

Knights of Columbus Jambalaya Cook-Off • Sunday, May 20 • Sale after Mass
 1st Prize \$100, 2nd prize \$75, 3rd prize \$50 • Applications near entries, on the website, and at the office.
Anyone can enter! You don't have to be a KC member to enter the cook-off.

\$10,000 SUPER RAFFLE \$ May 11, 6:30pm \$ Fr. Kinkead Hall, SJ

Tickets: \$100 each, includes Steak Dinner for 2 at the raffle & chances on raffle interval winners of \$100.

- Tickets will be sold after Masses each week and may be purchased at SJ office.
- For information, call Robert Clouatre, 225-715-7708.

April 29, 2018: 5th Sunday of Easter

Are you ready for a trim? In today's Gospel, we hear the familiar teaching of the vine and the branches. Jesus reminds us that if we remain close to him—living in humility, following God's law, loving our neighbor—we will notice a positive change in our life and the lives of those around us. "Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit." The Holy Spirit is life-giving. He is fruitful. The Spirit of God won't refuse grace to a heart that is open.

As we progress through life, learning how to live and love, we grow. Our personalities flower. We discover what it is to be a blessing to others. We also experience lack, loss, and the results of our failures. We know what it is like to "wither" at times, particularly the times when we willingly separate ourselves from Jesus. "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." For most of us, this experience of being disconnected and off track generates a desire to return to what is right and good, to return to the vine.

But this Gospel is more than "Are you in or are you out?" Even when we remain in God, when we follow Jesus, we are not exempt from the challenge, the pruning. "Everyone that [bears fruit] he prunes." A prudent trim is necessary in the natural world of trees and vines. Dead wood, broken shoots, and diseased branches need to be cut back for the plant to bear fruit. Jesus wants us to be healthy! He says as much himself: "By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples." Take a look at your life today. Where are you bearing fruit? Where do you need to be pruned?

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE
with St. Joseph & St. Stephen Catholic Church
 September 2-11, 2018

Spiritual Director: Fr. Jason Palermo
Pilgrimage Highlights:

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| • Peter's Primacy | • Cana |
| • Caesarea Philippi | • Bethsaida |
| • St. Anne's Church | • Mount Carmel |
| • Holocaust Memorial | • Mount of Olives |
| • St. Peter in Gallicantu | • Via Dolorosa |
| • Mount of the Beatitudes | • Mount Tabor |
| • Church of the Nativity | • Capernaum |
| • Qumran & Dead Sea Scrolls | • Stella Mares |
| • Grotto of the Annunciation | • Gethsemane |
| • Boat Ride on the Sea of Galilee | • Nazareth |
| • Tabgha, Site of the Miracle of Multiplication | • Holy Sepulcher |

All are Welcome!
 We have a few spaces left. Come join us.
 Call the office, 225-698-3110, for information.

5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

