

CLOSING PRAYER:

~ A Prayer of Renewal ~

**Gracious God,
sometimes we are too busy
to pay attention to you.
You have given us your Word,
and we do not notice.
We do not heed the example of your Son,
so we go astray.
You show us the path we should take,
and we ignore you.**

**Lord,
we have tried to gather up things on earth
and have neglected the things of heaven.
We have focused on our material well-being
and have ignored the well-being of others —
and our own spiritual well-being.
We have looked only to further
our own advantage,
and have ridden rough-shod
over the needs of others.**

**Show us, O God,
that we cannot ignore you
and our neighbor.
Redeem us from self-centeredness,
Bring us back to your way,
and keep us faithful in following you.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.**

CAMPUS MINISTRY OFFICE:

The Campus Ministry Office is located in **Our Lady Chapel**.
phone: [440] 473-3560 [office] or 216-570-9276 [cell].
e-mail: blazekj@gilmour.org

Our Lady Chapel



Our Lady Chapel is a Roman Catholic community founded in the love of the Father, centered in Christ, and rooted in the Holy Cross tenets of building family and embracing diversity. We are united in our journey of faith through prayer and sacrament, and we seek growth through the wisdom of the Holy Spirit in liturgy and outreach, while responding to the needs of humanity.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK:

At all our Masses this weekend, April 27-28, we will be celebrating the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Illness and suffering have always been part of human life. In illness, we experience our powerlessness, our limitations, and our mortality. Every illness can make us glimpse death. Illness can lead to anguish, self-absorption — sometimes even despair and anger against God. It can also make us more mature — helping us discern in our lives what is not essential so that we can turn toward that which is. Very often illness provokes a search for God and a return to Him.

The Church believes and confesses that among the seven sacraments, there is one very special sacrament which is intended to strengthen those who are being tried by illness. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick was instituted by Christ our Lord as a true and proper sacrament of the New Testament. It is alluded to by Mark in his gospel, but is recommended to the faithful and more fully explained in the letter of James the Apostle [James 5:14-15].

Most of us remember the time when the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick was conferred exclusively on those who were at the point of death; it's very name — "Extreme Unction" [Last Anointing] reminded us of this practice. But it is clear from the scriptures that this was never the intent of the sacrament. The early Church had an entirely different approach to this sacrament; the Vatican council restored this approach and returned the sacrament to its original name. Today, this beautiful sacrament allows us a special encounter with God during those times of illness in our lives. The cross always leads to the resurrection; sickness leads to salvation.

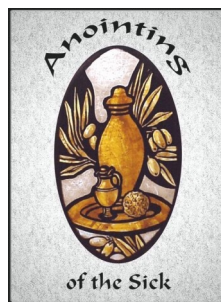
When are the times when we can receive this sacrament? There are many occasions — during any serious illness; before surgery; the elderly; mental and emotional illness; spiritual struggle; approaching death. Who determines when an illness is serious? You do! Whenever you feel you need the sacrament you should receive it. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick has been the vehicle of many powerful encounters with God in the lives of people. **If you have or know of friends or relatives who should receive this sacrament, please try to arrange for them to be here. If there is a problem with local transportation, please let us know.** Join us for this special occasion.

WOMEN'S EVENING OF RETREAT — SAVE THE DATE:

Tuesday, May 7th from 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM will be our annual Women's Spring Retreat. All women of Our Lady Chapel and the Gilmour Academy Women's Club and their guests are invited to join us. We will begin with **Mass in Our Lady Chapel at 6:00 PM, and then move to the Center for Performing Arts for a light supper, and our evening of discussion, led by Fr. John.** There is no cost for the evening, but we are accepting free will offerings to offset the cost for refreshments. If you cannot make it for Mass or for dinner, you are still welcome to attend the evening of spiritual conversation — come when you are able! Mark the date on your calendars and give yourself a treat in the Lord! **Sign up on the retreat sheet located on the easel in the narthex of Our Lady Chapel or contact Patty in the Chapel Office at (440) 473-3560 or by email at: szaniszlop@gilmour.org**

**REMEMBER:**

The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit. —Nelson Henderson

**PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED:**

- For Luke Allen
- For Denise Motzer, sister of AVI associate Audrey
- For Michael Walsh
- For Bernard Zofcin
- For Alida Macor, sister of Father Nicholas Ayo, C.S.C.
- For Susan Phalen, the sister of Father John Phalen, C.S.C.
- For Pam Spicer, wife of former Gilmour coach, Bob Spicer.

