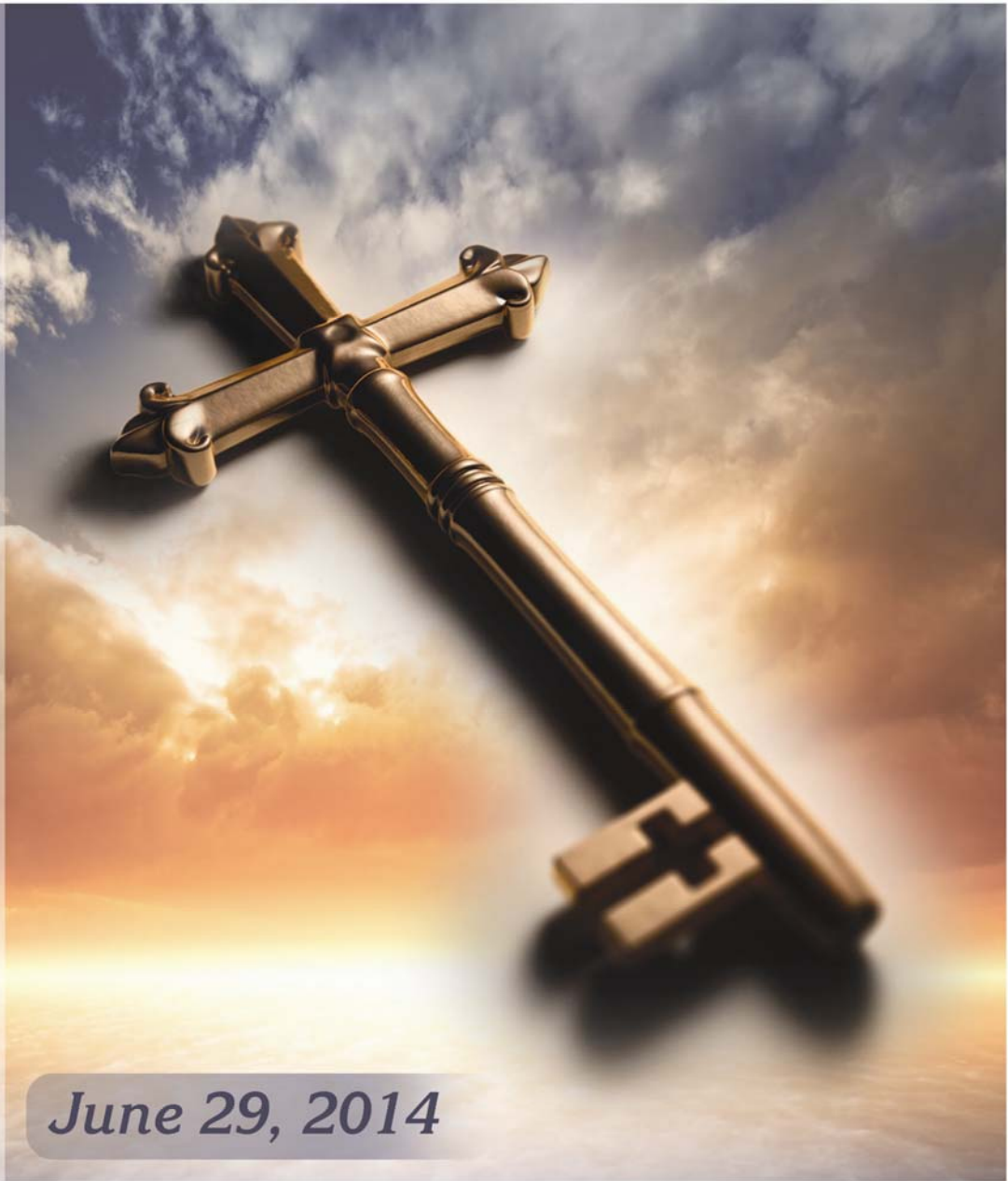


Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles



June 29, 2014

Jesus said to Peter:

“I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven.
Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven;
and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

