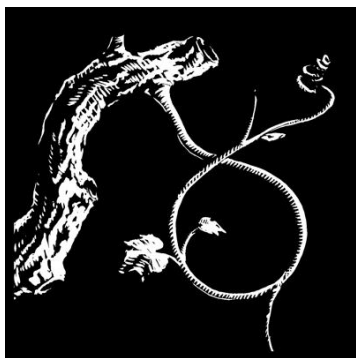


April 29, 2018

Fifth Sunday of Easter



Live On In Me And Bear Fruit!

Jesus used the symbol of the vine and the branches to explain his relationship with his own. As with any vine, the true vine and its branches would require regular pruning in order to be fruitful. They will remain in Jesus and his words will remain in them. Those who choose not to remain in Jesus will bear no fruit, and as a consequence will be lopped off the vine and fed to the fire. Fruitfulness or Fire: that choice remains ours.



Flowers for the altar this weekend are donated by St. Mary's Altar Society.

MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, May 5

4:30 p.m. Annie & Frank Cerny

Sunday, May 6

8:00 a.m. The Deceased of the Anna & John Okruhlik Family

Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy



Next weekend is *The Sixth Sunday of Easter*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible.

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 98

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-10

Gospel: John 15:9-17

PRAHA PANCAKE SUNDAY NEXT SUNDAY - AFTER 8:00 A.M. MASS



Come out and join us next Sunday for a Pancake Breakfast sponsored by the Praha Altar Society. The Breakfast will be served from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall. A free will donation will be appreciated. All are invited.

St. Mary's Restoration Endowment Fund Maintaining & Preserving Maticka Praha



We thank the following for their recent contribution:

Marit & Timothy Doucet, Conroe, TX - \$250

Melvin Hutzler, Bulverde, TX - \$200

(pledged payment)

To make a tax deductible donation towards *St. Mary's Restoration Endowment Fund Maintaining & Preserving Maticka Praha* contact Fr. Gabriel at 361-596-4674.

ST. MARY'S MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of Elaine Zabranek: Mary & Charlie Bartos

THANK YOU

Fr. Gabriel, thank you for making my birthday so special. For Mass, the beautiful flowers and your kindness, all you do for me. Also to all parishioners for their wishes and cards, you made my day memorable. God's blessings and prayers always.

Stazy Hajek

SPECIAL MOTHER'S DAY MASS - MAY 13

To have your mother specially remembered in the Mass intention of the day, drop the attached Mother's Day envelope in the collection or mail May 8.

**Remember the sick in your prayers
this week, especially Julia Stryk.**

AREA PICNICS

Today - St. Michael Spring Festival, Weimar
- San Luis Church Jamaica, Yorktown
May 6 - Holy Rosary Mayfest, Hostyn
- Holy Family Festival, Victoria

REFLECTION

The Vine and the Branches

The metaphor of vine and branches characterizes the intimate nature of the relationship between Jesus and his followers. In fact, a vine is made up of its branches. The life of the vine is the life of the branches. Jesus lives in his branches, and his branches live in his life. The vine bears fruit through its branches, and the branches bear the fruit of the vine. This is an apt metaphor for describing the intimacy of such union. The vine is not totally dependent on any one branch or group of branches. Therefore it can endure pruning without withering and dying. However, there is no vine if there are no branches at all. In such a case there is only a trunk, and this is not the metaphor Jesus uses here.

The basis of this union is acceptance of and fidelity to the words of Jesus. The importance of allegiance to these words, this teaching, cannot be overemphasized. It is this message that shapes the religious identity of the disciples. The bond that is the source of union is faith. It joins one to the vine and to the other branches. It also entitles one to access to the blessings of God, since the prayers of the branches can be seen as the prayers of the vine, and God is attentive to the vine.

The vine and the branches are alive with the life of God. This union is offered to all who would listen to the words of Jesus, accept his divine claim, and live in union with him and his other disciples.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



April 30 – Bridgett Cerny
– Cynthia Koncaba
May 3 – Kristen Olsovsky

One Million Rosaries For Unborn Babies



The multinational **ONE MILLION ROSARIES FOR UNBORN BABIES** prayer event, coordinated by

the Saint Michael the Archangel Organization, is **scheduled for May 4 - 6, 2018**. Persons participating in this pro-life prayer event will pray at least one rosary for the following intention: For an end to the surgical and non-surgical killing of unborn human persons. *You are encouraged to pray the rosary for this event.*

Mass Count: A Mass count will be taken up every weekend during the month of May in all parishes of the diocese. Records indicate that an average of 253 people attended Mass at St. Mary's on the weekends of May 2017.

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

Home Missions. *Be generous.*

LITURGY SPOTLIGHT

The Concluding Rites At Mass

At the end of The Communion Rite, at Mass, the priest says the Prayer after Communion. This is followed by The Concluding Rites.

The purpose of the Concluding Rites is to provide the blueprint for our mission and transition us to put Christian faith into action. Having been nourished at the table of the Word and the table of the Eucharist, we are ready to resume our lives and to live the Gospel. In the celebration of the Eucharist God challenges us. Through the Eucharist God gives us the light, courage and strength to carry on His work in the world.

The Concluding Rites consists of the following:

- Brief announcements should they be necessary;
- The Priest's Greeting and Blessing;
- The Dismissal of the people;
- The Kissing of the altar by the Priest and the Deacon;
- After making a profound bow with the ministers, the Priest withdraws.

*Notice that there is no mention of a Recessional hymn.

The term *Mass* comes from the Latin *mittere* – to send. The Latin formula *Ite Missa est*, could be translated *Go! You are sent*. It brings to mind the missionary mandate of the Risen Lord to His disciples before His ascension into heaven: *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations* (Matt. 28:19). In fact, the conclusion of every mass is immediately linked to being sent forth in mission each according to his or her proper vocation. In effect, we gather for the Eucharist in order to be dismissed from it. To be sent forth is an intrinsic dynamic of the celebration of the liturgy.

Historically the Roman Rite did not call for a Recessional hymn. The dismissal should be the last words that the people should hear before they depart. If we say "Go!", then the people should follow the command and Go! Who said we have to sing so many verses of a hymn to get the ministers down the aisle? To address this issue, we here at St. Mary's anticipate the dismissal with a song that emphasizes our mission. The song reminds us that we are being sent forth to do the work of the Lord in the world.

The Eucharist is the *Source* and the *Summit* of the Christian Life as it is expressed in the daily lives of those who break bread together as Jesus commanded. To ignore this inner connection between Eucharist and Life is to ignore the bond between the life and mission of the Church.