



DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

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# Fifth Sunday of Easter

with Fr. Michael Vaughan, Pastor  
Good Shepherd Parish, Elk Grove

## Gospel, John 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples: "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. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me.

I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

## Reflection Jn 15:5

"Without me you can do nothing"

Jesus reminds us in the Gospel this Sunday that he is the vine and we are the branches. He wants to use us and therefore will prune us so that he will shine more and more through me. The Easter season is the season of grace. By our Baptism we actually share in Christ's life. We belong to him.

However, we can correspond to grace or build our lives apart from him. We all have a tendency to self sufficiency which instead of depending on God, we depend on ourselves and our own efforts. Christ wants us to lean on him. We can say that for our lives to be fruitful, we must pray as if everything depends on God and work as if everything depends on us. If we only do one, his grace can't produce fruit in our lives.



<https://www.cathopic.com/photo/12601-uvass>

## Questions for Reflection:

How often do I pray?

Do I realize that only by being united to Christ will my efforts bear fruit according to God's plan?

Am I convinced that without him I can do nothing?

## Psalm 22:26-27,

28, 30, 31-32

I will fulfill my vows  
before those who fear the  
LORD. The lowly shall eat  
their fill; they who seek  
the LORD shall praise him:  
“May your hearts live  
forever!”

All the ends of the earth  
shall remember and turn  
to the LORD; all the  
families of the nations  
shall bow down before  
him.

To him alone shall bow  
down all who sleep in the  
earth; before him shall  
bend all who go down  
into the dust.

And to him my soul shall  
live; my descendants shall  
serve him. Let the coming  
generation be told of the  
LORD that they may pro-  
claim to a people yet to  
be born the justice he has  
shown.