Matthew 16:19

St. Raphael Church

525 Dover Center Road • Bay Village, Ohio • 44140

www.saintraphaelparish.com

Parish Office: 440-871-1100 • Parish Office Fax: 440-899-2911 • Rectory: 440-871-1100

School Office: 440-871-6760 • School Office Fax: 440-871-1358

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Timothy W. Gareau..... *Pastor*
 Rev. Ryan Cubera*Parochial Vicar*
 Rev. Al Krupp.....*In Residence*
 Rev. Mr. Larry Gregg..... *Deacon*
 Dr. Andy Kereky *Director of Spiritual Development*
 Terri Telepak.....*Pastoral Associate*
 Ann Miller..... *School Principal*
 Mark Cunningham..... *Director of Stewardship*
 William Toler *Director of Liturgy & Adult Education*
 Maureen Mayer..... *Administrative Director*
 Amy Lashutka.....*Director of Youth Ministry*
 Tish Bush..... *Office Manager*
 Kathy Witmer..... *Administration Secretary*
 Clare Blake.....*Bookkeeper*
 Ashley Klug.....*Religious Ed. Secretary*

Parish Office Hours

Monday thru Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
 Friday..... 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
 Saturday..... 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 Sunday10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Pre-School Religion - Ages 3-4-5/Kindergarten

Meet on Sundays 9:30-10:30 a.m. Sept-May.

Parish School of Religion

Grades 1-8 meet on Mondays 4:15 - 5:30 p.m. or 6:30 - 7:45 p.m.

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil:

4:30 & 7:00 p.m.

Sunday:

7:30, 9:30, 11:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m.

Weekdays:

7:45 a.m. M-T-W-F
 9:15 a.m. M-T-TH-F
 8:30 a.m. Saturday

Holy Day:

Please consult bulletin

Eucharistic Adoration: Every Friday from 10:00 a.m. to Saturday afternoon at 4:00 p.m., Raphael Center Chapel.

Confessions: Saturdays 3:00-4:00 p.m. Any other time by request.

Baptism: Instruction Program required for parents. Held on first Sunday of month from 2:00-3:00 p.m. Baptisms on remaining Sundays of month at 2:00 p.m.

First Communion / First Penance / Confirmation: Preparation program required for parents and child.

Marriage: Preparation of couple according to Diocesan norms required. Call one of the priests at least 6 months prior to marriage.

Anointing of the Sick: Anytime upon request - call one of the priests. Communal anointing in October on Sunday closest to Feast of St. Luke (October 18).

Cluster Parishes

St. Joseph Church 32929 Lake Rd., Avon Lake
 (440)933-3152
 Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m.
 Sunday Masses 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.
 Weekdays Monday 6:30p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 7:30a.m., Friday 8:30 a.m.
 Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturday 3:15-4:00 p.m. Monday 5:30-6:15 p.m.
 Eucharistic Adoration Every Tuesday 8:00a.m.-8:00p.m. First Fridays 9:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m. Saturday

+One family in Christ+

Holy Spirit Church 410 Lear Rd., Avon Lake
 (440)933-3777 (440)871-8157 (Cleveland Line)
 Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 p.m.
 Sunday Masses 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m.
 Weekdays 8:30 a.m. (*Chapel of the Holy Family*)
 Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturdays 3:30-4:30 p.m.
 Eucharistic Adoration Every Monday 12:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

June 29, 2014

"Simon Peter said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

MASSSES for the WEEK

Weekday **Monday, June 30**

7:45 AM *Frances Palmieri*

9:15 AM *Doroteo Castro*

Weekday **Tuesday, July 1**

7:45 AM *Connie Dykas, Special Intention*

9:15 AM *Frances Berichon*

Weekday **Wednesday, July 2**

7:45 AM *Jorge Abad, Birthday*

St. Thomas, Apostle **Thursday, July 3**

9:15 AM *Audrey Kaiser, Anniversary*

Independence Day **Friday, July 4**

9:30 AM *Jack Hoenes, Anniversary*

Weekday **Saturday, July 5**

8:30 AM *Nancy Bouhall, Special Intention*

Vigil: Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30 PM *Rita Koehler, Anniversary*

