

### On the Vine: By Scott Hahn

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us that He is the true vine that God intended Israel to be—the source of divine life and wisdom for the nations (see Sirach 24:17–24).

In Baptism, each of us was joined to Him by the Holy Spirit. As a branch grows from a tree, our souls are to draw life from Him, nourished by His word and the Eucharist. Paul in today's First Reading seeks to be grafted onto the visible expression of Christ the true vine—His Church. Once the chief persecutor of the Church, Paul encounters initial resistance and suspicion. But he is known by his fruits, by his powerful witness to the Lord working in his life (see Matthew 7:16–20).

We too are commanded today to bear good fruits as His disciples so that our lives give glory to God. Like Paul's life, our lives must bear witness to His goodness. Jesus cautions us, however, that if we're bearing fruit, we can expect that God will "prune" us—as a gardener trims and cuts back a plant so that it will grow stronger and bear even more fruit. He is teaching us today how to look at our sufferings and trials with the eyes of faith. We need to see our struggles as pruning, by which we are being disciplined and trained so that we can grow in holiness and bear fruits of righteousness (see Hebrews 12:4–11).

We need to always remain rooted in Him, as today's Epistle tells us. We remain in Him by keeping His commandment of love, by pondering His words, letting them dwell richly in us (see Colossians 3:16), and by always seeking to do what pleases Him. In everything we must be guided by humility, remembering that apart from Him we can do nothing. As we sing in today's Psalm, we must fulfill our vows, turning to the Lord in worship, proclaiming his praises, until all families come to know His justice in their lives.



### THE GREAT PROMISE:

(Given to us from Our Lady of Fatima)  
Our Lady promised to assist at the hour of death, with all the graces necessary for salvation, all those who practice the First Saturday devotion on five consecutive months, with the intention of making reparation to her Immaculate Heart.

### Resources from the Catholic Conference of Illinois

Assisted suicide is not a compassionate solution for those who are suffering. There is a better way forward that truly offers compassionate care and compassionate choices. Visit [www.ilcatholic.org](http://www.ilcatholic.org) to find out how to contact your local elected official to tell them to vote **NO** on **SB 3499**.

There you will also find:

- Information on assisted suicide
- Frequently asked questions
- Prayers and Novenas to combat suicide
- Webinar on assisted suicide

### Baby Olivia Project

The Baby Olivia Project provides a medically accurate glimpse of human life in the womb from the moment of fertilization. With scientific accuracy, the video shows the humanity of the pre-born throughout each stage of human development. This state-of-the-art animation has been reviewed and certified by leading medical professionals including Dr. David Bolender, PhD, Cell Biology, Neurobiology & Anatomy, Medical College of Wisconsin; and Michelle Cretella, MD, Executive Director of the American College of Pediatricians. You can access this incredible video at the following link: <https://babyolivia.liveaction.org/>



### SAINT JOSEPH, BRIMFIELD - SAINT JAMES, WILLIAMSFIELD



Father John Verrier, Pastor    Deacon Ray Burton  
314 W. Clay St., P.O. Box 199, Brimfield, Illinois 61517  
Office: 309-446-3275



**Sacramental Emergency Number 309-645-2602**

**Parishoffice@stjosephbrimfield.org**

**[www.stjosephbrimfield.org](http://www.stjosephbrimfield.org) and [www.stjameswilliamsfield.org](http://www.stjameswilliamsfield.org)**

### 5th Sunday of Easter — April 28th 2024

*“Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.” - 1 JOHN 3:18*

Regarding our Catholic faith, do you “walk the talk?” Do your actions reflect what it means to be a good disciple? Are you an active participant at Sunday Mass? Are you joyful when participating in parish ministry? Do you give gratefully and generously with your financial support to your parish and other Church needs?

If not, it's not too late to start!

### St. Joseph

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Sat. April 27th  | 3:30pm—4:45pm Confessions<br>5:00 pm Peg Powers+                                    |
| Sun. April 28th  | 10:30am Fabian & Dorothy Cahill+  |
| Mon. April 29th  | 8:00 am People of St Joseph   |
| Tues. April 30th | 8:00 am People of St. James Parish  |
| Wed. May 1st     | 8:00 am Judy Maher+<br>5:00—6:45pm Adoration and Confessions                        |
| Thurs May 2nd    | 8:00 am Paul Gilles+  |
| Fri. May 3rd     | 8:00 am Fr. Mel Krumdick+   |
| Sat. May 4th     | 9:00am Holy Souls in Purgatory<br>3:30pm—4:45pm Confessions<br>5:00 pm Denny Porter |
| Sun. May 5th     | 10:30am Celine Estes+ and Family  |

*"When you look at the crucifix, you understand how much Jesus loved you then. When you look at the Sacred Host, you understand how much Jesus loves you now." - St. Teresa of Calcutta*  
Jesus waits for you in Adoration. Spending time with Him will allow you to grow in faith and love.

