JUNE 29, 2014
SAINTS PETER & PAUL, APOSTLES

PETER AND PAUL

Today is something of a rarity: the celebration of a saint’s day that replaces the Sunday liturgy. Only a handful of these days, given the official rank of “solemnity,” are considered so foundational and primal to the mission of the Church that they can interrupt the Sunday sequence. And so it is with Peter and Paul today.

In a way, they each have personality traits with which we can identify. They are both impetuous, sometimes acting or speaking thoughtlessly, contradicting the spiritual gifts given to them by God. At such times, they might receive a nudge from God, much the same as many of us experience. On the positive side, these men were deeply rooted in their faith in Christ, tireless and fearless in living out their call to spread the Good News of his death and resurrection. Perhaps we might identify more with one or the other, but the essential truth we celebrate today is this: Through the Spirit, Christ built and continues to build the Church and make the kingdom known through fragile, remarkable human beings, each graced in a particular way for the work of the reign of God.

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SAINTS PETER & PAUL, APOSTLES
June 29, 2014

Through all the earth their voice resounds, and to the ends of the world, their message.

~ Psalm 19:5

TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — Peter was in prison, but prayer by the church was made to God on his behalf (Acts 12:1-11).

Psalm — The angel of the Lord will rescue those who fear him (Psalm 34).

Second Reading — I have finished the race; I have kept the faith (2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18).

Gospel — Simon Peter said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:13-19).


TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Today is an exceptional event on our calendar: the Thirteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time is eclipsed by a solemnity honoring two saints who didn’t spend much time together in their earthly ministry, and who have distinct feasts so they probably don’t mind sharing this one. Yet each suffered a similar fate in the same city, Rome, during the persecution of the Emperor Nero. Nero probably ordered the destruction of many of the residential neighborhoods in service to his building projects, and when the homeless began to look for someone to blame for the fires, Nero targeted the Christians. Soon, Peter was crucified, upside down, on the Vatican hill. Excavations (called scavi) under the Vatican basilica have proven the authenticity of his burial place near the place of his death. Paul, a Roman citizen, was later granted a swifter execution by sword, and is remembered at a vast basilica on the city’s outskirts.

Peter and Paul were just about polar opposites. Peter rough and ready, Paul poetic and polished. Peter carried a burden of regret for his denials, Paul had his own issues with which he struggled. Peter leapt over barriers to go to the Gentiles, Paul strove with and surrendered to the same call. True, they spent very little time together in this life, but the same Spirit filled their hearts and by their witness changed the face of the earth.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co

GIFT SHOP HOURS

May 1st - Nov. 1st
Sat. 2:30 - 3:30
Sun. 8:00 - 12:45
RESURRECTION CALENDAR

ALL events take place in the Parish Center unless otherwise stated.

Adoration, First Fridays, 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.
Bereavement & Beyond Ministry, 1st Mon. of June, July & Aug. 8:30am. Regular schedule resumes in Fall, Alouise 481-8168
Coffee & Donuts, Sundays after 10:30 Mass discontinued until Fall
Craft Club, Tuesdays, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Men's Club, 2nd Monday of month, 7:30p.m., Sept. - May
Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Novena, Saturdays after the 8:00a.m. Mass, church
Prayer for Priests, Thursdays after the 8:00a.m. Mass, chapel
RCIA, Wednesdays, 7:00p.m., call 482-6883 for information
Rel. Ed., September - May
Resurrection for Life, 2nd Wednesday of Oct., Jan., Apr., 9 a.m
Resurrection Prayerline Ministry, call Deanna Latell 481-1170.
Rosary, before daily Masses and Tues. & Thurs., 1:30p.m., chapel
St. Vincent DePaul Board Meeting, 1st Tues. every month, 7:00 pm. For SVDP assistance call 239-600-6749
Teams of Our Lady, call Joann for more information, 482-7982
Women’s Guild, 3rd Wednesday every month, 8:30a.m. Sept. - May

MINISTRY OF THE SICK

The following hospitals are attended to by the parish in which they are located:

*Gulf Coast Hospital - visited daily by Blessed Pope John XXIII
Parish, 561-2245
* Lee Memorial Hospital - visited daily by St. Francis Xavier
Parish, 334-2161
* Lee Memorial Hospice at Health Park - visited daily by
St. Columbkille Parish, 489-3973

A priest is on call 7 days a week, 24 hours a day for the above hospitals at the above telephone numbers.

