



The Pruning Process

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

The 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 JOSEPH
AKRON, CO
phone: 970-345-6996**

Pastor: Rev. Marek Ciesla, S. Chr.
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Maurice Okeke
Deacon: Joe Benjamin ph: 970-554-1154

Masses: Sat. - 7:00 PM Sun - 8:00 AM
 Tues. - 5:30 PM Wed. - 7:30 AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Sat. after 7:00 PM Mass, Sun. - 7:00 AM,
1/2 h before daily Masses or by appointment

Anointing of the Sick - call the Office

Office: open Tuesday and Wednesday.
(970) 345-6996 leave message
Visit our Website www.stmarybrush.org

Sign up at Flocknote.com/stjosephakron
Or from your cell phone text: akron to 84576

We are on Facebook:
Saint Joseph Catholic Church - Akron.
St. Mary's: www.facebook.com/STMBrush

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Enter 80723 / select St. Mary's
Enter your e-mail - and you are in!

If you are interested in being a cantor or
providing music for the Mass, please contact
Marcia Pieper (970)554-1535
or **Julie Green** (970)554-0740

Bulletin: Kathy McFadden 970-301-2306
or kathryndianehall@gmail.com

Mass Intentions

Sat. Apr. 27 Vigil
7:00 p.m. †Helen Stair - AZ

Sun Apr. 28 Mass/5th Sunday of Easter
8:00 a.m. Graces for Confirmation &
1st Communion Candidates

Tues Apr 30 No Mass
Wed May 1 No Mass

Sat. May 4 Vigil
7:00 p.m. †Christine Lopez - RSS

Sun May 5 Mass/6th Sunday of Easter
8:00 a.m. †Marcella Hottinger - VH

In need of prayer support, call

Linda Littleton: 970-630-3267
Kim Krause: 970-554-1459
Peggy Dreher: 970-554-0546

Please Pray For Our Sick:

Kane Schrock, Geneva Aguilar, Mary Ann
Kreutzer, Barbara Wolf, Bobby Dreher,
Terry Hart, Pauline Frenzl, Dan Killip,
Ray Hottinger, Deacon Taylor Elder, Bridget
Glosson, Ken Kuntz, Randy Kraich, Carol
Benjamin, Don Mollendor, Von Axtell, Art
Aaron, Maria Foy, Beverly Gebauer, Tricia
Dreher, Tracy Basler, Bibiana Camacho,
Robert McMillion, Linda Baran



Anointing of the Sick
April 27th/28th after each Mass

Eucharistic Adoration at St. Joseph
Spend time with our Lord...
Every Tuesday from 5:00 a.m. till 9:00 a.m.

Blessings & Congratulations! to all receiving Confirmation/First Communion.

April 29 - May 2 / Priests Convocation
Annual meeting with Archbishop Aquila.
Please keep our Priests in your prayers.

1st Sunday Adoration / May 5
Exposition / Adoration / Benediction
7:40 a.m. - 7:55 a.m.

**Congratulations and our prayers for
"Graduating Seniors"**
Brisa Arteaga / Lily Monat / Sawyer Packer

From the Vatican:

A **plenary indulgence** will be granted to the Christian faithful who participate in the **National Eucharistic Pilgrimage** at any point between May 17 and July 16, 2024.

It will also be granted to the elderly, infirm, and all those who cannot leave their homes for a serious reason and who participate in spirit with the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, uniting their prayers, pains, or inconveniences with Christ and the pilgrimage. This indulgence is granted under the usual conditions of sacramental Confession, Eucharistic Communion, and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father. The faithful may also apply this indulgence through suffrage for the souls of the faithful departed in Purgatory.

From the west, **St. Junipero Serra Route** starting in San Francisco, CA, coming through the Archdiocese of Denver from June 5 - 12, will be in the Ft. Morgan/ Sterling area on June 10 - 11. Learn more and register for the different events at <https://archden.link/EuchRevPilgrimage>

Lay Minister Schedule
Sierra Mireles
May 5, 2024

Greeters/Gifts: Frank & Esther Weis
Pianist: Marcia Pieper
Cantor: Jim Pieper
Lector: Tracy Samber
Altar Servers: C & G McFadden, E Gardner
Head Usher: Mark Hart
Euch Ministers: Brian Etl, Jim Kuemmerig

Saint Joseph's corner: "Blessed St. Joseph, help me to live a life of hospitality. May I learn to be welcoming, generous, gracious, and self-controlled, that I may receive others with the love and holiness with which you received Mary and Jesus. Amen"



In May we give Praise and Gratitude to Mary, the Mother of God and our Mother. Our thanksgiving will be expressed

Novena to St. Isidore the Farmer
Farmer's Patron begins on **May 6th**

With the Intercession of St. Isidore, we pray for our farmers as they work the soil. May God bless our Farmers and their Families!
/ Novena Text is in the vestibule. Pray with your family for our Farmers. /



ARCHBISHOP'S
CATHOLIC APPEAL

Join, **TODAY**, the growing number of parishioners whose relationship with Jesus has moved them to generously commit to a monthly recurring gift to the Archbishop's Catholic Appeal by visiting:

www.archden.org/givetoday

Email: office@stjosephsakron.org

* Office Hours: 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM (Tuesday, Wednesday)

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 St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church Acts 14:5-18 Jn 14:21-26	April 30 Easter Weekday Acts 14:19-28 Jn 14:27-31a	May 1 Easter Weekday Acts 15:1-6 Jn 15:1-8	May 2 St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church Acts 15:7-21 Jn 15:9-11	May 3 Sts. Philip and James, Apostles 1 Cor 15:1-8 Jn 14:6-14	May 4 Easter Weekday Acts 16:1-10 Jn 15:18-21	May 5 Sixth Sunday of Easter 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



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