

Saint Augustine Catholic Church

Oakland, California

• Fifth Sunday of Easter •

April 28th, 2024

[Dear Friends of St. Augustine Parish.](#)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! – Christ is Risen! – Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Many of you know that **Linda Prara-Jenkins** (our parish bookkeeper & secretary), and **Douglas Castro** (our maintenance supervisor) will be retiring soon. We thank them for their long and dedicated ministry to the people of St. Augustine Parish. They have been invaluable to me in the transition of parish leadership, and they even stayed on longer than they were expecting, for which I am very grateful. Below are postings for their employment positions should you or someone you know be interested.

God's abundant blessings of Easter joy to you and your loved ones.
Fr. John Prochaska

Bookkeeper / Secretary Position

St. Augustine Church, Oakland, is hiring a part-time Bookkeeper / Secretary. The position will be 22 hours per week and is classified as S5 on the Diocesan Salary scale. The candidate will have experience with QuickBooks, Microsoft Software (especially Excel), and have the capacity to learn other software as necessary. The person will also have the ability to interact well with people, work under little supervision, and schedule the use of parish facilities. For a full job-description and application, please contact Fr. John Prochaska, Parochial Administrator, at 510-653-8631 or johnpro50@gmail.com

Maintenance Technician Position

St. Augustine Church, Oakland, is hiring a part-time Maintenance Technician. The position will be 15 hours per week plus emergency responses, and is classified as S5 on the Diocesan Salary scale. The candidate will be responsible for maintaining the parish facilities in a clean and well-working condition. The person will have the ability to work under little supervision. For a full job-description and application, please contact Fr. John Prochaska, Parochial Administrator, at 510-653-8631 or johnpro50@gmail.com

Conference: Women and Synodality

The Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley invites you to a conference on "Women and Synodality" on Thursday, May 2 and Friday, May 3. The conference is an opportunity to further the conversation about the pivotal role of women in ministry, leadership, and governance in the Catholic Church. Featured speakers include Cynthia Bailey Manns and Julia Oseka, both voting members of the ongoing Synod on Synodality. The cost of the event is \$10, and participants are encouraged to register at this site <https://bit.ly/43ihEnM> by Friday, April 26.

Support Groups for Caregivers and for Mental Health Support

St. Columba Church, Oakland

Listening Ministry

Contact: Fred Piazza; fred.j.piazza@gmail.com / 925.871.9534

If you want to start a support group at your church or a mental health ministry of some form, please contact Kiona Medina at kmedina@oakdiocese.org for training opportunities and resources.**

400 Alcatraz Ave Oakland, CA 94609 • www.staugustineoakland.com

Weekend Mass schedule

Saturday: 5:00 pm Vigil Mass
Mass: Sunday, 10:00 am & 6:00pm

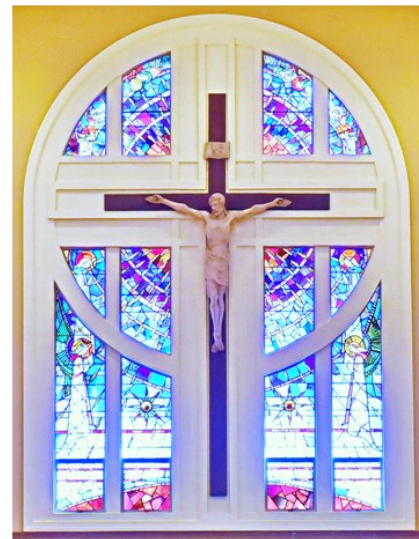
• Weekday Eucharist •

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 8:30 a.m.
Communion Service: Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.

• Sacrament of Reconciliation •

Saturday at 4 p.m.
Also upon Request

" We are called by Christ to love Him, to follow Him and to bring Him to the world."



