



**STAR OF THE SEA**  
*Honour our Past and  
Go Forward on Mission*

**PARISH OFFICE:**

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Website: [starofthesea.ca](http://starofthesea.ca)

**OPEN:** Monday - Friday  
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lunch hour Noon-1pm)

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2250 - 150th Street, Surrey, BC V4A 9J3

**Weekday Mass**

Monday—Saturday 9AM

First Friday 6:30PM

**Weekend Mass**

Saturday 5PM

Sunday 9AM 11AM 7PM



**Confessions**

Wednesday 6:30PM

Saturday 10AM

**STAR OF THE SEA CHURCH**

1153 Fir Street, White Rock, BC V4B 4A8

**Weekend Mass**

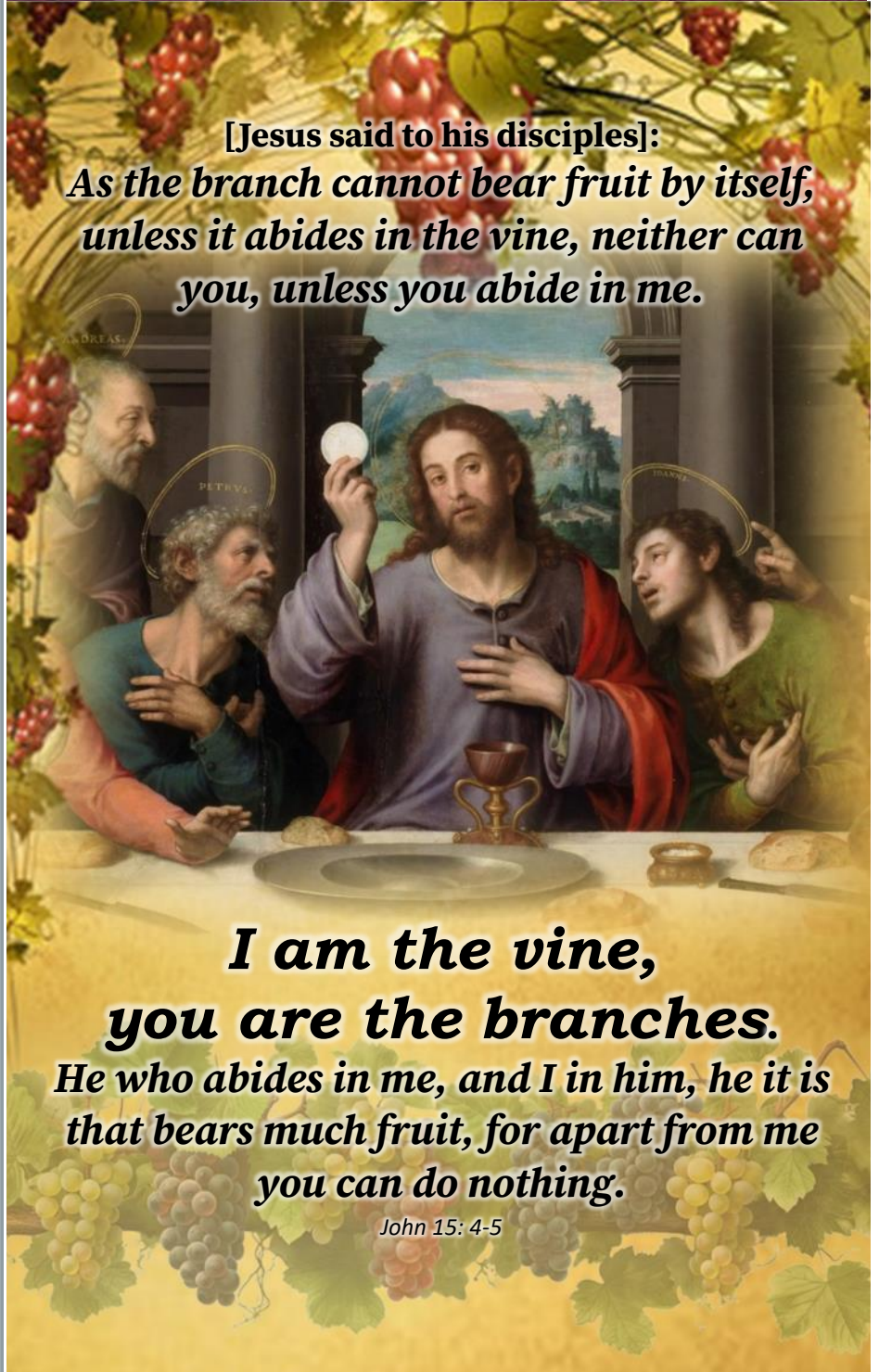
Saturday 4PM

Sunday 10:30AM

**STAR OF THE SEA PARISH**

*Welcome*

*Fifth Sunday of Easter — April 28, 2024*



**[Jesus said to his disciples]:**  
***As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself,  
unless it abides in the vine, neither can  
you, unless you abide in me.***

***I am the vine,  
you are the branches.  
He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is  
that bears much fruit, for apart from me  
you can do nothing.***

*John 15: 4-5*

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

***To follow Jesus Christ and to  
invite others to do the same.***

**PARISH STAFF:**

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**FACILITIES MANAGER:**

Tom Cremer  
[tomc@starofthesea.ca](mailto:tomc@starofthesea.ca)

My dear Parishioners,

Today, Jesus calls himself “THE TRUE VINE”. It is only when we know this rich symbolism can we appreciate the full force of Jesus’ words in today’s Gospel. Over the entrance of the Temple of Jerusalem in Jesus’ day was a gilded relief of a vine with grape clusters as tall as a man. It symbolized God’s people. God had delivered them under Moses from slavery in Egypt. God had “planted” his people, one of the psalms said, in the land they now called their own, as a farmer plants a vine (Psalm 80: 8-16).

In calling himself the “true vine”, Jesus implies a contrast: Israel (God’s people) had failed; they had not been true to their divine mandate. By their unfaithfulness, they had failed to produce the harvest God was after. Jesus had been true—His death being his final act of faithful obedience to His Father’s will.

This statement also applies to us. As followers of Jesus, we too must bear fruit. A condition required for us to bear fruit is that we must remain united to him and seek to do his will. The person who remains united with him, Jesus said “will produce abundantly”. He went further to say: “If you live in me, and my words stay part of you, you may ask what you will and it will be done for you.”

