

# 5th Sunday of Easter

MAY 2, 2021



## Reading I: Acts 9: 26-31

St. Paul not only witnesses the risen Jesus, but also has become His missionary. At the same time, Paul's conversion evidently brought peace to the Palestinian Church communities.

## Reading II: I John 3: 18-24

God, being "greater than our hearts," still inspires confidence even if our consciences condemn us. As a result, we do what pleases Him.

## The Gospel: John 15: 1-8

The vine-and-branch imagery includes an assurance from Jesus that the Word of God has made the disciples safe from pruning. When these disciples "bear fruit" as His emissaries, they glorify the Father.

## MASS INTENTIONS

5 p.m.: Nancy Wood, Michael Wood, Gloria Palmeri and Frank Valenti

10 a.m.: Rosalina Rodriguez, Jack Shapiro, Chris Pierce and Kevin Stanton

## LAST WEEK'S MASS ATTENDANCE

5 p.m. Saturday, April 24: **40** in the church/choir.

10 a.m. Sunday, April 25: **57** in the church/choir;  
**33** in the hall. Total: **90**.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

April 18-25: Totaled \$ 5,603.86

Envelopes: \$ 2,611.00 – Online: \$ 2,992.86

Holy Week & Easter to date: \$5,984.69

THANK YOU!



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## THE COMPLEXITY OF THE VINEYARD

A mere 10 minutes from my front door in South New Jersey lies a vineyard. When I drive by, I often think of those immortal words of Christ that we hear this weekend about the vine and its branches. As the master of metaphor, Our Lord speaks of an intimacy between God and ourselves.

Jesus offers us an easy concept to grasp, even if our only connection to a vineyard is tasty liquid bottled and bound for our table. We know from any shrub how connected the parts are. When a heavy snow bears down on a branch, it may snap. When its green growth fades to a baleful brown, we know it's time for pruning.

In a way, we're the same. At times we have bent to the pressure of temptation and broken away. Maybe we've changed colors," from a red-blooded loyalty to Christ to the pallid yellow of denying Him.

Even without a personal connection to a vineyard, we know that plenty of hard work is involved – not unlike being a Christian. Jesus' resurrection, which certified His promises, is what spurs us on. We know that if we want to live forever, staying well-connected to the divine Vine, we occasionally have to prune away any notion that we're doing just fine as we are.

The very shape of a cross speaks

to this, for it is an "I" with a slash through it. Only then will we be fit to be missionary disciples of Christ.

One snowy morning at 5 a.m., a missionary candidate rang the bell at the rectory. He sat three hours waiting for his interview. At 8 a.m., the priest examiner finally appeared.

"Can you spell? Yes? Spell 'baker'."

"B-A-K-E-R," replied the mystified candidate.

"Fine. Now, do you know anything about numbers?"

"Yes, Father, I know something about numbers."

"Please add two plus two."

"Four," replied the candidate.

"That's fine," said the priest. "I believe you have passed. I'll tell the board tomorrow."

At the bishop's board meeting, the priest examiner reported on the interview. "He has all the qualifications: First, I tested him on self-denial, making him arrive at the rectory at 5 a.m. He left a warm bed on a snowy morning without any complaint. Second, I tested him on promptness. He arrived on time. Third, I examined him on patience. I made him wait three hours. Fourth, I tested him on temper. He failed to show any anger or aggravation. Fifth, I tried his humility by asking him questions a child could answer, and he showed no indignation. So, you see, he will make the fine missionary that we need."

Spirit-given abilities are needed, but Spirit-produced fruit is more significant.

**God love you and give you His Easter peace,**

- **Rev. Leonard N. Peterson**



## CONGRATULATIONS, CONFIRMANDI!

Stay tuned for details, including the list of those who received this Sacrament on Friday, April 30, which will appear in next weekend's bulletin.

## FIRST EUCHARIST NEARS



Despite the challenges of this school year, a dozen third-graders, who began their religious education in first grade, have completed their preparations to make their **First Holy Communion**.

They will receive this Sacrament next **Saturday, May 8**, at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Middletown, which is larger and can accommodate more family members than at St. Paul's.

Please keep the children, their families and their catechists in your prayers next weekend.

## A CALL TO SOCIAL JUSTICE

We are continuing to share resources for insight into the current issues of social justice from a Biblical/Church perspective. A recent editorial in the National Catholic Reporter - "Catholics must do more to reject anti-Asian discrimination, violence" - looks at the history of this injustice as well as the recent surge of hate crimes against Asian Americans. Visit: [www.ncronline.org/news/opinion/editorial-catholics-must-do-more-reject-anti-asian-discrimination-violence](http://www.ncronline.org/news/opinion/editorial-catholics-must-do-more-reject-anti-asian-discrimination-violence)

Or for one-click access to this and all the other reflections, go to [www.stpaulsbullville.org](http://www.stpaulsbullville.org); then click "Read More" under the Social Justice heading on the home page.

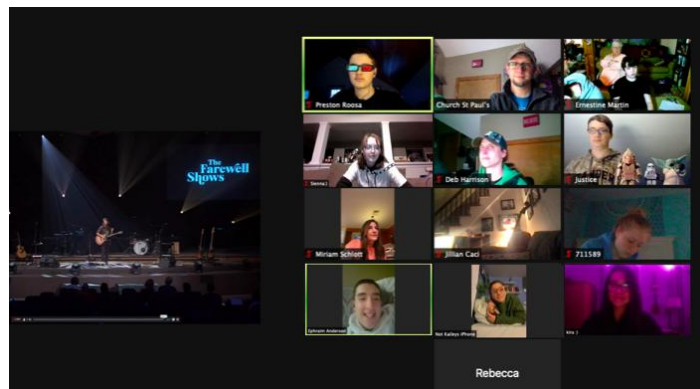


## HEALING WEEKEND SCHEDULED

Beginning Experience of the Hudson Valley is a faith-based and peer-led ministry dedicated to helping men and women of all ages and faiths who have suffered the loss of a spouse through death, divorce or separation.

It has just learned that the St. Lawrence Retreat Center in Beacon is reopening, so a **48-hour, in-person retreat** has been scheduled for June 4- 6.

For more information or to register, call Janice at 490-7466 or Phyllis at 914-261-5812.



## YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

Last week's virtual meeting featured virtual attendance at a concert. Tenth Avenue North, a Christian band, has launched its farewell tour. With songs such as "Control," "Greater Than All My Regrets" and "No Man Is an Island," its members have shared their convictions with fans for more than two decades. Even they're in awe at the fact that what began as a few musicians goofing around in college became an inspirational round-the-world journey. Now it's time for them to see what new doors open.

Prior to the show beginning, Scripture was shared: **Galatians 5:22-23**: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

**Hebrews 13:8** - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

**1 Timothy 4:12** - Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

**Ephesians 6:18** - And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

**John 13:7** - Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

**Psalms 27:1** - The Lord is my light and my salvation - whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life - of whom shall I be afraid?

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