St. Augustine Catholic Church

400 Alcatraz Ave
Oakland, CA 94609
(510) 653-8631 ext 110
www.staugustineoakland.com

Parish staff

Parochial Administrator
Fr. John Prochaska
(510) 843-2244
frjohn@stjosephtheworkerchurch.org

Music Director
April McNeely
(510) 504-4784
april.mcneely@gmail.com

Office Manager
Linda Prara-Jenkins
(510) 653-8631 ext 101
staugustinefrontdesk@gmail.com

Douglas Castro/Maintenance

PARISH NEWS

If you recently moved into the neighborhood and have been attending our parish, we would love to invite you to pick up a registration form located on the table in the back of the church next to the hospitality table. You may drop it off in the collection basket at your convenience.

Donations

For anyone who would like to donate to our parish via PayPal, please go to the website and click the Donate link.

If you would like to mail a check, you may send it to 400 Alcatraz Ave. Oakland, CA 94609

If you would like to drop it off at the rectory, you may put it in the slot by the rectory front door. It is located on the bottom left side wall. Please do not leave an envelope in the mail box.

Important Websites and TV Channels

EWTN—Masses televised daily.
AT&T UVerse—Channel 562—No HD.
Comcast: 33 (SD), 291 (SD), 1668 (HD)

Vatican website: Vatican.va

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: usccb.org

Bishop Barron: wordonfire.org

Young Catholics, here is a link to the Grapevine, a monthly newsletter of activities taking place in the Bay Area: [ISSUE #82: Mount Diablo, Men's Retreat, & more \(mailchi.mp\)](#)



Question of the Week

For Adults: When have you been “pruned” by your experiences in a way that lead to greater abundance?

For Children: When have you felt stronger or better because you did something hard to help another person?

The True Vine

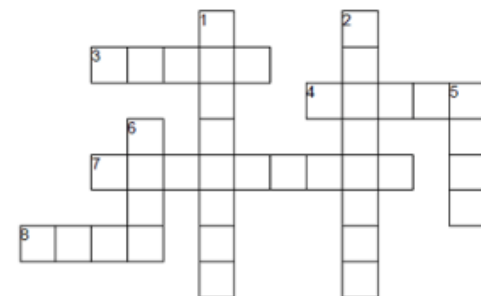
"I am the vine: you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.." John 15:5 (NIV)



The puzzle is based on John 15:1-8

R P O W M P N S I O N F J X Z
 S E O G A Z Y M H A P B K G X
 N S M L D R W O E P P V T P W
 X C U A Y R M L X N X S A Y K
 B P P L I A C R T N M F R Z A
 X K R N N N A I H W O R D S J
 C S U N L E D A R G J N R K X
 J J N Q B A K E O L G E V Y T
 B E E P W I G J W O U F Y I C
 R B S W N I D Z N R O E U V E
 A U Z N N H T B T Y G R X N J
 N R F D P W H H J Z F N I F H
 C N S I J F M K E G B V Y B G
 H E Q E R H X G A R D E N E R
 U D F V A E W R Z U S S G G E

WORDS	GARDENER	REMAIN	BEAR	GLORY
CLEAN	PRUNES	THROWN	VINE	TRUE
FRUIT	BRANCH	FIRE	WITHERS	BURNED



ACROSS

- 3. Praise or honor
- 4. The part of a vine or tree which is eaten
- 7. Those who follow Jesus
- 8. A plant that climbs or creeps along the ground

DOWN

- 1. Arms that grow out from the trunk of a tree
- 2. A person who works with plants and flowers
- 5. The opposite of false
- 6. Burning flame

TRUE	FIRE	GARDENER	FRUIT
DISCIPLES	GLORY	VINE	BRANCHES

WEEKLY CALENDAR

- 8:30 am Holy Mass
Thursdays
- 4 pm Reconciliation
Saturdays
- 5:00 pm Vigil Mass
Saturdays
- 10:00 am Sunday Holy Mass
- 6:00 pm Sunday Holy Mass
- 7:00 pm Weekday Rosary on Zoom

April 21st Collection:
\$1,430. Thank you for your generosity.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Please remember in your prayers those who are ill:
Sam Wolfe, Laura Patterson, Kate Dole, Ron Kowalski Jr. and Nancy Diritto.

And those who have died:
Maureen Sullivan, and Fr. George Crespin. Plus all the souls in Purgatory who have no one to pray for them.