7:00 PM *Fr. Paul Hritz*

Fourteenth Sunday **Sunday, July 6**

in Ordinary Time

7:30 AM *Tricia Riley, Anniversary*

9:30 AM *Kevin Beyer, Anniversary*

11:00 AM *Frank J. Dykas*

12:30 PM *Rose Gulasy*

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Am 2:6-10, 13-16; Ps 50:16bc-23;
Mt 8:18-22

Tuesday: Am 3:1-8; 4:11-12; Ps 5:4b-8; Mt 8:23-27

Wednesday: Am 5:14-15, 21-24; Ps 50:8-13, 16bc-17;
Mt 8:28-34

Thursday: Eph 2:19-22; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Jn 20:24-29

Friday: Am 8:4-6, 9-12; Ps 119: 10, 20, 30, 40, 131;
Mt 9:9-13 or, for Independence Day, any
readings from the Mass "For the Country,"
nos. 882-886, or "For Peace and Justice,"
nos. 887-891

Saturday: Am 9:11-15; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Mt 9:14-17

Sunday: Zec 9:9-10; Ps 145:1-2, 8-11, 13-14;

Rom 8:9, 11-13; Mt 11:25-30



Deadline for bulletin is noon on Friday for the following week. Articles can be dropped off in the Parish Office or e-mailed to: tbush@saintraphaelparish.com. If you are interested in placing an advertisement in our bulletin, please contact J.S. Paluch Co. 1-800-945-6629. **PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS-THEY MAKE THE BULLETIN POSSIBLE!**



For weekend of:

July 5-6

4:30 PM Davies-Gotsky-Gerace-Powers-Miller

7:00 PM TBD

7:30 AM Walsh-Durrant-Sejka-Musca-Jennings

9:30 AM Kotowski-Magvas-Bielek-Bielek-McCormick

11:00 AM Lavelle-DeSalvo-Simoson-Betsill-Connors

12:30 PM Costa-Taliak-Mark-Vedda-Chambers

Rest in Peace

HARRY LEE, father of Steve (Diana), grandfather of Marissa and Jack; FRANK J. ALEKSANDROWICZ, uncle of Karen Becker; PATRICIA KUPCAK, wife of Ken, and THOMAS SIMECEK, stepfather of Greg and Marcia Beifuss, grandfather of Stephen and Lauren, died this past week. May they rest in peace.

WEDDING BANNES

II Lindsey Griffith and Dan Wise

II Jill Mika and Steve Testa

I Caitlyn Holleran and Ronald Rutt

I Jenna Dandurand and Bryan Cox

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Can you give one hour a week that is just for Jesus, an hour when you draw close to Him and He fills you with His love and peace? Come to Eucharistic Adoration! The best way to make sure you get there is to have a regular, weekly scheduled time. We need someone to come regularly on **Fridays from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. and 9:00 to 10:00 p.m.,** and someone on **Saturday afternoons from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.** Call Melissa (871-1476) if you want to experience the blessings that God wants to give you through a Holy Hour with Jesus.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

RAPHAEL CENTER CHAPEL



"Jesus hides His glory in the Blessed Sacrament that you may give Him glory by coming to Him in faith!"

-Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Adoration takes place in the chapel in the Raphael Center every week from 10:00 AM on Friday, through the night until 4:00PM on Saturday.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no Eucharistic Adoration July 4-5, Independence Day weekend.

Introduce your children to this beautiful devotion by bringing them on Friday at 3:30 p.m. for 20 minutes of guided prayers and songs.

Jesus is waiting for you every week. Come and be with Him. (Park by the Parish Office or Post Office.)

**ST RAPHAEL PARISH EVENING
WITH THE
LAKE ERIE CRUSHERS
Avon, Ohio
Wednesday July 30, 2014 at 7:05 PM**



Come join your friends for an evening of fun and excitement with the 2009 Frontier League Champions, the Lake Erie Crushers at All Pro Stadium in Avon, off I-90 at Rte 611.

