



Small Groups

Parish Community of Saint Helen

Sunday, April 28, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Opening Song: [Remain in Me, I am the Vine by Steve Angrisano](#)

Opening Prayer

Prayer after Holy Communion

Stay with me, Lord, for it is necessary to have

You present so that I do not forget You.

You know how easily I abandon You.

Stay with me, Lord, because I am weak

and I need Your strength,

that I may not fall so often. . . .

Stay with me, Lord, for I desire to love You

very much, and always be in Your company.

Stay with me, Lord, if You wish me to be faithful to You. . . .

Stay with me, Lord, for it is You alone I look for,

Your Love, Your Grace, Your Will, Your Heart, Your Spirit,

because I love You and ask no other reward but to love You more and more.

With a firm love, I will love You with all my heart while on earth

and continue to love You perfectly during all eternity.

Amen.

—An Excerpt from St. Pio of Pietrelcina's

Gospel

Jn 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: [Msgr. Tom's Weekend Message](#)

Discussion Questions

1. Jesus repeats remain in me, love and bear fruit. How are these words related? What is the "fruit that will remain?"
2. How is love the essential dynamic of the Catholic life?
3. How strong is love in your parish, your community, your workplace?
4. When have you witnessed near complete joy in our parish life?
5. How strong is your connection to the vine? How much energy do you draw from God? How much of that energy do you use to give life to others?

Closing Prayer

Ask for the group intentions ~ *Lord hear our prayer* after each

Glory be to the father,
and to the son,
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen.

Closing Reflection Song : [Abba Father ~ One Hope Project](#)