Mass Intentions

5 pm Saturday Holy Mass
Gustavo & Jesus Hernandez (-)

10 am Sunday Holy Mass
Parishioners & Benefactors

What Does Jesus Mean by Vine and Branches?

By Bill Delvaux

Listen now to Jesus as he begins one of His most amazing statements: “I am the vine; you are the branches...” (John 15:5). Such a simple statement, yet you can spend a lifetime plumbing the depths of it. Let’s explore its meaning.

Jesus first mentions that He is the vine a few verses earlier: “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener” (John 15:1). There are a number of Old Testament references that speak of Israel being a vine, planted and tended by God. Yet instead of bearing good fruit, it was degenerate. It was a false vine. Against this background, Jesus speaks of Himself as the true vine, the One who will bear good fruit to His Father’s approval and glory. Now we understand a bit more about our verse at hand. Jesus is the vine, the true source of life for us believers. We are branches connected to Him, drawing that life from Him as branches draw the necessary nutrients to survive and flourish.

At first glance, we may assume that branches bear fruit, but in another sense, it’s really the vine that makes it all happen. The point is: there is such interconnectedness that while we are doing the work, Jesus is doing the work in us as well. But there is even more here in this short statement. When Jesus says that He is the vine, it is the last of a series of statements He makes in the gospel of John using the same form: “I am the Bread of life, I am the Good Shepherd, I am the Resurrection and the Life.” The repeated use of “I am” suggests the name God gave to Moses by which to call Him: “I am who I am” (Ex. 3:14). Jesus is implying that He is the vine from which all life comes, that He is indeed God as the Son. Every life in the created order came through Jesus (John 1:3), and the new life of the Kingdom now flows out of Him as well.

What Was Happening in John 15 When Jesus Said He Is the Vine?

More help in understanding Jesus’ words comes when we look at the context. What was going on in John 15 when He spoke these words? John 14-17 is often called the Last Supper Discourse because it was His last time of teaching with the twelve disciples. He is already looking over the cliff, into the darkness He is about to fall with the cross. A few hours after He finishes these words, He is arrested, tried, and crucified. He knows the end is near. Yet with all the horror facing Him, He still wants to prepare the disciples for His departure as best He can. The significance of the context now becomes clear. When someone is nearing death, what do they talk about? What do they want to say? It’s often words of great importance, words that reveal the deep loves and concerns of the heart. They are words that must be said before death comes. This is exactly how we should see Jesus’ words in John 15:5. He is saying something so close to His heart, hoping we will hear Him and receive those words.

What Kind of Vine Is Jesus Referencing?

Many of us are urbanites, having left the life of the farm. So agricultural contexts commonplace in Jesus’ times sometimes need a bit of explaining. What kind of vine was Jesus speaking about here? Not a poison ivy vine, nor a wild vine growing up a tree in the woods, nor an ivy vine covering an old house. The Old Testament allusions make it fairly clear that this was a grapevine, often used for making wine. This was as commonplace as growing corn in Kansas or potatoes in Idaho. In fact, the grapevine is mentioned more often than any other plant in the entire Bible. This is so in line with the way Jesus taught throughout His ministry, taking everyday items as analogies for Kingdom truths.

Understanding the Rest of John 15:5

After Jesus states that He is the vine and we are the branches, the rest of John 15:5 reads this way:

“...If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” The key action is to remain. It is translated in different ways: to stay, to abide, to live, to live in union. I like to state it this way: “If you stay at home in me and I stay at home in you, you will bear much fruit.” Jesus is to be so much a part of our daily existence that He feels like home. Talking to Him becomes like talking to your best friend. Being with Him is like being at home on your favorite couch. We become like Jesus and do His great deeds not by trying harder or pumping up some kind of spiritual energy. We do all of this by simply staying at home with Him. Bearing fruit then just happens—because it’s ultimately His fruit, not ours.

To make this point even stronger, Jesus concludes this verse by stating the same truth in the negative: There is nothing you can do in terms of bearing fruit by yourself. Nothing. Zero. Zip. Let that sink in. It will change you.

<https://st-ignatius.net/what-jesus-means-by-i-am-the-vine-you-are-the-branches/>