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St. Mary by the Sea Catholic Church

PO Box 390 275 S Pacific Street Rockaway Beach OR 97136

May 2, 2021



We are a loving, supportive, and vibrant Catholic community committed to being a welcoming parish family by spreading the Love of Jesus Christ throughout our community and into the world.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

We need pruning in our Christian life. Cutting out of our lives everything that is contrary to the spirit of Jesus and renewing our commitment to Christian ideals in our lives every day. This is the first type of self-imposed pruning expected of us. A second means of pruning is to practice self-control over our evil inclinations, sinful addictions and aberrations. Cordial mingling in our neighborhood and society with people of different cultures, races, religions, and orientations also enables us to prune away our selfish, judgmental, and prejudicial tendencies. We learn to treat others in society with Christian charity, thereby strengthens us and enabling us to face - with the courage of our Christian convictions - the pain, suffering, contradictions, and difficulties He permits to enter our lives.

We need to abide in Christ and let Christ abide in us: The four Gospels teach us how to become true disciples of Jesus and how to abide in him as branches abide in the main trunk of the vine, drawing their life from it. Personal and liturgical prayers, frequenting of the Sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation, daily meditative reading of Scripture, and our loving, mutual forgiveness exchanged with everyone - these enable us to abide in Jesus, the true Vine, as fruit-bearing branches.

Therefore, we have to remember that we are by nature religious beings. We come from God, and we return to God; we can live the fullness of human life if we freely bind ourselves with God, we read our life's situation in the light of God's kingdom, and we choose to love God above all things. Real happiness results when there is a good connection among ourselves and communion of God in our lives. This Gospel reading from John (one of the "I am" statements) highlights the importance of our connection and lifeline to Christ. If we're disconnected, we wither and die like a dead branch. And when we receive our energy from Our Source, we bear fruit and glorify our God.... Amen. In Christ, Father Akuti