Jesus is not saying that we will have some kind of supernatural power to do or get anything we want. He is rather saying that if we are truly united to him in heart, mind and will, our prayers and requests would always be in harmony with what he wants. Hence the Father would always be able to grant these requests.

The Father is the vinegrower who cares for the branches in two ways: by burning the unfaithful ones, and by pruning those that bear fruit. The Father trims and cleans the branches to increase their yield.

When we experience hardship, injustice and suffering, we naturally ask: Why me? What did I do to deserve this? Such questions are unanswerable. Jesus’ words in today’s Gospel do not answer such questions. Rather, they are a challenge: to view setbacks and suffering as opportunities to grow. The image of God as a vinegrower is like that of a gardener pruning and cutting off the new green shoots on a vine, so that all the growth can be concentrated in the few early blooming branches which the gardener has elected to bear fruit. Pruning is often very painful but it leads to a fruitful abundant harvest. Jesus calls us to submit to the vinegrower’s pruning, and so to glorify the Father by producing abundant fruit.

*Fr. Augustine*



*Our Lady,  
Star of the Sea,  
Pray for us!*



# Sunday Mass Readings

Reading 1: [Acts 9:26–31](#)

Psalm: [Psalm 22:26–28, 30–32](#)

Reading 2: [1 John 3:18–24](#)

Gospel: [John 15:1–8](#)



The Fifth Sunday of Easter continues our journey through the sayings of Jesus in the Gospel of John. Today's reading is taken from that Last Supper discourse and it's Jesus' famous analogy of the vine and the branches.

Jesus is making this analogy of vine and branches not just any time during his public ministry, he's doing it at the Last Supper. This is important because during the Last Supper, we know from the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, he actually took a chalice of wine and said, *"this is my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant."* So in that context of having instituted the Eucharist, which involves bread and wine, it's not inconsequential that he's going to compare himself to a grapevine. This isn't just any kind of vine, this is a grapevine..the context here is sacramental. Jesus has just identified a chalice with the fruit of the grape, or the blood of the grape as the Bible calls it, with his own blood.