Get close to the action and be sure to bring a baseball glove as you will be right next to the field.

Tickets \$9.00 each Gates open at 5:30 PM

ALL TICKET ORDERS MUST BE TURNED INTO THE OFFICE AND PAID BY July 21, 2014.

To purchase tickets or for more information please contact Carl Feldkircher at: cfsr4@gmail.com or call 440-892-7812.



The St. Raphael School Office will be closed from June 25th and reopen on August 6th. Please leave your message on the school phone (871-6760). We will return calls during the closing.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR TEENS:

Littlest Angels Babysitting: We are in need of teen volunteers to assist with babysitting in the **Littlest Angels Room** (Zwilling Room) on Sunday mornings. Students may help during the 9:30 or 11:00 Masses and do not need to sign up ahead of time – just show up 15 minutes before the Mass begins.

**GUILD
PARISH WOMEN WHO MAKE THINGS
HAPPEN**

JUNE is Membership Month!!! Become a Member of the Guild in the month of **JUNE & Your Name will be entered into a Drawing for a \$50 Spa Gift Certificate!** Please fill out a Membership Form which is available at the Parish Office, or in the box next to the Guild bulletin board in the Zwilling Room Hallway. Dues are just \$10. **Questions, contact Jordanne Birch 216.224.9031 jordannembirch@gmail.com HAPPY SUMMER !!**

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION CORNER

PSR Home-School Religion Families We are closing out the permanent records for this past school year. If you haven't been in yet for your Winter or Spring report, please contact Miss Telepak at the Parish Office at ttepak@saintraphaelparish.com or 440-871-1100, ext. 108. Remember to bring your weekly log along with parent and student report forms to the meeting.

VOLUNTEER TEACHERS and TEACHER AIDES NEEDED for PRESCHOOL RELIGION AND PSR

As we begin to plan for the new school year, our Parish School of Religion has openings for teachers and teacher aides. If you have thought about sharing your Catholic faith with children, God might be calling you to this important ministry. Training is provided. We also have a few children who need an adult aide to sit with them in the classroom to help keep them focused on the lesson.

Preschool Religion classes are offered on Sunday mornings during the 9:30 a.m. Mass. Parish School of Religion classes are offered on Mondays (afternoons & evenings) throughout the school year. At present, the following openings are available:

4:15 p.m. Session: Grade 2

6:30 p.m. Session: Grade 4

If you are interested in helping, please contact Terri Telepak in the Parish Office at 440-871-1100, ext. 108 or ttepak@saintraphaelparish.com

**June 29, 2014
SS. Peter & Paul, Apostles**

Today we celebrate the combined feast of Saints Peter and Paul. Each joyously and fearlessly followed the guidance of the Holy Spirit in spreading the Gospel. Pope Francis reminds us to let nothing rob us of the joy and hope of the Gospel! Then with joy and confidence be contagious carriers of the Gospel to others. Begin at home.



SUPPORT GROUP FOR WOMEN OF ST. RAPHAEL PARISH WITH CANCER

We are always ready to welcome you. Whether you are just starting treatment or are a several decade survivor, please join our support group. We get together to ask questions, to share information, to pray, to talk and to listen. Some women come once in a while, some come every month. You are always welcome to join us! Our informal gatherings are the first Monday of each month. **Our next meeting will be on July 14th** (second Monday this month). Should you have any questions, please contact Kris (440)930-5479, Annette (440)250-9028, or Colleen (440)438-3388.

