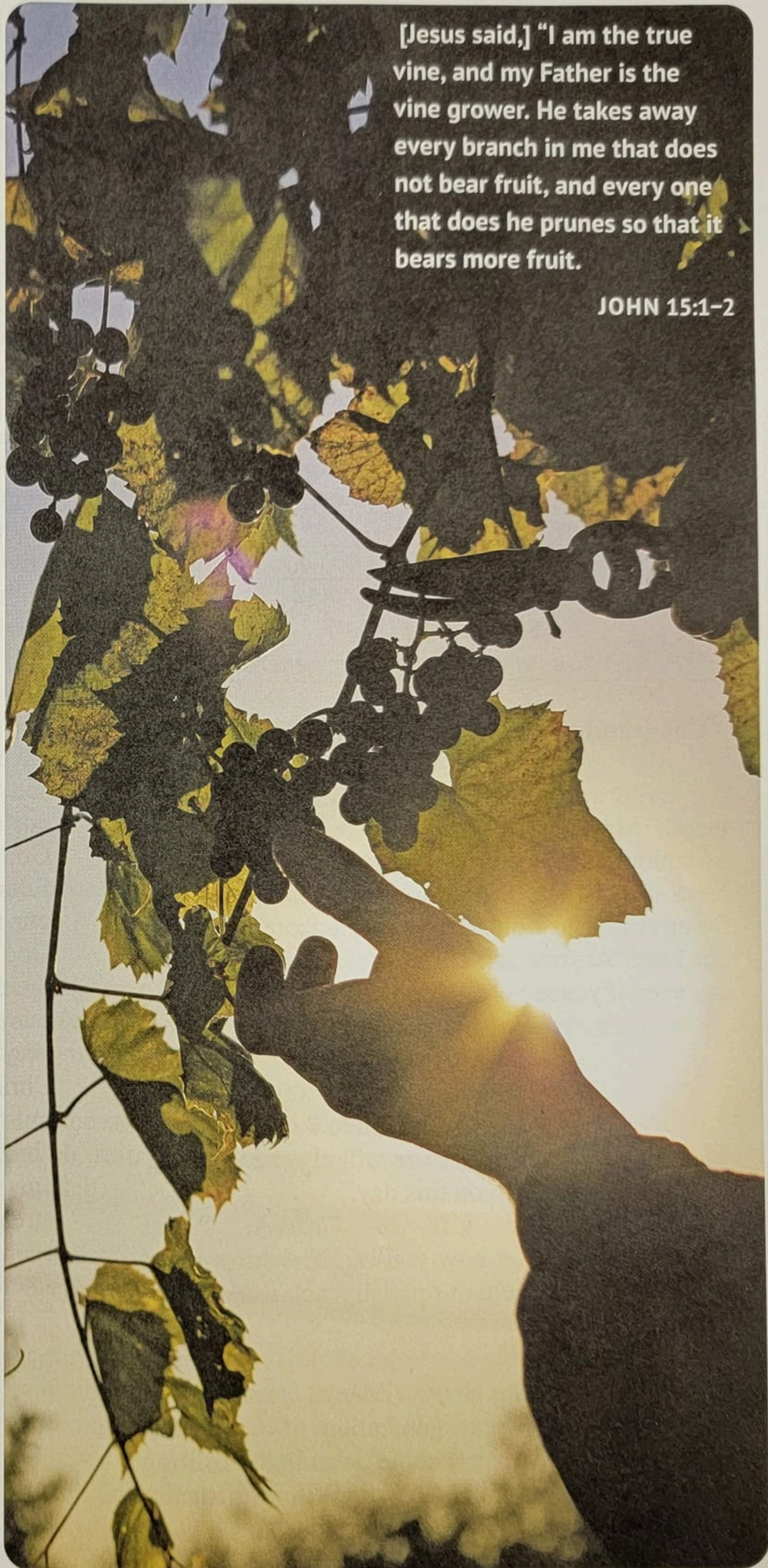
The common myth is that we receive a new body every seven years as cells die and are replaced. However, stomach cells are renewed every two days or so because of acids and enzymes. Skin cells are replaced every two to three weeks. Bone cells last about ten years, and our brain cells stay with us for 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

Immaculate Conception-Our Lady of Guadalupe Church

April 28, 2024

5th Sunday of Easter

Mass Times: Sunday, 8:00 AM & 12:00 AM (Espanol).

