



## Fifth Sunday of Easter May 2, 2021

Let us love not in word  
or speech  
but in deed and truth.

— 1 John 3:18

### 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.

—J. S. Paluch Co.

### FEAST OF FAITH The Homily

The ambo, or pulpit, is a special place—it is the place for God’s word. That is why it is not used for all the spoken words of the Mass, even important words like the collects and the blessing. The ambo is only used for the scripture readings, and for the homily and the prayer of the faithful. The homily is part of the Liturgy of the Word. It flows from the readings we have just heard, and helps us to understand the way in which God is speaking to us today.

The homily is not a lecture, a catechism lesson, or a speech. It is more like an exhortation; it has an urgency about it, for it calls us to find ourselves in the scripture, to live the faith we profess, to see our world by the light of the Gospel. The homily, in itself a response to God’s word, demands a response from us. There are many styles of preaching and many ways to respond to the scriptures. But whether the homily is weak or strong, an open ear and an open heart can find in it an abundance of spiritual nourishment.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Cor 15:1-8; Ps 19:2-5; Jn 14:6-14  
Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28; Ps 145:10-13ab, 21; Jn 14:27-31a  
Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6; Ps 122:1-5; Jn 15:1-8  
Thursday: Acts 15:7-21; Ps 96:1-3, 10; Jn 15:9-11  
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 15:9-17 or Jn 17:11b-19

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

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



**SMALL TASKS:** Each small task of everyday life is part of the total harmony of the universe. —St. Thérèse of Liseux

WEEKLY



**Finance Corner:** Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated! For the month of April offerings: PLEASE mail to St.

Philip/St. Teresa Parish, P. O. Box 339, Occidental CA 95465. Or donate at our website [www.stphilipstteresa.org](http://www.stphilipstteresa.org) via Paypal or card. Please include your offering envelope # [if you have one] with your donation. Bless you!  
5/2: Catholic Home Missions. 5/9: Operating Expenses.

### Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

**Parish Council [PC]:** TBA Zoom

**Finance Council [FC]:** TBA Zoom

**Liturgy Committee:** TBA Zoom

**St. Teresa Ladies Guild:** Contact Diane, 823-6044

**St. Philip Ladies Guild:** Contact Penny, 559-367-7403

**Centering Prayer ZOOM:** Tues. noon/Fri. 930am - info [www.stphilipstteresa.org](http://www.stphilipstteresa.org)

### ✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule

Email or voicemail the office to request a future Wed/Thurs/Sun Mass Intention. (\$10 offering is mailed to PO Box 339, Occidental CA 95465.)

5/2 Sun. 8am Mass ✠ Joe Novello

5/2 Sun. 9:30am Mass ✠ Brendan Smith

5/9 Sun. 8am Mass ✠ Lucille Munson

5/9 Sun. 9:30am Mass ✠ Brendan Smith

**Prayer Requests:** Please leave a message at 707-408-2650 to add or remove a name from the next bulletin. Thank you.

Teresa K., Pat K., Thomas T., Susan B., Lorri McC., Sarah, Clifford J., Terri A., Fred P., Theresa S., Sara, Mary Anne P., Barbara, Dave C., Jim P., William, Parson P., Dave, Mary O., Bill Z., Daniel, Sally T., Michael D., Richard M., Kathleen, Peter, Rosa S., Susan B., Joyce D., Anita C., George H., Mimi H, Steve, Barry, Lorrin K., Hugh P., Robert S., Britney N., Chuck, Jacque W., Rebecca A., April K., Jacinta G., Leo A., Ed C. family, Kathy R., Donna W., Jim K., Sherry S., Papke family., Gail F., Marie N., Christine, James, Gary S., Peter R., Gerry N., Diane K., Janet K., Lela M.

### RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for April 2021:

On Tuesday, April 12, 47 families (28 children, 22 seniors, 64 adults) received nutritional support during our drive through distribution at the St Philips Parking lot. Rural Food volunteers distributed over two thousand pounds of fresh produce and other nutritious food to support those who attended. Volunteers surveyed our clients about the reasons for a reduced attendance at our distribution in the past several months. We gained valuable insight and ideas from our clients and will be working on implementing the suggestions we received. If you are aware of a family which needs nutritional assistance, please let them know about our program. Leave a message at the parish voicemail phone: 707-408-2650 to get additional information.

This program is funded through the Rural Food Collection each month, private donations and the dedicated, awesome volunteers. Thank you for your generous donations as we strive to meet the nutritional needs of all attendees at our food distributions.