### St. James

**Sunday Confessions**  
**7:30 — 7:55 am**

**Sun, April 28th 8:00am**  
Julie Ann Hennenfent+  
Offered by  
Parish of St James

**Sun, May 5th 8:00am**  
Murdock Family  
Offered by  
Ann Murdock

### St Joseph

**Sat. April 27th**  
**Sun. April 28th**

**Sat. May 4th**  
**Sun. May 5th**

### Lector

**Kelch**  
**Shuster**

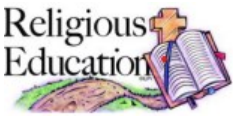
**Volunteer**  
**7th & 8th Grade—May Crowning**



**CCD—K- 6th Grade**

9:00am—10:15am Harrison Hall

**April 30th  
May 5th**



**Confirmation—Grade 7-8**

**May 5th—7th& 8th Grade  
Mass at St Joseph**



**Millions of Monicas** is a new ministry in the Diocese of Peoria for women to pray together for their children who have left the faith. This is not a support group or a self-help group. We simply meet once a month and pray together for each other's loved ones in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

Join with other mothers, grandmothers, step-mothers, aunts, Godmothers, etc., as we pray to grow in holiness and humility, and for our children's faithful return to the Catholic Church.

**1st Tuesdays 7:00pm St. Mark Parish 113 W. Bradley Ave. Peoria, Phone 309-673-1263 with any questions**

**4th Tuesdays 7:00pm St. Thomas the Apostle Parish 904 E. Lake Ave. Peoria Heights, IL Phone 309-688-3446 with any questions**

For more information visit [www.millionsofmonicas.com](http://www.millionsofmonicas.com)

**ST JOSEPH SPRING BEEF RAFFLE**



- Raffle will be for 2 chances to win: each prize is 1/4 beef with processing included.
- Tickets are one for \$20 or three for \$50
- Tickets will be available for purchase starting this weekend.
- Drawing will be Sunday May 19th after the 10:30am Mass.
- Proceeds are to benefit the Building and Grounds Fund

Please consider volunteering to help sell tickets after Masses and/ or take a packet of tickets to sell.  
*Questions: contact Peg Boettcher, Colleen Kirkland or Liz McCoy*

**Beef Donated by Lillian's Pasture Raised Beef**

**Congratulations to our  
Confirmation Students that were  
Confirmed on April 20th**

**Khloe Ferretti  
Mason Gargiulo  
Silas Gilles  
Mya Hill**



Guess who will be **100**  
on May 1st!

**Mickie Gilles**

If you would to send her a card please send it to:

Mickie Gilles  
County Comfort  
829 N Hurff  
Elmwood, IL 61529

Thank you,  
from the Gilles Family

**Pro Life Message:** "America, your very future as a nation depends on your willingness to protect the Right to Life of the most defenseless in your society." Pope John Paul II

**Financial Stewardship**

The good steward lives the advice of St. John, loving in deed and in truth, rather than just talking about it.

**Sunday Totals:**

**April 21st 2024**

**St Joseph \$1,720.00**

**St James \$830.00**

Mission of the Month of April - Haiti



**Love in Deed**

It's a Wonderful Life is one of my favorite Christmas movies. It only occurred to me recently, though, that this film, for all its yuletide aesthetic, is actually more of an Easter story.

I love this movie because it's a very Catholic film — not overtly, although we do see the main character, George Bailey, going to Mass. No, it's the themes that are Catholic, not the set dressing. It's a story about the choices we make — to love, or not to love? To sacrifice, or not to sacrifice? To put oneself first, or to put oneself last? It's a story about what the consequences of those choices look like here in the world, and what they look like in heaven.

In the film, we meet a young George Bailey who dreams of growing up to do amazing, impressive things. Over the years, he makes a choice here and he makes a choice there ... and when all is said and done, the adult George Bailey is a tired, overworked husband and father with no worldly attributes that anyone would envy.

But he's a man who has loved in deed, not just in word, and who has reaped the spiritual rewards of those choices.

The season of Easter is about rejoicing in true redemption, not in worldly triumph. The Word of God is not a bedtime story. It's a pruning shear. To hear it is to be changed, to be shaped. To live it is to lose some things, so that you might bloom in unexpected ways. To welcome the Word is to be willing to look different, to feel different.

Anyone can say, "I love you, I accept you, I want to help you." But what does it actually look like, to love in deed and not just in word? It looks like giving something up: free time, wealth, comfort, worldly approval. It looks, to the casual observer, like pain.

To someone who has no concept of how plants grow and thrive, a gardener's pruning shears look like an executioner's sword. To someone who has no concept of how souls grow and thrive, a tomb barred by a stone looks like the end of a story, when in fact it's just the beginning.

"Children, let us love not in word or speech, but in deed and truth." — 1 John 3:18