By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

John 15:8
Reflecting on God’s Word

Hearing Jesus’ words, “I am the vine, you are the branches,” sounds comforting at first. But then comes “and my Father is the vine grower” (John 15:1). The task of the vine grower is to prune and pruning can be tricky. The danger is cutting the main vine and not the branches, or cutting the branches that carry this year’s fruit and not the old ones from last year. But Jesus tells us that it is the Father who is out there with the pruning shears, not some careless hired hand. He is cutting away the dead wood, and cutting back the good branches so they bear even more fruit.

Nevertheless, you might think, who wants to be pruned, even metaphorically? Who wants God snipping away? It’s hard to be pruned. There is a dying in that. But that is the ongoing story of Easter: dying and rising, pruning and bearing more fruit. God is there pruning us to bring out life, to make us life bearers and life givers. The Father continues snipping away, separating us from our selfishness, our self-centeredness, and all those things we hold on to that do not give us life: resentments, old grievances, desires for getting even.

God is about life, committed to an abundance of life—not just life today but eternal life. That’s the divine plan. Are we part of it?

—James A. Wallace, C.Ss.R.

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LIVING GOD’S WORD: Jesus tells us: “If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you” (John 15:7). Which words of His are calling you to life? Ask Him to help you to trust in the Father and surrender to His will for you.

St. Irene Council of Catholic Women will honor Pat Kemp, this year’s Woman of the Year, on Sunday, May 6th at the 10AM Mass. Following the Mass and May Crowning, there will be a special luncheon in Pat’s honor at 11:45AM in the Activity Center.

All are invited!

Please come and join us in honoring a wonderful lady and to say thank you for all that she has done for our parish!
**LIVING BRANCHES**

The Gospel and second reading for this Fifth Sunday of Easter emphasize the need for us to remain in Christ, and he in us. This shared life finds expression in the image of the one vine and many branches. We become living branches of the vine, members of the Body of Christ through baptism, Eucharist, and confirmation, sacraments of sharing God's own life. The First Letter of John describes the fruit of this vine as active love of neighbor: “And his commandment is this: we should believe...and love one another” (1 John 3:23).

Our first reading from Acts shows us an example of someone who shares in Christ's life in the person of Saint Paul. Paul's fearless witness, even at the risk of his life, is proof to everyone that the risen Lord's Spirit truly fills him with life and is bearing fruit in him.

**Vacation Bible School (VBS)** will be at St. Irene the week of June 18-22 from 9AM-12PM. Our VBS Theme is...Maker Fun Factory where kids will learn to build, explore and discover that they were made by the Ultimate Creator, God! They were created by God and built for a PURPOSE!!

Kids entering into Kindergarten thru 5th grade are invited to participate. **Registration will be held after Masses on May 12 & 13 and May 19 & 20.** Participation fee is $25. Space is limited!

Kids entering 6th-8th grade are invited to be Group Leaders. Our High School and College students are invited to be VBS Team Leaders. Adult Leaders are also needed! Please contact Jacqueline Skelly at jacqueline@st-irene.org or 630.393.2400 x 121 if you would like to be on the Leadership Team. Students will receive 15 hours of service.

There will be a preschool room for 4-year-old children of volunteers or siblings of kids participating.

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In medieval times, one country, Scotland, linked its economy to the liturgy. Four holy days of the church calendar were key to the legal year. On these days, rents were due, clergy and servants were paid, and contracts and leases would begin or end. The term days were Pentecost (called Whitsunday), the Feast of Saint Martin on November 11 (Martinmas), the Feast of the Presentation on February 2 (Candlemas), and August 2 (Lammas), a harvest festival. On Lammas day, the first loaf of bread from the summer wheat harvest was given to the village priest. After the Reformation, which swept the Catholic festivals away, the term days were gradually detached from the old feasts. It was only in 1990 that the term days were anchored on the 28th of February, May, August, and November. Today the old Scottish universities are the last hold-outs, still naming their terms or semesters after the old festivals. Scottish students today may not know about the liturgical year, but they still call the fall term Martinmas, and the spring session Candlemas.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.
Whole Parish Catechesis
Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Reading I: Acts 9:26-31
♦ The church was at peace.

Background: In the reading from the Acts of the Apostles, the disciples were unwilling to believe in Paul’s radical conversion. Through the influence of Barnabas, the disciples come to believe in the conversion of a former enemy. The early Church begins to learn the strength of God’s grace and forgiveness.

Reading II: 1 John 3:18-24
♦ We are called to believe and to love one another.

Background: The passage from the First Letter of John declares that if we truly live in God, we will love in deed as well as word. Our task is to live in the life of Christ. We are able to do this through the Spirit given us.

Gospel: John 15:1-8
♦ I am the vine.

Background: The image of Jesus as the vine presented in this Gospel comes from the figure of the vine, common in the Old Testament. Jesus, the vine, is the source of life for His disciples. Life in Christ results in good works in the lives of His followers.