**RURAL FOOD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES** in the Parish Hall and parking area Saturday, May 8, 9-10:00 am repackaging; Monday, May 10, 9:00 - 11:00am set up and Tuesday, May 11, 7:30a - 11:00a to distribute food to clients.



Detail of *The Last Chapter* by J. Doyle Penrose, showing St. Bede the Venerable translating the Gospel of John on his deathbed (Source: [Wikimedia Commons](#))

## **Deacon-structing Doctors of the Church, Part 4** by [Deacon Pedro](#)

So far we have learned about St. Gregory the Great, St. Ambrose, St. Augustine, St. Jerome, St. Thomas Aquinas, and St. John Chrysostom in [part one](#); St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory of Nazianzus, St. Athanasius, St. Bonaventure, St. Anselm, and St. Isidore of Seville in [part two](#); and St. Peter Chrysologus, St. Leo the Great, St. Peter Damian, St. Bernard of Clairvaux, St. Hilary of Poitiers, and St. Alphonsus Liguori in [part three](#). I hope that, for the most part, these are saints that you had heard of. They are all Doctors of the Church.

Today we will continue with saints that were named Doctors in the 19th century and the early 20th century.

**Francis de Sales** is known as the Doctor of Charity. He was Bishop of Geneva in the 17th century. Francis de Sales lived during the Protestant Reformation and had a hand in healing many divisions. He was a lawyer and theologian. He wrote many sermons that still exist. He wrote several books, including *The Catholic Controversy*, *The Spiritual Conferences*, *Practical Piety*, *The Secret of Sanctity*, and *The Mystical Explanation of the Canticle of Canticles*. His most famous works are *Introduction to the Devout Life* and *Treatise on the Love of God*.

*"I say that devotion must be practised in different ways by the nobleman and by the working man, by the servant and by the prince, by the widow, by the unmarried girl, and by the married woman."*

–St. Francis de Sales

**Cyril of Alexandria** is known as the Doctor of the Incarnation. He was Bishop of Alexandria, Egypt, in the 4th century. He was a central figure in the Council of Ephesus, which confirmed the Nicene Creed and asserted Mary as the Mother of God. There were also many Christological controversies at the time, and Cyril was very much involved in resolving them. He was a prolific writer and wrote many scriptural commentaries, as well as Christological writings. Among his works are *Becoming Temples of God*, *Formula of Reunion*, *Five Tomes Against Nestorius*, *That Christ Is One*, and *Scholia on the Incarnation of the Only-Begotten*.

*"As two pieces of wax fused together make one, so he who receives Holy Communion is so united with Christ that Christ is in him and he is in Christ."*

– St. Cyril of Alexandria

**Cyril of Jerusalem** was Archbishop of Jerusalem in the 4th century. He was involved in the dispute over Arianism and was exiled more than once. He left many writings that document the formation and instruction of catechumens and on the liturgy. These include 23 lectures, his *Catechesis*, given to catechumens before and after baptism.

*"The Spirit comes gently and makes himself known by his fragrance. He is not felt as a burden, for God is light, very light."*

–St. Cyril of Jerusalem

**John Damascene** was a priest and monk who lived in Damascus in the 8th century. He was a philosopher who wrote many doctrinal works, particularly against the iconoclasts, who opposed the use of religious images. He also made many contributions in the areas of law, theology, and music. He also wrote against various heretics: the Jacobites, the Nestorians, the Manichees, and the Monothelites. Other than his three *Apologetic Treatises Against Those Decrying the Holy Images*, he wrote *Fountain of Knowledge*, *Elementary Introduction Into Dogmas*, *On Right Thinking*, *On the Two Wills in Christ*, *Sacred Parallels*, and *On Dragons and Ghosts*, among others.

*"Evil is nothing else than absence of goodness, just as darkness also is absence of light. For goodness is the light of the mind, and, similarly, evil is the darkness of the mind."*

– St. John Damascene

**Bede the Venerable** is also known as the Doctor of the English. He was a priest and Benedictine monk who lived in England in the 8th century. He was an author, teacher, and scholar. His most famous work is *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*. He also penned many ecumenical writings and several scriptural commentaries, as well as educational and scientific works, hymns, and poetry. Other historical works include *On the Reckoning of Time* and *Greater Chronicle* and a listing of saints, the *Martyrology*.