ATTACHMENT TO THE VINE:

"I am the vine, you are the branches," says Jesus in John's Gospel [15:1-8] — adding that if we remain in him we will "bear much fruit." Through his death and resurrection, Christ has become for us life-giving Spirit. The crucified and risen Lord is the always available source of our nourishment and energy. Our challenge is to develop a relationship with Christ and to stay in touch with him so that we can grow spiritually and share in his mission to spread the reign of God in the world.

In John's Gospel, Jesus warns us that we will wither and die spiritually if separated from him. Examples come to mind. An energetic Catholic peace activist stopped going to Mass entirely, and found that he gradually lost motivation for the cause. A mother of two teenagers, who dropped her longstanding habit of praying for her children in the morning, started running out of energy to deal with them throughout the day.

On the other hand, we can imagine individuals who bear fruit by staying in touch with Christ in various ways. A municipal judge maintains a Christ-like respect for individual defendants — helping some to get on a more productive path. A social worker grows spiritually and does her job more effectively by seeing Christ in her clients. A sister who prays every day to Christ for the grace to be more tolerant and less judgmental is a force for good in her community, helping to create a more harmonious spirit. How can you come closer to Christ the Vine so that you can grow spiritually and share more effectively in his mission?

—taken from the writings of Father Jim Bacik which appear on the internet

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**

- Monday:** Acts 14: 5-18, John 14:21-26
- Tuesday:** Acts 14: 19-28, John 14:27-31a
- Wednesday:** Acts 15:1-6, John 15:1-8
- Thursday:** Acts 15:7-21, John 15:9-11
- Friday:** 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, John 14:6-14
- Saturday:** Acts 16:1-10, John 15:18-21

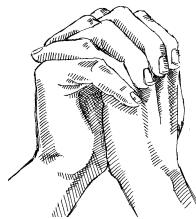
6th Week in Easter: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; 1 John 4:7-10, John 15:9-17

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Jesus calls us to pray for one another. Please keep all these people in your prayers.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:

- For John Zippay, family friend of Bernadette and Stephen Ritley, who is critically ill.
- For Jill Thompson, who is undergoing treatment for mental health issues.
- For Nora Beach, wife of former Gilmour Religion Instructor, Bob Beach, mother of Hannah ['98] and Miriam ['99] Beach, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Chuck Campanella, father of Anthony Campanella, who continues in rehab.
- For Mike Heryak, husband of Janet, father of Lillian ['09], Rosa ['12] and Edwin ['17] Heryak, who is seriously ill.
- For John Roddy, brother of Tim Roddy ['87], and brother of Gilmour Marketing associate, Mary Roddy Stretar, uncle of Katie Stretar ['29], and cousin of Daniel ['83], Mike ['85], and Matt ['86] Roddy, who is undergoing treatment for a recurrence of cancer.
- For Richard DeBacco, father of Michelle Chiacchiarri ['96], father-in-law of Mark Chiacchiarri ['94], grandfather of Aurelia ['28] and Olivia ['30] Chiacchiarri, who is undergoing treatment for lymphoma
- For Debbie Langer, friend of Cindy Frimel, who was diagnosed with brain cancer.
- For Denise Mardano, who is battling liver cancer.
- For Sheila Fitzpatrick, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Joseph Michael, father of former Gilmour LS religion teacher, Colleen Michael, who is undergoing treatment for ALS.
- For Father Ken Molinaro, C.S.C., who is under the care of hospice.
- For Sister Colette Livingston, O.S.U., who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Nada Kucmanic, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Patty Szaniszló, Chapel Office Associate, who is undergoing medical treatment.
- For Bob Lisowski, father of Father Robert Lisowski, C.S.C., who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Daniel Cavoli, who is undergoing treatment for a rare neurodegenerative disorder
- For Father Tom Lemos, C.S.C., who is seriously ill.
- For Father Dick Potthast, C.S.C., who is undergoing medical testing.
- For Father Jim McDonald, C.S.C., who is undergoing rehab following multiple surgeries for a broken ankle.