CATHOLIC MEN'S FELLOWSHIP MEETING

will meet this Saturday (July 5) in the Multi-Purpose Room in the Raphael Center at 6:45 a.m., for the Liturgy of the Hours and our bimonthly (1st & 3rd Saturday of the month) fellowship meeting. We will be discussing this Sunday's Scripture readings. Come and join us for coffee, donuts and fellowship. **PLEASE NOTE: You have another opportunity for Fellowship! Catholic Men's Fellowship also meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Zwilling Room, in addition to the 1st and 3rd Saturday.**

SOCIAL CONCERNS

Families and friends and other groups are needed to help **SERVE A MEAL at ST. AUGUSTINE'S.** Next two dates are July 13 and August 17. Please call Fred Bangeman (440)933-6686 for more information.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY "FILL A TRUNK"

Due to the Church construction, the Social Concerns Ministry Program, "Christmas in July" collection will only take place **during the masses on July 12-13 and July 19-20.** Please place your donations in the marked cars in the parking lot.

Lists of needed non-perishable items for the Hunger Centers will be available in the Gathering Space and outside the Library from June 29th-July 20th. Feel free to donate one or as many items as you would like. Thank you for your generosity and support. Your gifts are very much appreciated!



Bins are not available for food and clothing donation drop offs during construction.

**NOT TOO LATE!!!!
DEADLINE HAS BEEN
EXTENDED!**

PILGRIMAGE TO CATHOLIC MARYLAND

**Hosted by Fr. Tim Gareau
September 8-10**

**Call Ann O'Connor (440)895-0964 ASAP
for information and reservations.**

Deposit of \$50.00 due by June 30th!

**Your participation is needed to make
these trips happen!!!!**



STRESS MANAGEMENT - MINDFULNESS -YOGA - CATHOLIC FAITH

I'm hoping to offer a multi-session program this Fall focused on managing stress. It will be integrated with our Catholic faith and include other components such as living in the present moment (mindfulness), some form(s) of yoga (maybe even "Laughter Yoga") and effective techniques for reducing stress. It's in the very early planning stages and I welcome anyone with knowledge, skills, or even interest in any of the above to help plan, implement, and/or execute the program. Please contact Dr. Andy Kereky in the parish office if you're interested or have questions.



The bouquet of white roses by the Holy Family is in honor of all children born to St. Raphael parents during the month of June. The **PRO-LIFE MINISTRY** will honor all children born in each month of the year. All Life is a precious gift from God and should be recognized as a special blessing.

Prayer for Religious Freedom

Almighty God, Father of all nations, for freedom You set us free in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 5:1)

We praise and bless You for the gift of religious liberty, the foundation of human rights, justice, and the common good. Grant to our leaders the wisdom to protect and promote our liberties; by Your grace may we have the courage to defend them, for ourselves and those who live in this blessed land. We ask this through the intercession of Mary Immaculate, our patroness, and in the name of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with whom You live and reign, one God, forever and ever. Amen!

Fr. Tim

For information on the High School Youth Ministry Program or the Confirmation Program contact Amy Lashutka at 440-871-1100, ext. 109 or alashutka@saintraphaelparish.com

HSYM SUMMER MONDAY NIGHT HANGOUTS! All teens who will be entering grades 9-12 (and HSYM Alums!) are invited to come to the next MONDAY NIGHT HANGOUT of the Summer on **Monday, June 30th** from 6:00-8:00pm. **Meet at the PLAYGROUND (in the Upper Room if it is raining).** There will be free food, games, new friends, and even some surprises! Our plan is to meet almost every Monday night during the summer just to “hangout” together, to welcome new people to HSYM, and to have some FUN (whipped cream, water balloons, bouncy balls, fire, fly swatters, and many other things may make appearances throughout the summer!) These are the tentative dates for HSYM Hangouts: 6/30, 7/14, 7/21, 7/28, 8/4, 8/11, 8/18 (**NO Hangout on 7/7 due to ND Vision**). If you would like to receive text reminders about these Hangouts, please email Amy to let her know! Invite your friends! Hope to see you at the Hangout!



The **WESTSHORE SEPARATED, DIVORCED AND WIDOWED SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP** will hold a meeting on July 6th at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at St. Brendan’s Kenny Center located at 4242 Brendan Lane, North Olmsted. Brendan Lane runs south off Lorain Road and is one street west of Clague Road. The topic this week is organization. Join us to pick up some pointers that you might find useful. Or share a tip that works for you. For more information please call Jane (216)509-4570. Hope to see you there.