*"Unfurl the sails, and let God steer us where He will."*

–St. Bede the Venerable

**Ephrem the Syrian** was a deacon who lived in Edessa, where he founded a theological school in the 4th century. He is known as one of the most notable hymn writers of Eastern Christianity, with over four hundred hymns to his name. He was an ascetic who was zealous in writing and preaching against the errors of his time. He would write "hymns against heresies" that were filled with doctrinal messages. He wrote several biblical commentaries as well as several works against heresy, as well as biographies of saints.

*"Scripture brought me to the Gate of Paradise, and the mind stood in wonder as it entered."*

–St. Ephrem the Syrian

The more I read about these Doctors of the Church, the more overwhelmed I feel at how little about our faith I know. I hope that these short paragraphs inspire you to read more about some of these great saints of our Church.

Come back next week and learn about Peter Canisius, John of the Cross, Robert Bellarmine, Albertus Magnus, Anthony of Padua, and Lawrence of Brindisi.



Every week, Deacon Pedro takes a particular topic apart, not so much to explore or explain the subject to its fullness, but rather to provide insights that will deepen our understanding of the subject. Contact: [pedro@saltandlighttv.org](mailto:pedro@saltandlighttv.org).



## **My first novena with St. Therese** [Everyday Miracles]

by [Stephanie Paglia](#)

*The first time I really allowed myself to hear God's voice was through St. Therese of Lisieux.*

To make a long story short, I was living a life away from God — doing things I never thought I would do, seeking after worldly pleasures and validation in all the wrong places.

Eventually, I reached my lowest point. I realized I couldn't continue on this path anymore. I felt such deep hopelessness, the ache of being unfulfilled.

Out of desperation, I threw my arms in the air and said, "God what do you want me to do? Your will be done, do it for me!"

It was around that time that my cousins were in town. While together, I heard them talking about a particular saint — St. Therese of Lisieux, who they absolutely adored because of all their experiences of receiving roses from her as a sign that God had heard their prayers.

I went home that day and thought, "Why not...I have nothing to lose...prove me wrong!"

Those words would change my life. Within the next two weeks, I received *so many* signs from St. Therese.

And it started right away.

Upon finishing that declaration, I looked at the bracelet on my wrist. For the first time I noticed a predominant rose charm. My Nona had gifted it to me, but I'd never quite seen this particular charm before.

In that time, I made a new friend who, to my surprise, turned out to be a practicing Catholic. She insisted on praying for me during those two weeks. While spending time at the mall together, we walked into a store where an employee stopped us. More than anything, she wanted to let us know that her name was Rosshani...but we could just call her Rose!

We left, and I asked my friend — both of us now in tears, "Was that a sign, or am I imagining things?"

"Steph!" she replied, "turn around!"

I looked behind me and saw a massive window display of giant letters spelling "R O S E". The display itself was surrounded by countless roses too!

Days later, I caught a glimpse of a prayer card in a magnet-holder on my fridge. I hadn't noticed it before either. Upon seeing it, I asked my mom, "Who is this?"

She replied, "I don't know, but we have a statue of her upstairs."

I ran upstairs and found the statue. It was St. Therese! I immediately brought the statue to my room. I keep it on my desk to this day.

Shortly afterwards, while in line for confession — my first confession in years — a friend in front of me was rummaging through her purse. As she did, a St. Therese prayer card fell out and landed right at my feet! I couldn't believe it!

I received *so many* more confirmations from St. Therese within those two weeks; in fact I keep a whole journal to remember all the things that took place.

I call it my first novena with St. Therese!

Today my life is completely transformed. Not only do I practice my faith, but I'm also a youth minister at my parish and a Catholic singer-songwriter with a newly released album! Jesus is the centre of my life, and all I want to do the rest of my days is get to heaven and help others get to heaven too!

Thank you, St. Therese of Lisieux!

*Stephanie Paglia is a youth minister and singer-songwriter in Toronto, Canada.*

Click [here](#) to watch and listen to her Hymns at Home.



### Thérèse of Lisieux

Therese of Lisieux, born Marie Françoise-Thérèse



Martin, also known as Saint Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face, was a French Catholic Discalced Carmelite nun who is widely venerated in modern times. [Wikipedia](#)

Born: Marie Françoise-Thérèse Martin, January 02, 1873, Alençon, Orne, France

Died: September 30, 1897, Lisieux, Calvados, France

Beatified: 29 April 1923 by Pope Pius XI



[St. Therese of Lisieux](#)