

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

TRUE VINE

At baptism, we become united to Christ much like a branch is connected to a vine. Through Christ, the True Vine, we can do all things; without Him, we can do nothing. By frequent reception of the sacraments, we remain united to the True Vine, Jesus, and seek to bear fruit for Him in the world.

PRIMARY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we are united with Christ and become members of the Church.

Scripture Resources: [Galatians 3:27](#); [1 Corinthians 12:12-13](#)

Catechism Resources: [CCC 755-756](#); [CCC 1267](#); [CCC 1279](#)

Christ uses the image of a vine to explain His relationship with us.

Scripture Resources: [John 15:1-8](#)

Catechism Resources: [CCC 2074](#)

Frequent reception of the sacraments helps us stay united to Jesus.

Scripture Resources: [John 6:53](#); [1 John 1:9](#)

Catechism Resources: [CCC 1391, 1396](#); [CCC 1468](#)





PONDER: EXPLORE KEY THEMES FOR THE WEEK

Look for opportunities throughout the week to ponder with and communicate these truths to your child(ren). Use the questions and explanation for each objective as a guide. The “Younger” and “Older” Children sections are loosely divided by the “age of reason.” You know your child(ren) best (what questions will resonate better with them, if they need a simpler or a more complex version of a particular objective, etc.), so use the section that works best for your family. Refer to the Parent Guide for more recommendations on pondering with your child(ren). Remember that our faith is a mystery that we can always ponder, but sometimes we do not always fully understand and that is ok!

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

Learning Objectives

01 Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we are united with Christ and become members of the Church.

Baptism is a sacrament. Sacraments are God’s way of giving us graces we need to help us live out our faith and be closer to Him.

To ponder this idea with your child, ask:

- What are some groups or communities you are part of? (e.g. family, sports team)
- How did you become a member of those groups? What do you like about being a member of those groups?
- What do you like about being a member of the Church and being united to Christ?
- What graces do you think God gave us at baptism?

02 Christ uses the image of a vine to explain His relationship with us.

Jesus says, “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” ([John 15:5](#)).

To ponder this idea with your child, ask:

- What is Jesus saying in this quote from scripture?
- Who is the vine?
- Who are the branches?
- What does it mean to be a branch of Jesus’ vine?

03 Frequent reception of the sacraments helps us stay united to Jesus.

“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” ([John 15:5](#)).

To ponder this idea with your child, ask:

- Jesus asks us to remain in Him as a branch remains on a vine. What do we need to remain in Him? (We need grace.)
- What are some ways we can receive grace? (The sacraments are extra special ways.)
- Grace keeps us close to Jesus. How does it feel to be close to Jesus?

I AM THE VINE YOU ARE THE BRANCHES

FOR OLDER CHILDREN*Learning Objectives*

01 Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we are united with Christ and become members of the Church.

Grace is a gift from God to bring us closer to Him. Sacraments are one way we receive grace, and baptism is one sacrament you received. One of the graces you received at baptism was becoming a member of the Church, a son/daughter of God the Father.

To ponder this idea with your child, ask:

- How does Jesus say we are united to Him?
- How many people do you think are united to Him? (All who are baptized are united to Him.)
- How many people do you think are in the Church?

02 Christ uses the image of a vine to explain His relationship with us.

Jesus says, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower...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" ([John 15:1,4](#)).

To ponder this idea with your child, ask:

- Who is the vine? Who are the branches? Who takes care of the vine to ensure it is healthy and has lots of branches?
- What is Jesus saying about our relationship with Him?
- What is Jesus saying about our relationship with the Father?
- What is Jesus saying about His relationship with the Father?
- What does it mean to "bear fruit?"

03 Frequent reception of the sacraments helps us stay united to Jesus.

Jesus desires to be close to us. Because He loves us, He gave us the sacraments through which we receive the graces we need to stay close with Him.

To ponder this idea with your child, ask:

- How does Jesus say we can bear fruit?
- What are some ways we can "remain in Him"? (Help your child by recalling the first objective.)
- What are the sacraments? (There is a list of sacraments in the Prayer Guide on page 18.)
- How does receiving sacraments frequently help you stay united to Jesus?



LISTEN: FAMILY LECTIO DIVINA

Read the passage listed below for this week's family Lectio Divina time. Ask what your child's favorite part is or what stood out to them. Ask what God may be trying to show your child through the chosen scripture. Please refer to the Parent Guide for further recommendations on doing Lectio Divina with children.

[John 15:1-8](#) - Parable of the True Vine



PRAY: SPECIAL PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

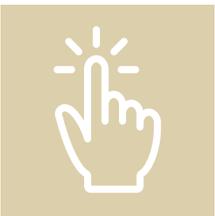
Jesus is the True Vine and we are the branches. We can only do good things and remain holy if we stay connected to Him, apart from Him we can do nothing. To remind yourselves of this, say this prayer of dedication to Jesus together as a family.

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN: Adaptation of the Prayer of Dedication to Jesus (attributed to St. Ignatius of Loyola)

Jesus, I love You. Everything I have I got from You.
 Help me to use the gifts You have given me to serve You and others.
 I trust You with everything I have and all that I am.
 Your love for me is all I need.
 Amen.

FOR OLDER CHILDREN: Prayer of Dedication to Jesus (attributed to St. Ignatius of Loyola)

Lord Jesus Christ, take all my freedom,
 my memory, my understanding, and my will.
 All that I have and cherish
 you have given me.
 I surrender it all to be guided by Your will.
 Your grace and Your love
 are enough for me.
 Give me these, Lord Jesus,
 and I ask for nothing more.
 Amen.



ACT: CONCRETE WAYS TO LIVE OUT THIS WEEK'S THEME

FOR THE FAMILY: True Vine Drawing Project

You'll need a poster or big piece of paper, and crayons or markers. Have your child draw the trunk of a tree and many branches. In the trunk, write the word "Jesus." On each branch write the name of a family member (or paste a picture). Consider adding other branches for your extended family and friends from your church. At the top of the page write the Scripture verse [John 15:5](#): "I am the vine, you are the branches...without me you can do nothing." Hang it up somewhere so you can pray during the week that each person listed on a branch stay rooted in Christ.