



St. John's Parish
Roman Catholic Church

office@stjohnskitchener.ca
519 745 7855
85 Strange St., Kitchener

ABIDING IN HIM

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER- APRIL 28, 2024

In the Gospel of this Fifth Sunday of Easter (Jn 15:1-8), the Lord presents himself as the true vine, and speaks of us as branches that cannot live without being united to him. He says: "I am the vine, you are the branches" (v. 5). There is no vine without branches, and vice versa. Branches are not self-sufficient, but depend totally on the vine, which is the source of their existence.

Jesus insists on the verb "to abide". He repeats it seven times in today's Gospel reading. Before leaving this world and going to the Father, Jesus wants to reassure his disciples that they can continue to be united with him. He says, "Abide in me, and I in you" (v. 4). This abiding is not a question of abiding passively, of "slumbering" in the Lord, letting oneself be lulled by life: no, it is not this. The abiding in him, the abiding in Jesus that he proposes to us is to abide actively, and also reciprocally. Why? Because the branches can do nothing without the vine, they need sap to grow and to bear fruit; but the vine, too, needs the branches, because fruit does not grow on the tree trunk. It is a reciprocal need, it is a question of a reciprocal abiding so as to bear fruit. We abide in Jesus and Jesus abides in us.

First of all, we need him. The Lord wants to tell us that before the observance of his commandments, before the beatitudes, before works of mercy, it is necessary to be united to him, to abide in him. We cannot be good Christians if we do not abide in Jesus. With him, instead, we can do all things (cf. Phil 4:13). With him we can do all things.

But Jesus needs us too, like the vine with the branches. Perhaps to say this may seem bold to us, and so let us ask ourselves: in what sense does Jesus need us? He needs our witness. The fruit that as branches we must bear, is the witness of our lives as Christians. After Jesus ascended to the Father, it is the task of the disciples — it is our task — to continue to proclaim the Gospel in words and in deeds. And the disciples — we, Jesus' disciples — do so by bearing witness to his love: the fruit to be borne is love. Attached to Christ, we receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and thus we can do good to our neighbour, we can do good to society, to the Church. The tree is known by its fruit. A truly Christian life bears witness to Christ.

And how can we achieve this? Jesus says to us: "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you" (v.7). This too is bold: the certainty that what we ask for will be given to us. The fruitfulness of our life depends on prayer. We can ask to think like him, to act like him, to see the world and things with the eyes of Jesus. And in this way, love our brothers and sisters, starting from the poorest and those who suffer most, like he did, loving them with his heart and bringing to the world fruits of goodness, fruits of charity, fruits of peace.

Let us entrust ourselves to the intercession of the Virgin Mary. She always remained completely united to Jesus and bore much fruit. May she help us abide in Christ, in his love, in his word, to bear witness to the Risen Lord in the world.



GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

“Where do they get their energy!” Maybe you’ve said that about your children as they run around the yard while you’re trying to wrangle them inside for bedtime. Jokes about how sugar and caffeine are what keep most adults going, but we know it’s proper nutrition, exercise, and rest that enable us to do well whatever it is we do. That is all relevant to us physically. What about spiritually? Bishop Barron, writing on the Gospel, says, “Jesus declares that he is the vine and we are the branches. He is the power and energy source in which we live.” (*Word on Fire Bible*, 548) Just as we see the effects of sugar and caffeine on people, we see the supernatural effects of Jesus’ love on, and in, people. As he nurtures us with his perfect love, and that flows into us who are grafted onto him, it changes us. It transforms us and converts us away from sin and toward God. We fill up on that spiritual fuel in the sacramental life of the Church and become a witness to it in how we go about our days – loving one another.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

“Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.” These words from John in our second reading provide the perfect bridge between the ministry of Paul, about whom we heard in the first reading, and Christ’s message in the Gospel. With Jesus as “the power and energy source in which we live,” we not only can profess the truth, but live it. We not only give our own account of Christ working in us, as Paul did, who came to them speaking out “boldly in the name of the Lord,” but we stand beside one another, as Barnabas did, vouching for Paul to the Apostles. We are united in baptism, in love, in profession of faith, and in communion with one another. When we consistently act in a Christian manner toward others and keep God’s commandments, John says, we “remain in him, and he in [us], and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit he gave us.” In other words, those who remain in Christ “will bear much fruit” – a tangible sign that easily answers the question, “where does he/she get her energy?”