THE FEST



Looking for a great family day this summer? Join us for the FEST on Sunday, August 3 on the seminary grounds in Wickliffe. The 56 acre campus becomes the home of our 14th Annual Catholic Family FESTival. It’s a day that celebrates faith and family. It’s fun and it’s FREE. Join thousands, from across the region, for national Christian bands (Third Day, Colton Dixon, Mandissa, for King and Country) along with great faith-based activities and displays for the whole family. The day ends with an outdoor Mass at 8 pm followed by an incredible American Fireworks display. Check it out online-www.theFEST.us. It’s FREE. Everyone is welcome! The FEST is the perfect family day.

BAPTISMS We wish to welcome to our parish family our newest members who were recently baptized into the Catholic faith here at St. Raphael. They are:

Daniel Mannix Bloomfield, Luke Randall Bloomfield, Nina Marie Campbell, Payton Wade DeWitt, Sara Avery Dowling, Dominic Milo Dubravetz, Charles Michael Fitchpatrick, Lincoln Simon Glowe, Anna Sigrid Hill, Danielle Allyson McAndrew, James Daniel McDavid, Anthony Victor Milton, Case Bennett Phillips, Katelyn Anne Pugliese, Camryn Lauren Ramella, Kaleb Peter Roethler, Bradley Edward Sivak.

Welcome We are blessed to welcome the following individuals who have recently become new parishioners. We wish them every spiritual blessing as they journey with us here at St. Raphael:

Daniel and Shiela Cavolo, Nancy Dovala, Judith Ellen Evans, Eric and Amy Guirguis, Sean and Celestine Hamilton, Matthew and Jillian Kata, George and Amanda Keller, Kenneth and Elaine Kennard, Joseph Meadows, James and Elizabeth Milton, Brian and Darcie Murphy, Pat Murray, Sean Oudeman, Allison Parry, David and Stephanie Pekala, James and Brittany Ross, Kristen Seeholzer, Tom and Marilyn Senn, Angellica Vrontos-Grove, Douglas and Allison Wiersma.



We congratulate and prayerfully acknowledge those couples recently married at St. Raphael. May you always be a vibrant witness of life-giving, committed love and a sign to us of Christ’s love for His Church:

Kevin and Victoria Ballantine, Stephen and JoAnne Bickerton, David and Mary Sever, Ryan and Kathryn Tegeder, Patrick and Mary Valletta.

Wedding Policy During the Construction of the Church

1. **Call St. Raphael Parish for availability of the priest.**
2. **Choose between St. Bernadette, Westlake, St. Joseph, Avon Lake or St. Christopher, Rocky River (or have the wedding in the St. Raphael Parish Activity Center).**
3. **St. Raphael Parish will call as to the agreed upon date of the wedding to schedule it with St. Bernadette, St. Joseph or St. Christopher.**
4. **Weddings are at 1:30 p.m. as we will continue to have confessions at St. Raphael at 3:00 p.m.**
5. **Dr. Andy Kereky will handle rehearsals.**
6. **Bill Toler will handle the music.**

Thank you for your cooperation!

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Monday, June 30

6:00am Cursillo Men's Group (MICH)
 10:00am Legion of Mary (TOB)
 6:00pm HSYM Hangout (Playground, PAC-K, PO Upper Room)
 7:00pm Stewardship Council Mtg. (PO Conference Room)

Tuesday, July 1

10:00am Legion of Mary (Prayer Garden)
 5:30pm Liturgy of the Hours (PAC)

Wednesday, July 2

Thursday, July 3

Friday, July 4

FIRST FRIDAY
INDEPENDENCE DAY
Mass 9:30 AM
Office Closed
No Eucharistic Adoration Friday/Saturday

Avilas and Pro Life Holy Hour will not meet July 4th.

