

April 28-29, 2018
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:26-31

First John 3:18-24

John 15:1-8

Our parish rose trees, some with blooms bigger than our hands, have been brilliantly vibrant in their unabashed display of color and fragrance during these past Spring weeks. A thorough pruning back in December, immediately followed by a generous feeding with Bayer rose food seems to have done the trick. Which is not to say that the roses have not needed continued pruning of gangly branches, the cutting of errant shoots springing from their bases and deadheading the spent blossoms, all of which saps the plants of their energy to grow and achieve the purpose for which we planted them....to produce more flowers. Continuing our Easter Season 'remembrances' of how Jesus referred to himself prior to the crucifixion, this week we recall Jesus using the imagery of himself being the VINE, with us being the branches that draw our strength from being connected to the main vine. In the same way that roses need periodic pruning and trimming to stay productive, so we too must insure that we have not lost sight of remaining connected/rooted in JESUS and not our own pursuits. An example might be the abundance of new studies regarding the amount of time given by individuals to our electronic devices...the greater the focus on social networking/gaming the greater the incidence of isolation, narrow mindedness, struggles with building relationships and loneliness. While the abundance of IT can offer tremendous potential blessings, it comes with an equal amount of potential curses...careful pruning of how it is used and for what purposes is the newest human struggle within our contemporary society. As the world has changed around us, how have we had to PRUNE away things that threaten our reliance on Jesus? What have been the temptations that have allured us to let them grow under the delusion of 'more abundant life options'? How hard has it been to prune away the things with which we have become comfortable? What have been the times/experiences when life itself simply pruned away what we thought was ours? Have we endeavored to see the grace of God at work within these circumstances, these prunings, sheddings, changes and losses?

Thank you for sharing the sunshine of another Spring weekend with our Santa Clara community. This weekend we celebrate and congratulate: ***Matt Aduna, Nolan Bent, Sean Browne, Lola Crnuz-Vargas, Alejandroz, Mia Gonzales, Dee Angelli Ignacio, Timothy Lembesis, Charlotte Lutes, Jack Mannina, Addison Morgan, Maddox Nelson, Sally Patterson, Amanda Pena, Regan Rivera, Hector Robles, Jocelyn Saldivar, Julissa Saldivar, Robert Saldivar and Melody Sutanto***, receiving their FIRST EUCHARIST at the 12Noon Mass! Mother's Day approaching on the weekend of May 12-13, the envelopes by which to enroll your moms, living or deceased, in the special series of May Masses are available at the entrances/exits. Please take a Bulletin home with you for further news of upcoming parish happenings and please remember, you are loved. FKB