PRAY Is there anything in your life that is an obstacle to Jesus being the power and energy source in which you live? Are your days fueled more by anger, frustration, or ambition than his love? Pray this week in thanksgiving to God for where he has given you conversion of heart, and ask him for the grace to see where improvement is needed and the will to make it happen.

Preparación para la Primera Comunión: Comenzará el domingo 5 de mayo a las 9:30 a.m. Escribir a oficina@parroquiaguadalupe.ca para registrarse.

First Friday of the Month, May 3rd Eucharistic Adoration will start at 10am, concluding with Benediction before the 11am Mass.

Viernes Primero del Mes (3 de mayo): El Santísimo Sacramento se expondrá para adoración silenciosa después de la Misa de 12:00 pm hasta las 2:00 pm y nuevamente de 5 a 7p.m.

A las 6 de la tarde se tendrá una Hora Santa, que concluirá con la Bendición con el Santísimo a las 7pm.

Mientras el Santísimo esté expuesto, se ofrecerá el sacramento de Reconciliación.

Sábado primero del mes (4 de mayo): Rosario meditado a las 11:00 am.

ENGLISH SCHEDULE

<u>Saturday, April 27</u>	5:00 PM Mass
+David White +John McMahon	
<u>Sunday, April 28</u>	9:00 AM Mass
<i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>	
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased	
<u>Tuesday, April 30</u>	11:00 AM Mass
+Nicola Scarfone	
<u>Wednesday, May 1</u>	11:00 AM Mass
+Nicola Scarfone	
<u>Thursday, May 2</u>	11:00 AM Mass
<i>Saint Athanasius</i>	
For the Intentions of Luis Brilhante	
<u>Friday, May 3</u>	11:00 AM Mass
<i>Saints Philip and James</i>	
+Nora Brown	
<u>Saturday, May 4</u>	5:00 PM Mass
+Marlene Schumkoski + Stella Dombroskie	
<u>Sunday, May 5</u>	9:00 AM Mass
<i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i>	
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased	

HORARIOS EN ESPAÑOL

<u>Sabado 27 de abril</u>	7:00 PM
+Marina Ramirez	
<u>Domingo 28 de abril</u>	11:00 AM
<i>V Domingo de Pascua</i>	
Por la Comunidad Parroquial	
<u>Martes 30 de abril</u>	12:00 PM
<u>Miércoles 1 de mayo</u>	12:00 PM
+Pedro Fernández	
<u>Jueves 2 de mayo</u>	12:00 PM
<i>San Atanasio</i>	
<u>Viernes 3 de mayo</u>	12:00 PM
<i>Santos Felipe y Santiago</i>	
Intención Familia Quintana Hernandez	
<u>Sabado 4 de mayo</u>	7:00 PM
<u>Domingo 5 de mayo</u>	11:00 AM
<i>VI Domingo de Pascua</i>	
Por la Comunidad Parroquial	

PUBLICATION OF BANNES OF ORDINATION: Mr. Moices Rafael Caballero Ruiz is scheduled to be ordained to the Transitional Diaconate at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, June 7, 2024, at St. John the Baptist Parish, Kitchener, Ontario. If anyone knows of a serious cause why this ordination should not take place, please notify your Parish Priest.

Let us all pray that Mr. Moices Rafael Caballero Ruiz will be a good and faithful servant of the Lord and His Church.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK 2024 Catholic Education Week 2024 begins on *Sunday, May 5*. You are invited to learn about the various celebrations that are happening in your children's school, and are welcome to attend, if possible. To learn more about Catholic Education Week in the Diocese of Hamilton, visit us at <https://www.hamiltondiocesecew.com/>