Weekdays: Tuesday 6:00 PM, Thursday: 8:00 AM

First Friday of the month 10:00 AM, First Saturday of the month 9:00 AM

Reconciliation/Confession: Fr. Marek is available for confession before Masses or by appointment

Parish e-mail (to contact Fr. Marek) icccgilman@gmail.com

PH 815-265-7236

For our parish website go to: icgilman.cc

April 28, 8:00 AM +**Janice Clark**

April 30, 6:00 PM +**Janice Clark**

May 02, 8:00 AM Special intention

May 03, 10:00 AM 1st **Friday Mass & Devotion**

May 04, 9:00 AM 1st **Saturday Mass & Devotion**

April 28, 8:00 AM Special Intention

Collection(s) Last Week:

Sunday: April 21, 2024

8:00 Mass \$788.47

Thank you very much for your generosity!

Congratulations to all Confirmation students!

Adoration: on the first Thursday of each month (**May 02**) after 8 am Mass, we will be having adoration. Please consider spending an hour with Jesus on this day, the sign-up sheet is on the table for anyone who would like to participate in adoring our Lord. Anyone can come at any time during the day even if you are not signed up.

IW FFA Greenhouse:

May 2nd and 3rd, 4:00 to 7:00

May 9th and 10th, 4:00 to 7:00

May 11th, 10:00 to 2:00, there will also be a petting zoo on this day.

Pledge your gift to CMAA. Please prayerfully reflect on how you can best support our annual appeal and help our parish reach it \$6,300.00 GOAL.

Parental Survival: Many parents are worried about the next generation of Christians. They see many young people seemingly drifting away from the faith. People ask: Will Christianity and the Church be around in the future? It's a good question to ponder. But one important aspect of this

whole matter is our willingness to let God do God's part as we do our part as parents. What's the role of parents in passing on the faith? First of all, we are to live our faith so that its meaning and joy will be evident to others, especially to our children. "Witness" is a powerful word that basically means, "living our faith." We can also talk about our faith with our children in words they can understand, especially connecting it with daily life. Prayer can also be a powerful way of expressing our faith. Then there's God's part. Unfortunately, we parents don't have an inside view of God's workings. We have to trust in God. That's very important when we see our children moving in a direction that we may not approve of or understand. God loves all of us. God wants everyone to have a life of spiritual fullness. After we have done all we can to pass on our faith to our children, then we let God do what God does. Results can vary, as we all know. But in the end, we must trust in God and in those we love, our children. That's no small challenge. Faith can be very challenging. Ask those who first saw the Risen Christ. Their first question was not, do we believe? but rather, Is this a ghost?

One Line Prayer: Heavenly Father, strengthen our faith in your love. Help us to support each other on our individual faith journeys. Amen

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Bulletin announcements: Please e-mail Lois at lhayslett@frontier.com

RE Coordinator: Krista Albrecht

Phone # 815-383-4685

RE Assistant Coordinator: Elisa Salazar

Phone # 815-258-3150

Parish Hall Rental: Maribel Melgoza # 815-592-9380

ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

April 28, 10:00 AM Special intention
May 01, 5:30 PM **No Mass**
May 03, 8:00 AM 1st Friday Mass & Devotion
May 05, 10:00 AM For parishioners

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:
John Richardson, Peg Bargmann, Pat Donnelly, George & Ella Wilkey,
Kate Schwartz, Gery Brown, Kirk Rock

Lector: May 05, John Kidwell

Collection: April 21, \$515.00

CMAA St. Peter Parish goal: \$1,900.00.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ROBERTS

April 27, 5:00 PM **For healing of Bonnie Mugnolo**
May 04, 5:00 PM Special Intention

Lector: May 04, Lois Hayslett

Collection: April 20, \$187.00

2024 Immaculate Conception (Roberts) goal: \$1,100.00

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned."

We can't help focusing on the almost apocalyptic nature of the statement. And in another passage of the gospel, we recall when Jesus cursed the fig tree because it offered no fruit. But at its root, this passage in the Gospel of John is about being part of something greater than just yourself.

