



## The Pruning Process

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

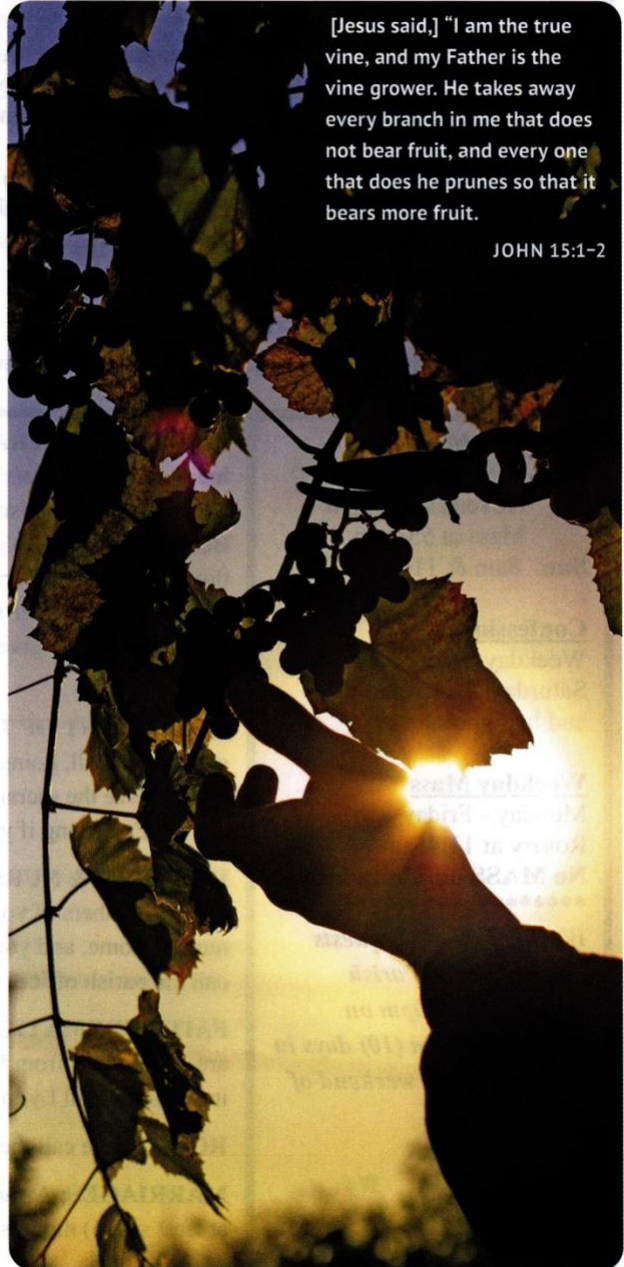
**T**he common myth is that we receive a new body every seven years as cells die and are replaced. However, stomach cells are renewed every two days or so because of acids and enzymes. Skin cells are replaced every two to three weeks. Bone cells last about ten years, and our brain cells stay with us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

**Saint Benedict Catholic Church  
336-272-0303**

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**Website: [stbenedictgreensboro.net](http://stbenedictgreensboro.net)**

**Email: [Stbenedictgreensboro@rcdoc.org](mailto:Stbenedictgreensboro@rcdoc.org)**

**Parish Office Hours: 9:00am-3:00pm on Monday, Wednesday, Friday**

**PARISH MISSION STATEMENT: As the Roman Catholic Mother Church of Greensboro, St. Benedict's Parish mission, responding faithfully to Christ's call, is to bring all people closer to God through liturgy, fellowship, service, outreach, and works of charity.**

**Rev. James Duong, Pastor**

**Lynne McGrath, Secretary & Faith Formation Coordinator**

**Weekend Mass**

**Sat.** Miraculous Medal  
Novena at 4:45pm  
Mass at 5:00pm

**Sun.** 8am & 11am

**Confessions**

Weekday before 12:15pm  
Saturday 4 - 4:30pm  
and by appointment

**Weekday Mass**

Monday - Friday  
Rosary at 11:45am

**No MASS on Thursday**

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***Weekly bulletin requests***

***must be in the Parish***

***Office by 12:00pm on***

***Wednesday, ten (10) days in  
advance of the weekend of  
publication.***

**PARISH REGISTRATION:** Welcome all new families and individuals. Membership is a condition for the reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion at St. Benedict, and for the parish to issue a sponsorship certificate for those asked to be sacramental sponsors. You must be a registered, contributing member for at least three (3) months before a certificate will be given. Registration forms are available in the parish office.

**SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** If you are seriously ill, going in for surgery or weak from old age, you may receive the sacrament of the anointing of the sick. Please contact Fr. Duong if you desire to receive this sacrament.

**HOSPITAL & NURSING HOME & SHUT-IN VISITS:** If you or any members of your family are sick and, in the hospital, or a nursing home, and you'd like Communion brought to them, please call the parish office.

**FAITH FORMATION:** All classes from Pre-K to High School are on Sundays from **9:15-10:30am** in the parish hall. For more information call Lynne McGrath.

**RCIA:** Please call the parish office for more information.

**MARRIAGES:** Arrangements must be made with a priest/deacon at least six (6) months in advance. Call the parish office for more information.

**APRIL 28, 2024 - FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

May Christ remain in us and we in him,  
so a culture that welcomes life takes root.

**MASS SCHEDULE**

4/27	Saturday	5:00 PM ....
4/28	Sunday	8:00 AM .... 11:00 AM ....
4/29	Monday	12:15 PM ....
4/30	Tuesday	12:15 PM ....
5/1	Wednesday	12:15 PM ....
5/2	Thursday	NO MASS
5/3	Friday	12:15 PM ....
5/4	Saturday	5:00 PM ....
5/5	Sunday	8:00 AM .... 11:00 AM ....

**INTENTIONS**

	For the Parishioners
+	Rita Bliden Cindy Simerly
	Intention of Father Duc Room at the Inn Guadalupe Doyle
+	Andrew Schwarz
+	Consuelo Buytrago
+	For the Parishioners Petar Rosic



**Keeping Our Military in Our Prayers**

Kharll Skycer Villarin  
Sgt. W.R. Williams III  
Maj. Russel Henderson

**Sick and Shut-In**

Please remember our brothers and sisters in your prayers and at Mass:

Richard Collings, Martha Eakes,  
Angie Kuklinski, Bonnie McIntyre,  
Dan Popik, Cam Reitzel, Manny &  
Laura Rodrigues, Anne Sopp, Vivian  
Speetjens, John & Bunny Stuart,  
Teresa Thu Tran, Beth Wilson, Brian  
Wilson, Deborah Wilson, Jean Wilson

## WEEKLY COLLECTION

Weekly Offertory .... \$ 2,741.00

## THANK YOU

**\*\* There will be a second collection next weekend for the Maintenance Fund.**

## MINISTER SCHEDULE: May 4 and 5, 2024

<u>MASS</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>E.M.</u>	<u>CANTOR</u>
5 PM	Bob Nutt	Cindy Nutt	Tom Garcia
8 AM	Trudy Menzzentto	Evangeline Layug	
11 AM	Bunny Stuart	Bill McCutcheon	

## REFLECTION



“Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.”  
– 1 JOHN 3:18

The good steward lives the advice of St. John, loving in deed and in truth, rather than just talking about it.

## LEAVE A LEGACY

As Christian stewards, we share the responsibility of making our Church a true community of faith and a vibrant source of service to the larger community. This includes providing financial support for today's needs, and building a strong financial foundation for tomorrow.

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

How will I bear fruit this week...at home, at work or school, and in my community?



# PARISH NEWS

**DIOCESAN  
SUPPORT  
APPEAL 2024**

**ONE** *Body in* **CHRIST**

## DSA 2024 DIOCESAN SUPPORT APPEAL (DSA)

We are now 13 weeks into the Diocesan Support Appeal campaign, and *as of today 35 of our parishioners have contributed.* We need each of you to help us reach our goal of \$28,753.00. Thank you.

PARISH DIRECTORIES are here! Any family whose pictures were taken for the directory may pick up their copy in the church office after Mass on the weekend or during the week. Anyone else who would like a directory should call the office.

PASTORAL COUNCIL is in need of new members. Anyone who would be interested in serving St. Benedict's in this way should contact Father Duc.

FIRST FRIDAY is this Friday, May 3. We will have adoration and benediction following the 12:15 p.m. Mass.



NC MARCH FOR LIFE – Join the 26th annual North Carolina Rally and March for Life in Raleigh, on Saturday, May 18. Parishioners from the Diocese of Charlotte are encouraged to march as groups with an identifying banner representing the church, school, or community. The day-long event kicks off with a youth

rally at 12:45 p.m. at Halifax Mall, the grassy area behind the NC General Assembly building. Buses are planned from the Greensboro area. Please email [FamilyLife@rcdoc.org](mailto:FamilyLife@rcdoc.org) with any questions.



