

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

JOHN 15:8



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# FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 2, 2021

## THE FRUIT OF FAITH

In today's Gospel, Jesus likens our relationship with him to a plant with many branches. We, the branches, are called to remain so close to Jesus that we bear fruit, loving one another as Christ loves us. Saul bore the fruit of his faith through powerful witness that drew others to Christ. And the branches that grew into the early Church were extraordinarily fruitful. What is the fruit of your faith in Jesus Christ?

### VINES, BRANCHES, AND FRUIT

Few activities are as disappointing as cultivating garden plants, watering them, and ensuring that they receive sunlight and nutrients, only to receive one or two vegetables or flowers to show for all the effort. Jesus uses the metaphor of the vine and branches to describe how closely we are called to remain with him—so close that we bear the fruit of his life and love in the way we live. When we do this, Jesus says, we give glory to God the Father, which Jesus did perfectly through his life, passion, death, and resurrection. Like plants that rely on the sun and nutrients from the soil, we rely on the Lord Jesus through whom we can do all for which we are called. Without the Lord, we can do nothing.

### LEARN FROM THE FIRST ONES

The story of the early Church that we hear from the Acts of the Apostles during the Easter season is instructive and inspiring. We learn how the community grew in their understanding of what it means to remain close to Jesus in the most challenging of situations. They lived in word and deed as Christ had taught and bore the fruit of their faith in their daily decisions, in small ways and in dramatic moments. Faced with Saul who had persecuted Christians and who presented himself as a disciple, Barnabas risked believing Saul's testimony. Through Barnabas, the community accepted Saul, with increasing numbers of people being led to belief in Christ as a result. We too are called to live in word and deed, taking to heart Christ's command to love one another, even when it is challenging to do so. We may find inspiration in the way the early believers drew consolation from the Holy Spirit, finding wisdom and strength to keep the commandments and do what pleases God.

#### *SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES*

Sunday: Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Monday: Ss. Philip and James  
Wednesday: Cinco de Mayo  
Thursday: National Day of Prayer  
Friday: First Friday

# Immaculate Conception Parish

## Immaculate Conception Church & St. Joseph Church

*Pastor: Rev. James J. Ward • Deacon: Mr. Jack Mroz*

Immaculate Conception Rectory: 570-325-2791 • [iccjt@ptd.net](mailto:iccjt@ptd.net) • [www.iccjimthorpe.org](http://www.iccjimthorpe.org)  
St. Joseph Rectory: 570-325-3731 • [stjosjt@ptd.net](mailto:stjosjt@ptd.net) • [www.saintjosephchurch-jimthorpe.org](http://www.saintjosephchurch-jimthorpe.org)

*St. Joseph Church side entrance is open daily for private prayer*

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Tues. & Thurs. after 8 a.m. Mass @ SJC; Wednesdays, 6:30pm @ ICC

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator: Wendy S. Krisak, MA, NCC, LPC Direct Phone: 800-791-9209; Diocesan Secretary for Youth Protection: Pamela J. Russo, MSW, MS Phone: 610-871-5200, Ext. 2204; If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop, please contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service [ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://ReportBishopAbuse.org) or by calling 800-276-1562.

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

### Sat. May 1

4:30 pm (ICC) **Joan Wildoner** (Charlie) / **James J. Zurn** (Clete & Irene Milan)

### Sun. May 2

9:00 am (SJC) **Daniel Plesniarski** (Wife) / **C. Kay Bimler** (Mike & Loretta Kuzo)

### Mon. May 3

8:00 am (ICC) **In Honor of Ned & Sis McElmoyle's Anniversary** (Ned) /  
**Mary Kunkel** (Agnes Busocker)

### Tues. May 4

8:00 am (SJC) **Bernadine Marczyk** (Lea Paluck) / **Catherine O'Leary** (Elizabeth O'Leary)

### Wed. May 5

(private) **Dolores Gillespie** (Angela Nordini & Family) / **Jack Dever**, 7<sup>th</sup> Anniv. (Roush Family)

### Thurs. May 6

8:00 am (SJC) **Adam Becker Family** (Family) / **Intentions of Daniel Gilberry** (brother, David)

### Fri. May 7

8:00 am (ICC) **Rosemary Brown** (Peggy Sue, Dub, & Michael) / **Rosemarie Bronko** (Barry Watto)

## Sixth Sunday of Easter

### Sat. May 8

9:00 am (SJC) *Rosary for Life*

4:30 pm (ICC) **James & Catherine Creedon** (Family) / **Mary Alice Jacobs** (Leo & Jane O'Donnell)

### Sun. May 9

9:00 am (SJC) **All Mother's Living & Deceased**



RESPONSORIAL PSALM ~ I WILL PRAISE YOU, LORD, IN THE ASSEMBLY OF YOUR PEOPLE.

### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

FLOWERS ON THE MAIN ALTAR are in Loving Memory of *Jack Dever* (Requested by, Roush Family)

**PARISH STEWARDSHIP:** 4/11/21: \$ 4,211.00;  
Rice Bowl: \$3,312.00 (*sent to Operation Rice Bowl*)  
Holy Land (Good Friday): \$1,040.00 (*sent to Shrines of the Holy Land*)  
*Thank you for your continued support & generosity.*

**REST IN PEACE:** Kindly pray for the soul of **Emma Marzen**. Please remember her and her loved ones in your prayers. May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

**A MOTHER'S DAY ENVELOPE** is included in your mailed packet. There is a space on the back of the envelope to write in the name of a loved one (living or deceased). These envelopes will be placed on the altar for the month of May and will be remembered at all the Masses.





**FIRST FRIDAY COMMUNION VISITS:** The Diocese has lifted restrictions on visiting homebound parishioners. We are updating our lists for Fr. Ward and our Eucharistic Ministers to bring Communion to the homebound. If you, or a family member, are not able to attend Mass and would like Fr. Ward or a Eucharistic Minister to bring Communion, and were not on the



**Communion for the Homebound**

list prior to COVID please call the ICC Rectory at 570-325-2791.

**ADORATION @ SJC:** Tuesday, May 11, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament beginning at 9am (except when there is a funeral Mass and then it will start after the Mass). Adoration will conclude with Rosary and Benediction at 5:30pm. Time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is a tremendous blessing!



**THE NEXT GARAGE SALE** will be Saturday, May 22 from 9am-1pm. New items are arriving daily!

**MEN'S GROUP:** Our collection for the children in Tanzania amounted to \$466. Thank you to all who support this mission each month. Our next collection will be May 16.

**LECTOR'S & EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS @ ST. JOSEPH:** If you are interested in returning to serving at Mass on Sundays, please call the rectory office at 570-325-3731 so you can be put on the schedule. Volunteers at ICC have been contacted.

**MEMORIAL FUND:** We would like to acknowledge donations made: In Memory of **Margaret Dolena** from Bill & Margaret Diehm; In Memory of **Louise Serfas** from Joan Pfeiffer.



**WISHING A HAPPY & HEALTHY 90<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY** to Irene Nonnemacher, who celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> year on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Cards and well-wishes may be sent to her at 1047 Broadview Dr., Jim Thorpe, PA 18229-0232.

**SCAM TEXT MESSAGES:** We have been notified that people have been getting text messages from someone claiming to be Rev. James Ward, asking for gift cards to help people with cancer. **This is a SCAM, please do not respond** to these messages, and block the number from your phone. Fr. Ward, or the Church, would never text anyone to ask for help this way.

**WEEK AT A GLANCE EVENTS**

Fri., May 7: Flame of Love, 1pm-Brogan Room

**DIOCESAN COVID-19 GUIDELINE UPDATE:**

The Diocese has updated the guidelines we follow for providing a safe worship space during the pandemic, which follow CDC recommendations. The seating capacity and the social distance guidelines of every other pew have not changed.

**Beginning this week** we will return the hymnals to the pews, and our Mass schedule will change to add more in-person Masses during the week. Public Masses will be held at 8am on Mondays and Fridays at Immaculate Conception Church and on Tuesday and Thursday at St. Joseph Church. The Mass on Wednesday will be said privately. Confessions will be heard following both 8am Masses at St. Joseph Church, and on Wed. evening at 6:30pm at Immaculate Conception. Confession is also available upon request by calling the ICC Rectory to make an appointment.

**THANK YOU** for your continued cooperation with social distance, wearing a mask over nose & mouth, and for observing church distance & capacity guidelines.



**THANK YOU**  
FOR PRACTICING SOCIAL DISTANCING!

Those uncomfortable with larger Crowds may consider attending a daily Mass, even once a week.

**ST. JOSEPH ECUMENICAL FOOD PANTRY @ 6<sup>th</sup> & North St.** will be open Wed., May 5 & 19 & Sat, May 15. The Food Pantry will be closed Memorial Day weekend, Sat, May 29.

**BEARING FRUIT~** Few of us, even when we meditate on the image of the vine and branches, stop to really think about how God "prunes" us. For some there is the danger of thinking that we are already producing fruit for the kingdom, in deed and truth as John says, perhaps raising a family, being active in our parish, and so on. But even those branches which are bearing fruit, the Gospel tells us, can be pruned to produce still more. Today Saul, freshly "pruned" by his conversion, arrives in Jerusalem and meets resistance. Since he had been persecuting Christians, this was only natural. But even after he is accepted and begins to bear fruit, he meets further adversity, and his letters are filled with many accounts of how his trials "pruned" him to produce greater fruit for the kingdom. Like him, as long as we remain in Christ we will continue to bear fruit and, when the will of the Father determines it is time to prune us, the strength of the true vine must enable us to endure it.