TO ALL PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS:

To protect your privacy hospitals do not give out information on patients without their permission. If you wish a visit from one of the Resurrection priests please notify the hospital as well as the parish office, 481-7171 as quickly as possible.

Resurrection priests visit the above hospitals daily upon request.
Pope Benedict XVI spoke in 2012 about his worry that religious liberty in the United States is being weakened. He called religious liberty the “most cherished of American freedoms.” Unfortunately, our most cherished freedom is under threat:

- **HHS mandate for sterilization, contraception, and abortion-inducing drugs.** The mandate of the Department of Health and Human Services forces religious institutions to facilitate and/or fund a product contrary to their own moral teaching. Further, the federal government tries to define which religious institutions are “religious enough” to merit protection of their religious liberty.

- **Catholic foster care and adoption services.** Boston, San Francisco, the District of Columbia, and the State of Illinois have driven local Catholic Charities out of the business of providing adoption or foster care services—by revoking their licenses, by ending their government contracts, or both—because those Charities refused to place children with same-sex couples or unmarried opposite-sex couples who cohabit.

- **State immigration laws.** Several states have passed laws that forbid what they deem as “harboring” of undocumented immigrants—and what the Church deems Christian charity and pastoral care to these immigrants.

- **Discrimination against small church congregations.** New York City adopted a policy that barred the Bronx Household of Faith and other churches from renting public schools on weekends for worship services, even though non-religious groups could rent the same schools for many other uses. Litigation in this case continues.

- **Discrimination against Catholic humanitarian services.** After years of excellent performance by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) in administering contract services for victims of human trafficking, the federal government changed its contract specifications to require MRS to provide or refer for contraceptive and abortion services in violation of Catholic teaching.

- **Christian students on campus.** In its over-100-year history, the University of California Hastings College of Law has denied student organization status to only one group, the Christian Legal Society, because it required its leaders to be Christian and to abstain from sexual activity outside of marriage.

**Is our most cherished freedom truly under threat?**
Yes, Pope Benedict XVI recognized just two years ago that various attempts to limit the freedom of religion in the U.S. are particularly concerning. The threat to religious freedom is larger than any single case or issue and has its roots in secularism in our culture. The Holy Father has asked for the laity to have courage to counter secularism that would “delegitimize the Church’s participation in public debate about the issues which are determining the future of American society.”

**What can you do to ensure the protection of religious freedom at home and abroad?**
The U.S. Bishops have called for a Fortnight for Freedom from June 21 to July 4, 2014. Please visit www.fortnight4freedom.org for more information on this important time of prayer, education, and action in support of religious freedom!
Redefining Marriage and the Threat to Religious Liberty

Pope Benedict XVI taught: “Marriage and the family are institutions that must be promoted and defended from every possible misrepresentation of their true nature, since whatever is injurious to them is injurious to society itself” (Sacramentum Caritatis, 29). As the following examples illustrate, efforts to redefine marriage are harming our religious liberties:

**New Mexico** (2013) – The owners of a photography studio would not take the pictures of a same-sex “commitment ceremony” because they did not want to participate in behavior contrary to their religious beliefs. In 2013, the New Mexico Supreme Court denied the owners’ appeal, affirming the lower court opinion that the studio violated the state Human Rights Act. The owners of the studio, who have also been ordered to pay almost $7,000 in attorneys’ fees to the complainant, have appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

**Washington** (2013): A florist who declined to provide flowers for a same-sex “wedding” was sued by the state Attorney General.

**Ohio** (2013) – Legal action has been taken against a Catholic high school for firing a teacher who publicly disclosed being in a same-sex relationship.