Theme: I am the vine; you are the branches.

Question for Adults:
How does your own connection to Christ, the vine, affect your daily life? What image from this reading helps you see the importance of this connection?

Question for Youth:
Jesus is the vine - we are the branches, connected to Him as our life-source. When do you feel most connected to Jesus in your everyday life? How can you go there more often?

Question for Children:
How do you keep yourself connected to Jesus in your daily life?

Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.
— 1 John 3:18

St. Irene LunchBunch Ministry
Cinco de Mayo Celebration Lunch
Thursday, May 3rd from 11:30AM-2PM in the ACL

Catered by El Puente in St.Charles
Parishioner David Jimenez is the owner
Chicken/steak tacos, quesadillas, chips/salsa/pico de gallo, beans/rice and all taco fixings
Dessert- churros and chocolate
Beverages included - $12 per person
Entertainment to be determined
RSVP by April 29th to Anna Saake
630.456.0644 (text or call) or anna@saake.net
All are welcome!
Don’t want to eat what is being served?
Brown bag it and join us!

4th Annual Hustle Up The Hill For The Homeless

Challenge yourself in a 30-minute walk/run up and down 150 foot Mt. Hoy at Blackwell Forest Preserve. How many trips can you do? 3? 4? More? 100% of proceeds go to house a homeless family for 2 years as they are transitioned to self-sufficiency. Tech shirt, water and snacks are provided to all participants. Registration is open on Active.com. Search Hustle up the Hill. This event is on Sunday, May 20th with heats at 9AM and 10AM.

National Day of Prayer

The churches of Warrenville are participating in the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 3rd at 12PM at the Gazebo. Come and join your neighbors for prayer and fellowship. Lunch will be served. All are welcome.

Knights of Columbus Eyeglasses Drive

Please donate your old or unwanted eyeglasses by dropping them off in the collection box in the back of the church. Eyeglasses will be forwarded to the Lions Club International local chapter for renovation and reuse by those in need. The collection box will be in the back of the church until May 1st. Questions? Call Joseph Kubal at 630.983.6159.
Congratulations to our Confrirmandi

Michael PATRICK Banigan       Alexander JOHN Benson       Sophia PHILOMENA Brdecka
Aaron AARON Calderon          Itzel ANGELA Calderon       Grace VERONICA Brdecka
Megan BRIDGET Dedio            Gracie FRANCIS Garcia       Anthony JUDAS THADDAEUS Gonzalez
Allison VERONICA Guida         Kate JOAN OF ARC Hagene     Abigail CHRISTINA Hawkins
Madden JOSEPH Hebert           Iczayana MARY Huizar      Tara BRIGID Hurley
Ryan MICHAEL Hurley           Thomas THOMAS Kolker       Katharine CECELIA Kostner
Caleb PATRICK Kuhter           Mauricio LUKE Martinez     Katherine BERNADETTE McGowan
Natalie GUADALUPE Mora         Cristian JUDE Munoz       Jakeline TERESA Navarrete
Matthew AUGUSTINE Paver        Alejandro ALEXANDER Perez  Connor TIMOTHY Powelke
Kathryn FRANCIS Rachford       Will DOMINIC Ricamato       Daniel JOSEPH Ruffolo
Eduardo ALEXANDER Ruiz         Jacob FRANCIS XAVIER Schilf Samantha CECILIA Schilf
Megan ALLYSON Schulhof         Conor FRANCIS Schultz       Hannah LUCY Shaw
Amber VERONICA Stubben         Mitch SEBASTIAN Stubben     Maximillian GENESIUS Tolczyk
Karissa ROSE Tullier           Giselle MARIA GORETTI Villalpando James ANDREW Wiesner

High School Confrirmandi

Jocelyn DWYNUEN Alcantar       Lynn CECILIA Dau          Uriel URIEL Guerrero
Salvador FRANCIS Marquez       Ricardo CECILIA Moyotl*     Jennifer CECILIA Rosendo
Omar Luis Tochimani            Angel CECILIA Villalpando

*also received First Holy Communion

Event for the Divorced and Widowed

Rochelle Pennington, a columnist and author, will be presenting “A Walk Down Memory Lane” May 1st at 7:15PM. The event will take place at St. Raphael Church, 1215 Modaff Rd., Naperville in Rm 162. There is no charge for this event, and all divorced and widowed people are invited.