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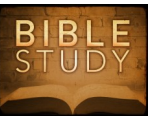
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PRAYERS FOR OTHERS:

- For an end to the war between Israel and Hamas.
- For an end to the war between Russia and Ukraine.
- For an end to violence as a means to resolve differences.
- For a greater respect for human life, from the moment of conception until natural death.
- For all caregivers.
- For all service men and women serving our country, and for their families.
- For a greater awareness of our call to create a more humane and just society.

NEXT BIBLE STUDY — WEDNESDAY, MAY 8th:

Our next Virtual Bible Study will be on Wednesday, May 8th at 6:30 PM. Bible Study continues to meet bi-weekly. The Bible Study is open to everyone — all middle and high school students, college students, young adults, and all adults. We will all come together to be enriched by God’s word. It’s a great time, and a good witness of our faith to others. If you can’t come at 6:30, come when you can. Gather your favorite snack and/or drink, but be prepared to be nourished on God’s word.



Our topic: Pentecost. What does it mean?

Mark your calendars and be part of this wonderful activity that will deepen your spiritual journey. **We will meet every other week — topic to be decided at the end of the previous meeting.** Join us. You’ll have a blast, and celebrate your faith along the way..

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday, April 28: 5 th Week in Easter	10:00 AM In Person & Live Stream
Monday, April 29: St. Catherine of Sienna	12:00 PM
Tuesday, April 30:	8:30 am - 9:45 AM - 2:00 PM
Wednesday, May 1:	NO MASS
Thursday, May 2: Saint Athanasius	NO MASS
Friday, May 3: Ss. Philip and James	NO MASS
Saturday, May 4: 6 th Week in Easter	5:00 PM In Person only
Sunday, May 5: 6 th Week in Easter	10:00 AM In Person & Live Stream

PLAY BALL!

Our Lady Chapel is going back to Classic Park to watch the Lake County Captains. Join us on **Friday, June 14th** as the Captains take on the Fort Wayne Tin Caps. Game time is **7:00 PM** and that’s when our picnic dinner will be served. While our menu has not been determined yet, there are new options such as breaded chicken & Italian sausage sandwiches, as well as mac & cheese, chips, cookies and beverages. The meal will be available until 8:30 PM. **Cost is \$35 per person and includes the buffet and a box seat ticket. The game will be followed by fireworks and a faith witness by members of the Captains team. The last day to sign up will be Sunday, May 26th.**



A LIFE LIVED IN FAITH:

“I am the vine you are the branches” is a scripture phrase we are all very familiar with [John 15:1-8]. It is a wonderful and most beautiful biblical image. But actually the words of John’s Gospel say: “I am the true vine” — or as some scholars also translate it: “I am the real vine.” What does this mean? Are we to assume that there is a “false” vine somewhere that we should avoid getting entangled with? Or is Jesus emphasizing that he is the source of real life — life in all its fullness — and that what we have here on earth is only a pale shadow? If this is what is intended, then we have a contrast here between what is heavenly and what is earthly.

To help us to understand this, we could look to a similar phrase elsewhere in John’s Gospel — “It was not Moses who gave you bread from heaven; it is my Father who gives you the bread from heaven — the true bread. I am the bread of life” [John 6:32-33]. Is John trying to stress the dichotomy or split between the Old and New Testaments? Or is John rather emphasizing the contrast between Jesus and his followers as the true vine with the false vine represented by the Jewish synagogue of his day?

Whatever is meant, we should understand that this image of the vine was frequently used in the Old Testament as a description of the relationship between God and his people. There were elaborate carvings of the vine and the branches in the Temple, and this image was also frequently used on the coinage to represent the people of Israel. So it is a particularly rich image that St. John is drawing on — one that was in frequent use and easily understood by the people.

We don’t tend to think of Israel today as one of the great wine areas of the world. But there were vines there in plenty in ancient times. In those much harder days perhaps it was not so much the quality as the alcoholic content of the wine that was important since at that time no one could be sure that the water from the well was pure.