**Maine** (2012) – The State of Maine has informed all notaries public (approximately 25,000) that regardless of religious objections, they *must* “wed” same-sex “couples,” if they wed opposite-sex couples. Otherwise, these notaries could be subject to a claim of discrimination. In the words of one notary: “I’m a Catholic and under no circumstances would I do a same-sex marriage.” He added, “I’m concerned that if I refused to perform a same-sex marriage, I could be challenged legally.”

**Maryland** (2012) – A university administrator was placed on administrative leave for signing a petition to place a marriage redefinition law on a state ballot.

**New York** (2012) – A Catholic hospital has been sued by an employee for not providing health insurance for the employee’s same-sex “spouse”.

**Vermont** (2012) – For allegedly not hosting a “wedding” reception for a same-sex “couple,” Catholic owners of a bed and breakfast settled a discrimination lawsuit, requiring them to (1) pay a $10,000 civil penalty, (2) pay $20,000 to a charitable trust, and (3) not host wedding receptions of any kind. Upon settling the lawsuit, the owners of the bed and breakfast said, “But no one can force us to abandon our deeply held beliefs about marriage.”

**New Jersey** (2012) – The New Jersey Division on Civil Rights found that a Methodist organization violated a public accommodations law by not allowing a same-sex civil union ceremony at its boardwalk pavilion.


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Reflecting on God’s Word

In Christian iconography, Saints Peter and Paul are almost always depicted together, rather like twins. That may seem odd because they probably looked nothing alike and they had very different personalities and temperaments. Peter worked largely with Jewish Christians and Paul with Gentile Christians. Peter has been connected to preserving the tradition and Paul is remembered for welcoming the freedom of the Spirit. However, both were committed to keeping all the members of Christ’s Body united in faith and love. Their faith in Christ, love for the church, and zeal for fostering the unity of the Christian community bind Peter and Paul together as no superficial resemblance could.

There is a lesson here for today’s Church. We don’t all agree about how much to stick to tradition and how much to allow the Spirit to guide the Church onto new paths. Yet both are necessary for continuing Jesus Christ’s mission on earth. And Peter and Paul show us that remaining united in love as the one Body of Christ is more important than allowing differences of interpretation to divide us from one another.

—Virginia Stillwell

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"Absorbed and deepened in the family, faith becomes a light capable of illuminating all our relationships in society. As an experience of the mercy of God the Father, it sets us on the path of brotherhood." — Lumen Fidei #54

**Family, Catholic Heart Work Camp, Faith Formation and Good Priests Keep the Light Shining Here**

Bishop Dewane confirmed 25 young men and women here on May 5, 2014. In celebrating the Sacrament, the Bishop urged parents, sponsors, and the candidates to keep the light of faith alive in our lives. Rachael Chesnover was present as her brother, Michael was confirmed. She finished her freshman year at Florida State University in Tallahassee. She shares how the light of faith is confirmed and continues in her journey.

Rachael's parents give her a good foundation in faith by their active participation in the sacraments and life of the parish here. She also feels her exposure to diversity while attending high school gave her an awareness of other faith journeys and helped her understand the importance of her own. The requirements of the IB program at Fort Myers High School helped her to think deeply about important issues and prepared her for making good decisions as a college fresh-woman. Rachael attended Resurrection Youth Masses. The friendliness and encouragement of our priests and the fact they knew her by name is important to her. Rachael started going to Mass at St. Thomas More church which is across the street from FSU. She went by herself and was happy and surprised to see others from her dorm attending. She enjoyed the Mass because the energy and message of the priest made it a light for her college experience.

The Bible tells us: 

"Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, 'The kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe the gospel.'" — Mark 1:14,15.

Rachael’s faith encourages her and she feels God is present in her everyday. When she sees another person being kind to one in need, she is filled with thankfulness and is aware of God present...the Kingdom of God is near. Her experiences of good relationships with Vikki Melchiorre and Lea Pascotto in Religious Education make coming back home a fun time and the Kingdom of God is near...she remembers Catholic Heart Work Camp and the Kingdom of God is near...she attends Mass at College and sees other students who become friends....and the Kingdom of God is near.
PLEASE HELP FEED THE HUNGRY!