Saturday, July 5

6:45am Catholic Men's Fellowship (MPR)

Sunday, July 6

9:30pm Babysitting (ZR)
 2:00pm Baptism Class (LIB)
 7:30pm Men's Basketball (LRm)

C-Church
 S-School
 ARCH-Archangel Room (formerly RC L.R.)
 LIB- Library (located in school)
 LRm- Lunchroom (formerly G-Gym, CAF-Cafeteria)
 LRm-K-Kitchen (off Lunch Room)
 Multi-Purpose Room (formerly RC D.R.)
 PAC-Parish Activity Center
 PAC-K-Parish Activity Center-Kitchen
 PO-Parish Office
 RC-Raphael Center
 *CHER- Cherubim Room
 *GAB-Gabriel Room
 *HM-Humility of Mary Room
 *MICH-St. Michael Room
 *SER-Seraphim Room
 *TOB-Tobit Room
 * Rooms located upstairs in Raphael Center)
 ZR-Zwilling Room

Lord God Almighty, in whose Name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: Grant, we pray, that we and all the peoples of this land may have grace to maintain these liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Saints Peter & Paul *Apostles*

FIRST READING: Acts 12:1–11

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 34:2–3, 4–5, 6–7, 8–9

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 4:6–8, 17–18

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13–19

Good Examples in Charge

Members of any organization need to know who's in charge. We members of the Church are no different. But for us, understanding "who's in charge" is not just a matter of deciphering the hierarchy. After all, light can be hidden under a bureaucracy as well as under a bushel. It's a matter of recognizing the Lord. Today's celebration calls us to this bright recognition. More than that, it offers us two shining examples of flawed people who, because they recognized ultimate greatness, became faithful leaders of God's people—Saint Peter and Saint Paul.

‡ Comment

In today's Gospel, Peter's bold profession of faith brings a promise of leadership, governance, and a new name, "Rock." Clearly Peter's new role was not bestowed upon him for his astuteness, tact, or brains. His qualifications were his passionate faith and his willingness to risk himself for that faith. This is not to say that he was a lightweight. Nothing could be farther from the truth. The Gospels describe Peter as a figure of dynamism and power. At the same time, Peter's weaknesses are never disguised in the Scriptures. Thus, Jesus' designating him as foundation and head of the Church is recognition of Peter's faith, not his other qualities, positive or negative. This should be a comfort to us in the Church today, for it reveals that in our disability, ability is lurking, that the Church's true strength resides in the faith that God's strength is with us and guides us.

The reading from Acts describes Peter's faith under fire, as it were. Solid as a rock, Peter's faith will not be moved by harassment from the Jewish leaders. He becomes a prisoner for the Lord. The faithful prayer of the Church summons a rescue for Peter. An angel comes to his aid, enabling him to escape his confinement and continue to give faithful witness to the risen Lord.

Second Timothy finds Paul reminiscing about his ministry. He recalls a string of rescues granted him by the Lord. No wonder he remains so firm in faith that God will continue to protect him and bring him to ultimate rescue and redemption. Like Peter, Paul, who once persecuted Christ and his Church, has recognized the Lord and has transformed doubt into faith and faith into salvation—pointing the way to the same for us all.

‡ Reflection

When Peter acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah, he said a mouthful. Remember that Jesus was in no way the sort of messiah the Jewish people had come to expect. He was not a national figure. He was no military leader. For Peter to say that Jesus was the Messiah, the anointed one of God, then, was an acknowledgment of the first water. And that's why Jesus knew that Peter's recognition had sprung from faith.

Peter's profession did more than concede a title to Jesus. It conceded that for Peter and for all others, Jesus was the answer to prayer, the culmination of hope, the Son of God. Likewise, Jesus' renaming of Peter did more than confer a new title on him. It confirmed that the messianic work would continue and that it would continue to be sparked by the power and governance of God.

The question addressed by Jesus to Peter is addressed to each one of us. As he did with Peter (and Paul), Jesus invites us to make a personal response of faith to who he is and who he is for us. The way we respond makes all the difference in the world, to us and to all those who come after us.