FATHER SCOTT WALLISCH'S

PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Flock,

Happy 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time. I hope you enjoy the last few days of September.

This week the priests will be joining the archbishop and priests of our archdiocese for our annual convocation in St. Louis. Please keep us in prayer this week. For those of you who are daily Mass-goers, we will not have 7:00AM Masses Tuesday–Friday this week, but we will have our noon Mass. (So, you 7:00AM Mass folks, you get to sleep in four more hours than usual.)

While we are gone, I thought I would introduce you to our campus theme for the year. This year our theme comes from John 15:5. - "I am the vine, you are the branches."

This theme gives us a wonderful image. Jesus is the vine. We are the branches. At the end of the branches are the grapes, the fruits. These represent the virtuous good works that are the fruit of our efforts as disciples, fed by the graces flowing into us through the vine.

It is helpful to think about the fact that we, as branches, are not born connected to that vine. Rather, we are grafted onto the vine when we are baptized. If we were baptized as babies, we owe our parents a thank you for making sure we were grafted on to Jesus.

But that grafting must be cared for throughout our lives. Every small sin that we commit starts to tear the branch away from the vine. Every mortal sin that we commit completely tears the branch away from Jesus and His grace. The best way, and for mortal sins, the only way, to repair the damage is to go to confession. It is good to have that Sacrament as a regular part of our lives. When we go to confession, the grafting is repaired, and we receive an immediate influx of grace from the vine to help us fight against sin.

Anyway, it is important for us to tend the branch, with God's help. I encourage you to ponder this week what sort of fruit is being produced on your branch. May we all allow the grace of Jesus as our vine to flow through us and produce abundant fruit for the Kingdom.

Enjoy the end of September and the beginning of October.

In Christ's Peace,

Fr. Scott Wallisch