Your food donations will help St. Vincent DePaul, Catholic Charities, CCMI Soup Kitchen, South Ft. Myers Food Pantry. Drop food in boxes at vestibules in the church or Parish Center. The following is most needed: Canned fruit & vegetables (corn/peas/carrot/green beans), Canned meat (tuna/chicken/ sausages/ham/Spam), Spaghetti noodles and Sauce, Ready Macaroni and Cheese, Maseca flour (small bags), Canned diced tomatoes, Tomato sauce, Cereal, Canned soups (prefer chicken), Baby Diapers, and Dry beans (pinto/red/kidney).

PLEASE DON’T FORGET THE POOR BOXES; THEY ARE THE BREAD BOXES OF THE POOR!

WEEKLY SANCTUARY CANDLE

An offering can now be made in memory of a deceased loved one.

Call or stop in the parish office for more details 239-481-7171.

This week’s Sanctuary Candle:

In loving memory of
Gordon Lee
by Family

RESURRECTION FOR LIFE

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE ABORTION CLINIC AT 3900 BROADWAY, FT. MYERS EVERY 2ND SATURDAY (after the 8:00 Mass) FOR THE ROSARY AND EVERY 2ND THURSDAY AT PLANNED PARENTHOOD, CORNER OF WINKLER & COLLEGE ANYTIME BETWEEN 9 AM AND NOON.

PREGNANT? NEED HELP? CALL 239-772-4673

MEMORARE

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me.

Amen

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE ALTAR FLOWERS in celebration of someone’s anniversary/birthday as a memorial or in thanksgiving please call the Parish Office, 481-7172. Please make check payable to Church of the Resurrection. Bring to parish office or mail to us. The loved one’s name as well as the name of the donor (if wished) will be printed in the bulletin.

Altar Flowers This Week:

In loving memory of
Rose Habeeb
by Friends at Resurrection

In loving memory of
George Blair
by Friends at Resurrection

We are still in need of ushers. If you are able to volunteer please call John at 481-3456.
Interested in becoming Catholic?

If so, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is for you!!!

If you or someone you know is questioning becoming Catholic please have them either call or e-mail me, Lea Pascotto @ 482-6883 or resurrectionre@gmail.com.

As people journey through life, sometimes they realize that they are wanting something more from life. Many times that something more is a faith community. If you are searching and want to inquire more about Catholicism, please do not hesitate to call—I would love to talk with you!

Please call me so we can meet each other prior to the inquiry sessions

Register Now

Registration for the 2014-15 Religious Education year is open

Pre-Kindergarten through Fifth Grade
Sundays from 11:45-1:00 or
Wednesdays from 5:45-7:00

You may download forms from our web site: www.resurrectionch.org or fill one out in our office.

The cost is—
$50 thru June 30
$60 thru July 31
$70 thru Aug 31
$80 after Aug 31
$15 for each additional Child and
$25 for Sacramental Prep

Sacramental Preparation
First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation

Sacramental Preparation is a two year preparation period.
Faith Formation is a life-long journey; in order for a child to receive God’s graces through the sacraments he or she needs to be actively involved with Religious Education or Youth Ministry for at least two years.

♦ 1st Grade students need to be actively attending Religious Education to receive in the 2nd Grade.

♦ 9th Grade students need to be an active member of Resurrection Youth Ministry to be confirmed in 10th grade.
ADVERTISING

He who has a thing to sell and goes and whispers in a well, is not so apt to get the dollars as he who climbs a tree and hollers.

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Space is limited. Thanks and God Bless,
Brian or Sally, coordinators  860.399.1785

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Breakfast Tues.-Fri. 8 AM-11 AM Sat. & Sun. 8 AM-2 PM Lunch Tues.-Sun. 11 AM-2 PM Dinner Friday night 5 PM-9 PM 9405 Cypress Lake Drive, Ste A Behind La-Te-Da-Salon & Cypress Pharmacy

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PHONE: 239-936-5252 Jaredforddds@gmail.com
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