Jesus says that he is the vine, his Father is the vine dresser, and his disciples are the branches off of the vine, which are supposed to bear fruit (that's why you plant a grapevine, you want it to bear fruit). Jesus then takes this analogy and talks about the two different kinds of branches on this grapevine that he himself is: branches that bear fruit and branches that don't. The fruitless branches – first, they are cut off from Christ. It says here that the vine dresser takes them away because they do not abide in him. Second, they are cut off and then they are thrown into the fire. Whenever Jesus uses the imagery of fire in the gospels, he's frequently doing it with reference to the fire of Gehenna, to the place of the damned. Jesus is saying that if you are a member of his body (if you're a branch and you're part of the vine, i.e. you're one of his disciples) but you don't keep his word, you don't obey his commandments, you don't actually bear fruit, then God, the vine dresser, the Father, is going to do to you what any vine dresser would do to a branch that's not bearing fruit – he'll cut it off and throw it into the fire.

By contrast, there are the fruitful branches. Jesus says that every branch that does bear fruit he prunes that it may bear more fruit. What does pruning mean? How can the Father prune us? Think of a person who's gardening; sometimes a branch will bear fruit but in

order to get it to bear more fruit you will cut off some of the excess, you'll prune it. Anything that's not actually necessary you cut off and it gives more of the sap to the fruit, so that it is able to bear more fruit. Another aspect of this branch is that it abides in the vine, it abides in the main vine, and that apart from that main vine it can't do anything. Again, this is obvious if you've ever gardened. Sometimes when gardening, you accidentally cut off a branch that was in fact good. Well once that branch is cut off from the vine, it's not going to bear any fruit, it's going to die. Because apart from the vine, apart from the trunk, it can't bear any fruit. Everything it has, all the life that it produces, all the fruit that it produces, comes from the vine itself. So what Jesus is trying to do here is teach the disciples the principle, the necessity, of remaining in him, of abiding in him. If he is truly the vine and they are the branches, that any fruit that they bear really isn't going to be from them. It's going to be from him and from the Father that will prune them, so that they can bear more fruit.

So this is a beautiful image here of the life of Christian discipleship and also of apostolic activity, of evangelization, of bearing fruit for the nature of the kingdom. Jesus basically gives us the essential principle for any kind of apostolic work or evangelization, and that's this, unless you abide in me you can't do anything, you can't bear any fruit. Apart from me you can do nothing he says. This is important to emphasize because sometimes we can be tempted to think, well apart from Christ I can do some things well but with Christ I can do even better. That's not what Jesus says. He doesn't say apart from me you can do some things and you need me to kind of beef it up. What he says is apart from me you can do nothing, because the work of the vine dresser and the work of the vine is supernatural. He's talking about evangelization, he's talking about the spread of the kingdom of God, which is essentially supernatural in character.

This is what the Catechism of the Catholic Church says on how we too can abide in Christ and bear fruit (**CCC2074**):

*Jesus says: "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." The fruit referred to in this saying is the holiness of a life made fruitful by union with Christ. When we believe in Jesus Christ, partake of his mysteries, and keep his commandments, the Savior himself comes to love, in us, his Father and his brethren, our Father and our brethren. His person becomes, through the Spirit, the living and interior rule of our activity.*

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Notice what the catechism identifies is the fruit: The fruit is the holiness of a life marked by union with Christ; the way we bear fruit is to remain united to him. Second, the way we remain united to him is to believe, so through faith. To partake of his mysteries; the mysteries is an Eastern way of referring to the sacraments. So, stay in the sacraments and the life of the church. And then finally, to keep his commandments. So **faith, sacraments, and works - all three of those things go together.**

It's not our works by themselves that unites us with Christ, but it's our works through grace that manifest our union with Christ and him working in us. And then third and finally, when we do all these things, Christ himself becomes "the living and interior rule of our activity". That's a radical thing to realize. What the Catechism is basically saying there is that when we believe in Christ, obey Christ, and remain in the sacramental life of the church, whenever we do bear fruit, it's not actually us acting, it's Christ acting in us, it's him bearing fruit in us, it's him becoming the living and interior rule of our activity.