Rochelle Pennington's historical, light-hearted program will detail everyday life during these bygone years of corner phone booths, party lines, hand-me-down clothes, doctors who made house calls, wringer washing machines, marble matches, Howdy Doody shows and outhouses. Pennington is both a lively storyteller and an entertaining lecturer. She expertly weaves the perfect balance of humor, charm, and riveting facts into her captivating performances which focus on “the best of humanity.” Audience members depart with inspiration to apply the principles presented to their own lives.
This Week’s Meetings

Sunday, April 29
- 10-10:30a - Children's Liturgy of the Word (ACL)
- 11a-12:30p - Baptism Prep 1st Session (S)
- 1-6p - Confirmation (ACL)

Monday, April 30
- 6-7:30p - First Communion Practice (C)

Tuesday, May 1
- 5:30-7p - Elementary Religious Education (S, C)
- 7-9p - School Board (HF)

Wednesday, May 2
- 12:15-3:30p - Band (ACL)
- 5:30-6:30p - Kids Choir (C)
- 6-8p - Book Fair (S)
- 7-8:30p - Adult Choir (C)

Thursday, May 3
- 11:30a-2p - Happy Timers (ACL)
- 6:30-8p - Healing Horizons (HF)

Friday, May 4
- 8:30-11:30a - Art Show (ACL)
- 12:15-3:30p - Band (ACL)
- 6-7:30p - American Heritage Girls (ACL)

Saturday, May 5
- 10-11:30a - First Communion (ACL)

Sunday, May 6
- 10-10:30a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)
- 11a-2p - CCW Woman of the Year Luncheon (ACL)

St. Irene Employment Opportunity

St. Irene Parish is seeking to hire one or two persons to fulfill the duties of a parish business manager and separately, a parish Physical Plant Manager. Below is a general description of duties. If you are interested in one of these positions, contact Fr. Jim at parishoffice@st-irene.org, or Erich Pavel, chair of the parish finance committee, at epavellii@aol.com.

Position Description
St. Irene Business Manager
Reporting directly to the Pastor with responsibilities to the parish Finance Committee; also, facilitator to parish staff.
- Serve as financial and day-to-day administrative manager for the parish.
- Prepare annual budget and monthly financial reports.
- Conduct the accounting, bookkeeping, and payroll (Paylocity) operations.
- Prepare monthly bank reconciliation.
- Monitor revenue in relation to expenses and budget, and assume responsibility for budget control.
- With the Diocese administer the fringe benefit programs.
- Train, support, and manage church software programs including but not limited to: census/membership database, religious education and school membership, tuition, and donor database.
- Work with parish consultant to direct successful stewardship/annual giving programs.
- Work collaboratively with staff to facilitate their programs.

Physical Plant Manager
- Negotiate cost, terms, and conditions of all contracted services.
- Act as owner’s representative in selection of qualified contractors/bidders for any and all contracted services.
- Supervise any and all contracted services.
- Develop preventive maintenance schedules for all equipment based on need and manufacturer recommendations.
- Develop comprehensive major repair and improvement programs and make recommendations for priority inclusion to the annual budget.
- Develop systems to define and protect the organization’s interest under cost, terms, conditions, and cancellations.

For more information, please contact Fr. Jim at parishoffice@st-irene.org, or Erich Pavel, chair of the parish finance committee.
St. Irene Vocation Prayer

In every age Lord, You raise up women and men who are strong in their faith and bold in their actions to give witness to the Gospel.

Fill St. Irene Parish Community with Your Spirit and give us a burning desire to make a difference in our world.

Because of our love for You, Bless our Church with holy and courageous priests, deacons, religious sisters and brothers, devoted married couples, dedicated single men and women, and enthusiastic youth.

We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Virginia Barber
Ken Kras
Mary Hughes
Bernie Malovany
Paige C. Robertson
Ann Mulcahy
Bev Oliveri
Patti Menconi
Judy Colonero
Joe Gattone

Donna Pelletier
Lynette Meany
Mary Vander Meulen
Valder Morales
Max Malesh
Barb Houston
Paula Lopat
Colette Malovany
Charlie Fahrenwald

Readings for the Week

Monday: Acts 14:5-18; Ps 115:1-4, 15-16; Jn 14:21-26
Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28; Ps 145:10-13ab, 21; Jn 14:27-31a or (for the memorial) Gn 1:26-2:3 or Col 3:14-15, 17, 23-24; Ps 90:2-4, 12-14, 16; Mt 13:54-58
Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6; Ps 122:1-5; Jn 15:1-8
Thursday: 1 Cor 15:1-8; Ps 19:2-5; Jn 14:6-14
Friday: Acts 15:22-31; Ps 57:8-10, 12; Jn 15:12-17
Saturday: Acts 16:1-10; Ps 100:1b-3, 5; Jn 15:18-21
Sunday: Acts 10:25-36, 34-35, 44-48; Ps 98:1-4; 1 Jn 4:7-10 or 1 Jn 4:11-16; Jn 15:19-17 or Jn 17:11b-19

Ladies of Columbus Auxiliary Nomination and Election - Our elections are being held on Tuesday, May 8th. We are looking to fill two positions: Secretary and Trustee. If you are interested in joining an organization that has so much to offer to our parish and the community, please join us! Contact Pat Kemp at patkemp2004@yahoo.com or at 630.653.1647.