



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

**St. Mary's & St. John's
Brush CO & Stoneham CO**

Pastor: Rev. Marek Ciesla, S. Chr.
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Maurice Okeke

Masses:

Brush: Sat. - 5:00 PM, Sun. - 10:00 AM
Thurs. - 5:30 PM, Fri. - 8:00 AM
Stoneham: Sun. - 8:00 AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Brush: Sat. - 3:00 PM
1/2 hr. before weekday Masses
or by appointment
Stoneham: Sun. - 7:30 AM

Adoration & Benediction: 1st Friday of the
month immediately after Mass (till 9:00 a.m.)

Anointing of the Sick: - call the Office

Office: Thursday & Friday
Leave a message **970-842-2216**

Website: www.stmarybrush.org

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Mass Intentions

Sat. Apr. 27 Vigil

5:00 p.m. †Dave Gertge - Shaver Family

Sun Apr 28 Mass/5th Sunday of Easter

8:00 a.m. For Souls in Purgatory

10:00 a.m. †Pete Anderson - Knights

Thur May 2 Mass/St. Athanasius

5:30 p.m. †Eron Rocha

Fri. May 3 Mass/Sts. Philip & James

8:00 a.m. †Alberto Salvador

6:00 p.m. Graces for Confirmation &

1st Communion Candidates

Sat. May 4 Vigil

5:00 p.m. †Reagan Dooley - Shavers

Sun May 5 Mass/6th Sunday of Easter

8:00 a.m. †Judith Esser - TP

10:00 a.m. Graces for Charlotte Chapman

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Our Sick: Joseph Wilson, Rosa Maria Santos, Gia Marquez, Jan Yokum, Kane Schrock, Deja Adam, Bernice Padilla, Rosemary Garcia, Sean Gleason, Marj Blatt, Ben Mettlen, Arabella Macias, Brianna Hill, Gina Mortenson, Margaret Mann, Paula & Delbert Meier, Sheryl Garvik, Izaac Morales, Kayla Albrant, Stan Prather, Ron Uhrig, Christy Chapman, Anthony Steven Villarreal, Shelby Daughenbaugh, Caiden Lee, Frank Laso, Fritz & Irene Ramirez, Norma Wolfe, Rodney Hergenreter, Stella, Amanda Weisensee, Daniel Hoffman, Alvin Vigil, Jessica Penner, Eloy Padilla, Nadine Odell, Jennifer Romero, Pennie Haller, Armando Saucedo, Jeffery Pieper, Carmona Family, Leo Millburg, Chuck Blackwelder, Tina Trujillo, Karolyn Radke

St. John's
Confirmation and First Communion
Madden Hoozee, Ainsley Lambert
Congratulations and our prayers!



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

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

St. Mary's
Confirmation and First Communion
Friday, May 3 at 6:00 p.m.
Our prayers for you and your families!



In May we give Praise and Gratitude to Mary, the Mother of God and our Mother. Our thanksgiving will be expressed on May 4/5.

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 available in the vestibule.
Pray with your family for our Farmers. /



All Graduating Senior Students
are invited
to Mass on **May 12th at 10:00 a.m.**

St. Marys' Parish Family will pray for You
and Your immediate Families.
May God bless you!

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Exposition / Adoration / Benediction



St. Mary's: May 4th/5th
First weekend of the month
Saturday 4:30 p.m. - 4:50 p.m.
Sunday 9:30 a.m. - 9:50 a.m.

St. John's: May 12th
Second Sunday of the month

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.

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>



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



FEED THE HUNGRY

Food Drive - Help feed families

Consider canned goods & items for the Brush Food pantry. Monetary donations welcomed.

Drop off at St. Mary's
Thank you for your support!

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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