This is St. John's way of expressing what Paul says: "*It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me.*" (Galatians 2:20) And if you really begin to believe that and to live on it, it will totally change your life, to **realize that everything good that I do, whatever good that I do is actually Christ living and working in me; and then the challenge becomes to live a life of holiness that's worthy of the Christ who dwells within me.**

## *Please pray for*

Shirley Schlase, John Becher,  
Cathy Houldson, Christine Algard,  
Marin Robertson,  
Ivan Felipe Aragon,  
Jean Guy Tardif, Trudy Bishop,  
Theresa Desrochers,  
Margaret Benoit, Maria Lee,  
Givon Santos, Rose Cruz,  
Byrne Turner, Bernie Karoway,  
Murray Carpenter,  
Patrick Hamilton, Marilyn Wolfe,  
Jason Eddleman, Julia Nadon,  
Delia Antunovich, Ken Prout,  
Mercedes Sandoval, Judy Nault,  
Maria Kasprzyk, Jola Melone,  
Brian Hickey, Jack Plain,  
Charles Lefaive, Anna Schott,  
Peter Kingsland, Fern McCann,  
Nancy Murchison, Karine Tardif,  
Angus Heaps, Bob Keith,  
Stephanie Wideski,  
Edward Drabik, Rob McLellan,  
Glenn Brooks, Carmina Raponi,  
Susie Bencherif, Marci Nunez,  
Adria Tate, Wolf Mashohn,  
Guilherme & Isaura da Ponte,  
Amelia Solomon, Lydia McGrann,  
Theresa Kim, Manal Ibrahim,  
Dirk Post, Marian Nadelko,  
Maureen McLaren

## *Please pray for the Repose of the Soul*

of: Roger Amiot



## **ADORATION CHAPEL OPEN Every Day 9AM - 9PM**



*"For he who finds me finds life,  
and wins favour from the Lord."*  
Proverbs 8:35

What joy the simple gift of our time in dedicated prayer and adoration must bring to Our Lord! Let us come to Him in the Adoration Chapel, praising Him in selfless devotion.

Could you spare just ONE HOUR in your week for Jesus? Any hour between 9:00 am and 9:00 pm is available to you, or choose one of the following hours in need of a weekly adorer:

Sunday, 12:00pm-1:00pm  
**Sunday, 3:00pm-4:00pm**  
**Monday, 9:00am-10:00am**  
Monday, 2:00pm-3:00pm  
**Wednesday, 4:00pm-5:00pm**  
**Thursday, 12:00pm-1:00pm**  
Thursday, 2:00pm-3:00pm  
**Friday, 1:00pm-2:00pm**  
**Friday, 3:00pm-4:00pm**  
**Saturday, 2:00pm-3:00pm**  
**Saturday, 3:00pm-4:00pm**  
**Saturday, 4:00pm-5:00pm**  
Saturday, 5:00pm-6:00pm  
**Saturday, 6:00pm-7:00pm**

Hours in need of a Substitute:

Mon., May 6, 13, 20  
– 9:00-10:00am  
Mon., May 6, 13 – 2:00-3:00 pm  
Wed., May 15, 22, 29  
– 4:00-5:00pm  
Fri., May 3, 10 – 1:00-2:00pm  
Fri., May 10, 31 – 3:00-4:00pm  
Fri., May 17, 24 – 7:00-8:00pm  
Sat., May 4, 11, 18  
– 7:00-8:00pm

For more information or to schedule a Holy Hour of adoration please call:  
Donna Sali 604 542 3070

**Congratulations to those recently Baptised:**

Adriel Jon Torres  
Lucien Charles Kustra  
Siena Grace Brosas  
Richelle Aepril Etrata



**Pregnancy, Infant and Child Loss Memorial Mass**

May 18th at 5pm in the Good Shepherd Church

Join us for a special Mass as we remember our little ones in heaven. There will be candles lit in their honour and we will have light snacks and a chance to connect after Mass.

