

# Feast of

## ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL

### Sunday Reflection:

Who do you say I am?

How firm is your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ? At an opportune time Jesus tested his disciples with a crucial question: Who do men say that I am and who do you say that I am? (Matthew 16:13). Jesus was widely recognized in Israel as a mighty man of God, even being compared with the greatest of the prophets, John the Baptist, Elijah, and Jeremiah. Peter, always quick to respond, exclaimed that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Through the gift of faith Peter recognized that Jesus was the "anointed one" (in Hebrew and Greek the word is translated as Messiah and Christ), and the only begotten Son of God sent by the Father in heaven to redeem a fallen human race. No mortal being could have revealed this to Peter; but only God. Jesus then conferred on Peter authority to govern the church that Jesus would build [which Peter describes as a people redeemed with the precious blood of Christ - First Letter of Peter 1:19], a church that no powers could overcome. Jesus played on Peter's name which is the same word for "rock" in both Aramaic and Greek.

The New Testament describes the church, the people of God, as a spiritual house and temple of the Holy Spirit with each member joined together as living stones (1 Peter 2:5). Faith in Jesus Christ makes us into rocks - spiritual stones. The Lord Jesus tests each of us personally with the same question:

Who do you say that I am?

*Lord Jesus, I profess and believe that you are the Christ, the Son of the living God. You are my Lord and my Savior who has set me free from sin and deception. Make my faith strong like the Apostles Peter and Paul and give me boldness to speak of you to others that they may come to know you as Lord and Savior.*

*(taken from a Catholic website)*

### Today's Readings:

**First Reading: Acts 12:1-11**

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 34: The angel of the Lord will rescue those who fear him.**

**Second Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18 -**

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-19**

# June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Most of the apostles and lots of saints have their own feast day, but how about the two most famous saints of the early church? There is February 22nd in which the Church celebrates the "Chair of Peter" the sign that Peter was the first among the apostles and the one designated to lead the early Church after Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension. The painting by Paul Rubens shows Peter with the "Keys" and wearing the pallium of the office of Bishop.

But there is no "Feast of St. Peter."

St. Paul, although not one of the Twelve, was an Apostle commissioned by Jesus. There is the January 25th celebration of "The Conversion of St. Paul" which commemorates the Damascus Road episode described in Acts of the Apostles: 9:1-31, 22:1-22, and 26:9-24. It is the scene made famous by the "Conversion on the Way to Damascus" painting by Caravaggio.

But there is no "Feast of St. Paul."

The two leading saints of the early Church are celebrated together in the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, (or the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul if celebrated on a Sunday). This celebration is a liturgical feast in honor of the martyrdom in Rome of the apostles Saint Peter and Saint Paul and is observed on June 29th.



# St. Joseph Parish



*Independence Day*

**July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

*The Parish Office  
will be CLOSED on  
Friday, July 4th.*

## GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

The Catholic Church will observe the fifth World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly on July 27, 2025, with the theme "**Blessed are those who have not lost hope**," the Vatican announced in a statement on February 4. The theme, drawn from the Book of Sirach, expresses "the blessedness of the elderly and points to the hope placed in the Lord as the way to a Christian and reconciled old age," the statement added.

Established by Pope Francis in 2021, the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly aims to honour the elderly and their role in families and communities. Pope Francis set the date of the annual event on the fourth Sunday of July, near the feast of Saint Joachim and Anna, the grandparents of Jesus.

Particularly during the Holy Year 2025, the annual event "seeks to be an opportunity to reflect on how the presence of grandparents and elderly people can become a sign of hope in every family and ecclesial community," the Vatican statement said. The motto for the current Jubilee, selected by Pope Francis, is "Pilgrims of Hope."

**WE WILL BE CELEBRATING GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY on the weekend of July 19th/July 20th.**

Created and submitted by:  
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— HELLO —  
**Summer**

## Readings for the week:

Monday: Gn 18:16-33, Mt 8:1-22

Tuesday: Gn 19:15-29, Mt 8:23-37

Wednesday: Gn 21:5,8-20a, Mt 8:28-34

Thursday: Eph 2:19-22, Jn 20:24-29

Friday: Gn 23:1-4,19,24:1-8, Mt 9:9-13

Saturday: Gn 27:1-5,15-29, Mt 9:14-17

July 5th and July 6th

— 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Isaiah 66:10-14c

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 66: Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Second Reading: Galatians 6:14-18

Gospel Reading: Luke 10:1-12,17-20

**July**

**July 4th — Happy Independence Day  
The Parish Office will be CLOSED.**

**July 4th — First Friday Healing Mass at 9:00 a.m.**

**July 5th — NO 9:00 A.M. DAILY MASS**

**July 7th- Help is needed with cleaning the Church Pews at 8:30 a. m....please....**

**July 8th thru July 12th — There are NO DAILY MASSES or Adoration this week.  
Fr. Joe will be attending our Parish Youth Mission Trip**

**July 9th thru July 11th — The Parish Office will be Closed.**

**July 15<sup>th</sup> - Respect Life Committee Meeting at 9:30 a.m. at the parish office.**

**July 19th/July 20th**

**• Coffee and Conversation after all the weekend Masses**

**July 19th/July 20<sup>th</sup> — International Grandparents and Elderly Day**

**July 22nd — BRING YOUR QUESTIONS about your Faith....at 6:30 p.m. at the Parish Office.**

**July 26th/July 27th — Mission Co-op Collection. We will have a visiting priest for our annual Mission Special Collection.**