The point is that we are dealing with a readily understood image. What is important to the image is the importance of pruning the vine. There is a great quantity of dead wood that can find on an apparently healthy tree. And so pruning is important to promote growth and enable the tree to give a plentiful crop of good fruit. Pruning has to be done each year if the tree is to remain healthy. What is also important to note is that a neglected tree was capable of bursting back into blossom with a bit of rigorous pruning.



The implications for the spiritual life are fairly obvious. To stay spiritually healthy, a bit of pruning is necessary on a regular basis. But even if there has been long term neglect, not all is lost and you can make an amazing comeback.

But what is the “bearing fruit” all about? What does Jesus mean by this? Is there such a thing as “spiritual fruit”?

The first thing we have to say with this rather biological metaphor is that we are talking about growth — organic growth. Growth requires movement and change. As Cardinal Newman said so wisely: “To live is to change, and to be perfect means to have changed often.” Change is the only sign of life. And change is difficult. But change is what we are about. Change is of the very essence of Christianity. Take the change out of Christianity and it is dead in the water. The whole aim and purpose of the Church is to bring about conversion — radical change.

But this is the very opposite of how the ordinary person — and indeed many of us believers — per-

ceive the Church. It is generally thought of as a rigid, static organization, anchored to the past. And indeed there are important and vital aspects of Christianity that are anchored in the past — the teaching of Jesus Christ to start with, which is at the very heart of what the Church is about.

Abandon this, and we might as well pack up now. And the Church is rigid in holding on to these teachings. Unlike other Christian denominations, the Roman Catholic Church will not water-down these teachings — no matter how unattractive or unfashionable they may be perceived.

But the teaching of Jesus is a call to change — it is a call to conversion. This is why the Church is called “ever the same, yet ever new.” While we hold firmly to the teaching of Jesus — and we resist any watering-down of doctrine — we always need to be open to change — especially within ourselves. We are open to the promptings of the Spirit. As we have progressed through our lives we have acquired a special sensitivity to God’s way of working, and we see his hand in all things. We allow him to nudge us forwards; we deepen our faith; and we continually find new ways to model our lives on Jesus.

The life of the Christian, therefore, can never be merely passive — just as love can never be passive. If we are truly in love with someone, then we are always on the lookout for things we can do to please the other. We try to help them; we look for opportunities to demonstrate our love; we try to change the things in us that cause them irritation.

It is exactly the same for the Christian who loves God. This constant striving to please God — this openness to change in our lives — is a concrete sign of our love. This is active Christianity. This is a faith that is truly dynamic and living.

Prayer brings about change in our lives. Maybe this change is only very slow and gradual, but it does change us. It does move us forwards; it does gradually draw us ever closer to God — the source and summit of all life and love. This is spiritual fruitfulness; a coming to the fulfilment of all that we were made for. This is the wonderful ripeness of a life lived in faith.

—taken from the writings of Father Alex McAllister, S.D.S., which appear on the internet

FAITH EDUCATION:

There are no Faith Education classes this Sunday, due to Gilmour Academy’s Prom weekend. Classes will meet again next Sunday, May 5, for the final class meeting for the school year. Please make sure your child attends our final class meeting! Faith Education meets on Sundays from 8:45—9:45 AM. This is followed by Mass in Our Lady Chapel at 10 AM. If you have any questions, please contact Patty in the Chapel Office [[440-473-3560].

**SERVING THE LORD IN THE POOR — MAY 18th:**

Our Savior Lutheran Church — across the street from the Chapel — has a Food Pantry which distributes food to the community on **the third Saturday of each month.** They welcome volunteers. **On Saturday morning at 9 AM, they need help unloading the trailers and setting up items for distribution and preparing for the food pantry to open. It serves around 150 clients each time. The food pantry serves clients from 9:30 AM—1:30 PM on Saturday.**

Our Savior Lutheran’s Food Pantry was formed to serve those in emergency situations and/or with on-going need in the cities of Mayfield Heights, Mayfield Village, Highland Heights and Gates Mills. The Food Pantry respects social and cultural diversity and upholds the worth and dignity of those it serves. All those in the area with need will be served equally, as supplies allow. The food pantry is a member of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank.

Please let us know in the chapel office [440-473-3560] if you would like more information or if you would like to help. This is a wonderful way to serve others. Please consider this opportunity.