No RSVP necessary.

Contact: Brittany Garisto  
[b.garisto@outlook.com](mailto:b.garisto@outlook.com)

**Baptism for Children**

To help parents prepare for children's entrance into the sacramental life of the Church, **ALL parents and godparents** are required complete **Baptism**

**Preparation** prior to scheduling a Baptism— next class on **Saturday, May 18, 10AM** at Good Shepherd Church Meeting Room.

Please contact the parish office to register 604-531-5739  
[parish@starofthesea.ca](mailto:parish@starofthesea.ca)

**"Iron sharpens iron; and one man sharpens another."** *Prov*  
27.17 RSV-CE



Meeting on the first and second Monday of the month **starting on May 6th and 13th** in the Star of the Sea School Lobby from 7:00 - 8:30 PM.

The group is to be a process that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, transforms members' lives and then equips them to be transformative agents in the lives of others. The group is limited to 12 members. Keeping within that number allows the group to build trust and intimacy based on humble, honest and vulnerable conversations.

The purpose of the group is, God willing, to eventually reproduce another men's group that is also making and growing disciples of Christ - having a mission orientation - that will spawn other groups making and growing more disciples of Christ.

For more information about the format and content resources for the sessions and to register for the group, please contact Mario Ylanan, the Group Facilitator, at [mario.ylanan@gmail.com](mailto:mario.ylanan@gmail.com)

**TRUE LIFE IN GOD**

**Prayer Group** is inviting you to pray the Holy Rosary with meditations.  
[www.tlig.org](http://www.tlig.org)



Meetings in Good Shepherd Church, Fireside Room on **Tuesdays** 10am-11:30am April 30, May 7

*St. Thérèse*

**Widows Group**

Next Meeting is on **Monday, May 13** in the Fireside Room after the 9am Mass.

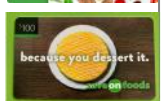
For more info. contact  
Marlene Johnston -604 538 5899  
Mimi Bower-604 535 6288



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

Shopping Cards from Safeway/Thrifty Foods and Save-On-Foods are available for sale after all the Masses  
Next Weekend:

**May 4 & 5.** Cash or cheques accepted.



**Saturday May 4**  
8AM—1PM

at Star of the Sea Hall  
15262 Pacific Ave, White Rock

For more information, contact:  
Bill 778-682-2519  
[fleamarket@starofthesea.ca](mailto:fleamarket@starofthesea.ca)

**Death is Not the End:  
Estate Planning and Estate  
Dispute Basics**

This webinar teaches the basics of estate planning, what to do when someone dies, and how unforeseen estate disputes can arise. Two Dates:

**Tuesday, April 30, 6pm-8pm or  
Wednesday, May 1, 1pm-3pm**

Scan QR Code



or email [info@raincoastfs.com](mailto:info@raincoastfs.com) for more information

*Ladies:* You are invited to our **MAGNIFICAT Prayer Brunch**, on **Saturday, May 25th**, 11am-2pm

at St. John Paul II Pastoral Centre, 4885 Saint John Paul II Way, in Vancouver.

Our speaker is Donna Ross, Co-ordinator of the International Magnificat Chapters.

Walking in the Spirit Prayer teams will be available at the end of the event for those interested.

Please register at [beholdvancouver.org/events](http://beholdvancouver.org/events) or call 778-868-4226 or email:

[magnificatvancouver@gmail.com](mailto:magnificatvancouver@gmail.com)  
Registration deadline is May 17th

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*Can connections made through the parish office help us help each other?*

If so, email us at

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**GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**Friday, June 7**

THE HILLS AT PORTAL GOLF CLUB

You are invited to join the Star of the Sea Golf Tournament & Dinner. Junior golfers are welcome to join in the fun with an early morning tee-time to participate in their own mini tournament beginning at 8:30am.

Prizes and lunch included.

Not a golfer? Join us for dinner only! Doors open at 6pm and dinner served at 7:30pm. DJ and silent action to follow.

Scan QR Code for more info:



or email: [sosgolftournament@gmail.com](mailto:sosgolftournament@gmail.com)

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