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

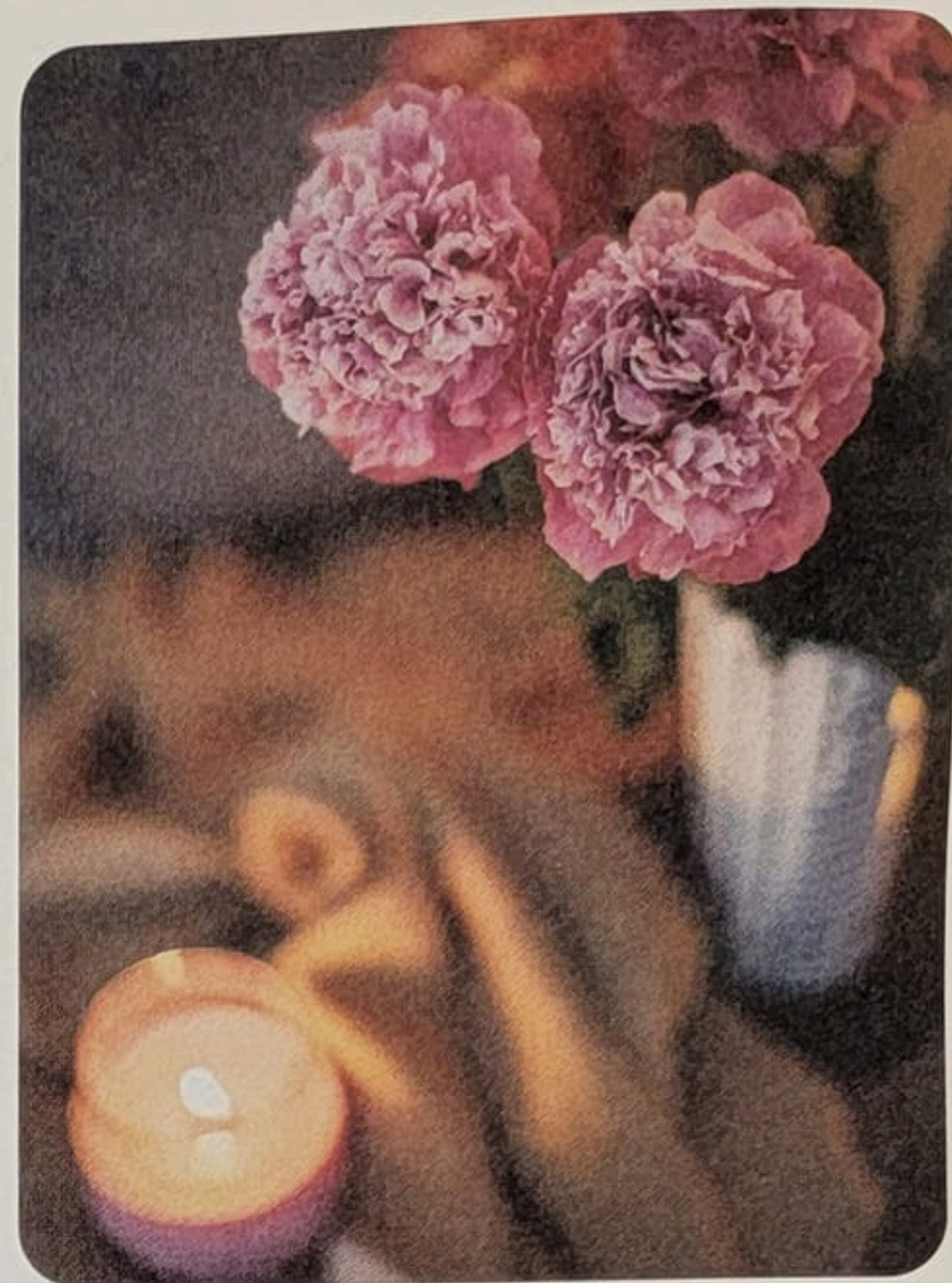
Here Jesus is describing his relationship both to his father and to his disciples. But the relational view holds when we step further back and remember Jesus and his relation to the Father and the Holy Spirit in the concept of the trinity. It too is fundamentally relational. This is a striking way for Jesus to prompt his disciples to keep the commandments, which he does in the passage immediately after today's readings. And in the end, it's in keeping his commandments that our fruit is ultimately born on this vine of Christ. *John W. Farrell*

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	April 30	May 1	May 2	May 3	May 4	May 5
<i>St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</i>	<i>Sts. Philip and James, Apostles</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i>
Acts 14:5-18 Jn 14:21-26	Acts 14:19-28 Jn 14:27-31a	Acts 15:1-6 Jn 15:1-8	Acts 15:7-21 Jn 15:9-11	1 Cor 15:1-8 Jn 14:6-14	Acts 16:1-10 Jn 15:18-21	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