**Sun LIGHT CAMP**

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Come camp with us!

Join us on **June 27, 28 & 29** in the parish hall

Free for all children ages 4-13

Details are in the sign-up sheets located in both vestibules of the church.

This week let us say **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to:

Alex Robinson (4/27), Joanne Murphy (4/29),  
Juan Espitia-Garcia (4/30), Frank Perreira (5/1), Alexandra Starr (5/1),  
Catherine Bagnoli (5/1)



### **HOW TO INVOLVE YOUR FAMILY AT MASS**

Families involved in their church feel more of a connection than those whose participation is limited to simply attending Mass.

**Altar servers.** Our parish welcomes children to become altar servers somewhere around third grade.

**Ushers.** Welcome parishioners as they enter the church and help them find a seat at the beginning of Mass.

**Eucharistic Ministers.** Adults and confirmed teens who give out Communion discover a deeper sense of the parish community.

**Music Ministry.** Praise God at Mass with your voice.

**Catechists.** Discover the joys of sharing your love for Jesus, His Church, and our Catholic faith with young, inquisitive minds.

**Hospitality.** If you're good with doughnuts, coffee, and smiling, this ministry needs you.

Please consider helping our parish in one or more of these ministries. For more information, call the parish office.

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

**ROOM AT THE INN EVENTS** - May 2 is the date for the 2024 Amy Elizabeth Disney Memorial Golf Tournament at the Greensboro National Golf Club in Summerfield. Open registration. On May 3 the Rose Gala will be held at The Blue Heron Event Center, High Point, and includes an auction. Also, raffle tickets are on sale now. You can have a chance to win \$5,000 while helping mothers and children in the process. The drawing will be held at the Rose Gala on Friday, May 3. You need not be present to win. All events support Room at the Inn. Learn more at <https://www.roominn.org/events>.



April 28, 2024

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:26-31 | 1 Jn 3:18-24 | Jn 15:1-8

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

### **GROW** AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

“Where do they get their energy!” Maybe you’ve said that about your children as they run around the yard while you’re trying to wrangle them inside for bedtime. Jokes about how sugar and caffeine are what keep most adults going, but we know it’s proper nutrition, exercise, and rest that enable us to do well whatever it is we do. That is all relevant to us physically. What about spiritually? Bishop Barron, writing on the Gospel, says, “Jesus declares that he is the vine and we are the branches. He is the power and energy source in which we live.” (*Word on Fire Bible*, 548) Just as we see the effects of sugar and caffeine on people, we see the supernatural effects of Jesus’ love on, and in, people. As he nurtures us with his perfect love, and that flows into us who are grafted onto him, it changes us. It transforms us and converts us away from sin and toward God. We fill up on that spiritual fuel in the sacramental life of the Church and become a witness to it in how we go about our days – loving one another.

### **GO** EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

“Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.” These words from John in our second reading provide the perfect bridge between the ministry of Paul, about whom we heard in the first reading, and Christ’s message in the Gospel. With Jesus as “the power and energy source in which we live,” we not only can profess the truth, but live it. We not only give our own account of Christ working in us, as Paul did, who came to them speaking out “boldly in the name of the Lord,” but we stand beside one another, as Barnabas did, vouching for Paul to the Apostles. We are united in baptism, in love, in profession of faith, and in communion with one another. When we consistently act in a Christian manner toward others and keep God’s commandments, John says, we “remain in him, and he in [us], and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit he gave us.” In other words, those who remain in Christ “will bear much fruit” – a tangible sign that easily answers the question, “where does he/she get her energy?”

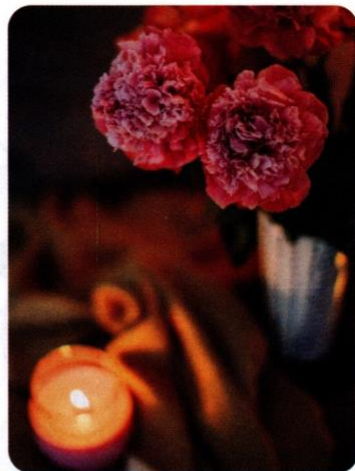
**PRAY** Is there anything in your life that is an obstacle to Jesus being the power and energy source in which you live? Are your days fueled more by anger, frustration, or ambition than his love? Pray this week in thanksgiving to God for where he has given you conversion of heart, and ask him for the grace to see where improvement is needed and the will to make it happen.

# 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