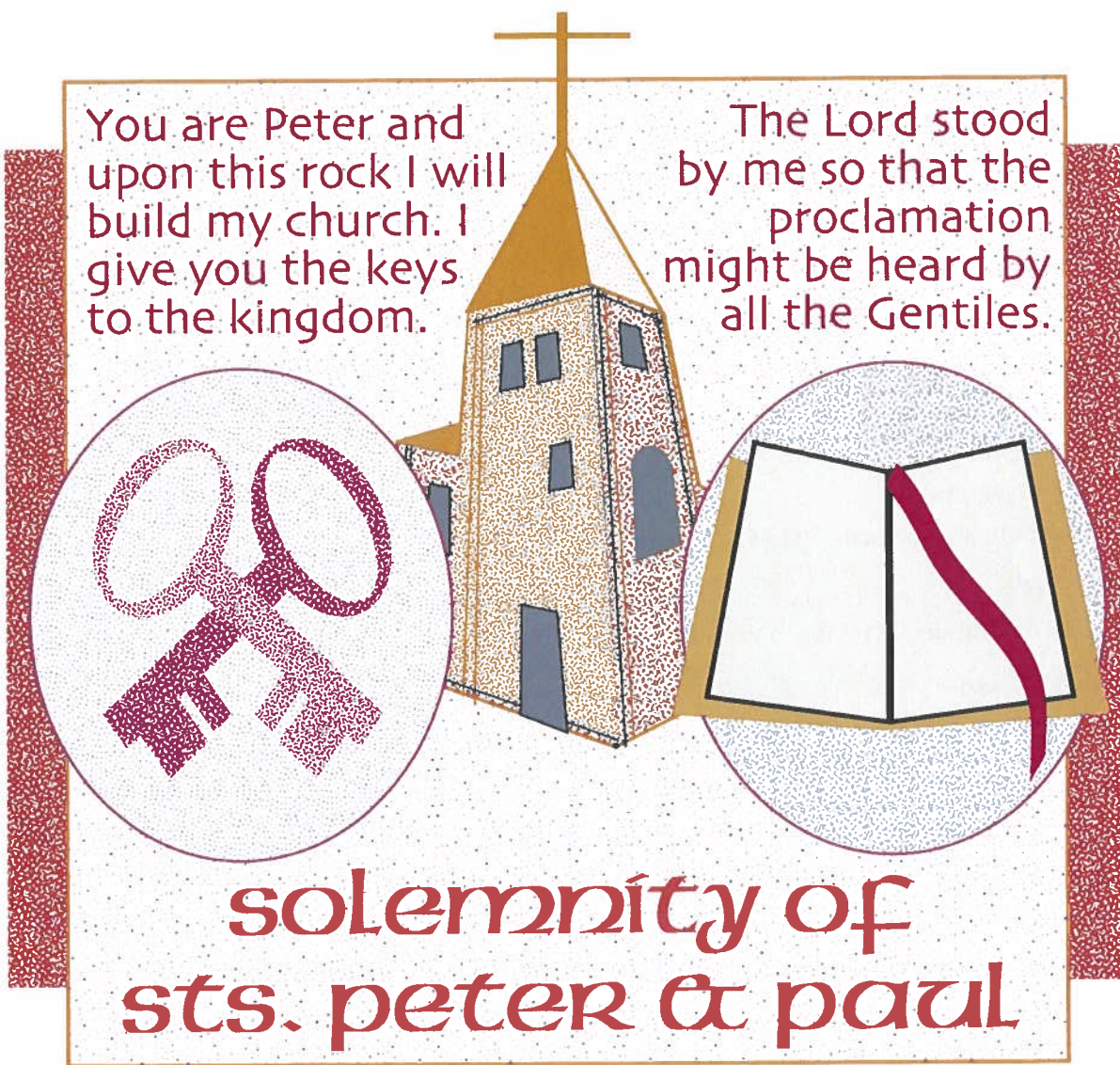


The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

SOLEMNITY OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

JUNE 28-29, 2025



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Weekend Masses:

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 5:00 pm	Sun. 10:30 am
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:30 am	
St. James	Sun. 9:00 am	

Confessions:

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 4:15 pm
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:05-7:20 am
St. James	Sun. 8:35-8:50 am

Church Mailing Address: 207 E. 5th Street

Herscher, IL 60941

Phone: 815-426-2550

Quotable: "I die the King's good servant but God's first."

—Saint Thomas More

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 5-6, 2025

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, July 5 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, July 6 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, July 6 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, July 6 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Dan Hoffman Dave Emling Roger Jensen Gery Wright	Kyle Ferris Daryl Ferris	Dave Ladehoff Dan Forsythe Arlen Hansen Jeff Martin	Kim Smicker Darren Lovell Larry Wolles Galen Fritz
Lector	Hillary Webb	Alicia Kirkpatrick	Carrie Abrassart	Diane Long
Eucharistic Minister				
Servers				
Greeters			Greeter—Donna Bernicky R. Leader—The Peerboltes	The Wheelers

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, June 30 (SMM)

8:00 am +Madonna Hoffman (Mark Gerberding)

Tuesday, July 1 (SH)

8:00 am +Tom Buckley (Terri/Jerry Weakley)

Wednesday, July 2 (SJ)

8:00 am (SJ) +Mark Benoit (The Family)

Friday, July 4 (SMM)

9:00 am +Theresa Gualandi (Mike/Sue Evans)

Saturday, July 5 (SMM)

5:00 pm +Paul Muhlstadt (Jackie Eberle)

Sunday, July 6

7:30 am (SH) For All the Parish Family

9:00am (SJ) +Gerald Bernicky (Bruce/Cathy Jensen)

+Ivan Denault (Dennis/Sue O'Connor)

10:30 am (SMM) For All Priests-Past and Present at
St. Margaret Mary

A Look Ahead

June 28/29—2nd Collection for Peter's Pence (see letter from the Bishop on pg.5)

Friday, July 4—9:00 am Mass at SMM (no First Friday devotion because of Federal holiday)

Pastor— Fr. Ron Neitzke- 815-426-2550

Deacon – Ron Gagnon— rjgckg@aol.com

Home—815-933-4077

Parish Email – smm_sja_sh@yahoo.com

TriParish web page – www.triparishcatholics.org

Like us on Facebook triparishcatholic communities

Tri Parish Church office –Barb Riker 426-2550

Julie Bisailon 426-2550

Bulletin – Debbie Jensen - 426-2550

debjen04@gmail.com

Religious Education –

St. MM – Jill Fulton jfulton.stmm@gmail.com

Sacred Heart – Rhonda Berns – 426-5015

St. James—Tanhya Osenga tosenga81@gmail.com

Parish Nurse – Jackie Eberle – 815-421-4048

Prayer Line—

SMM -Janice 815-426-2574 jdstreefarms@aol.com

St. James— Mary Offerman-602-670-8888 (call or text)

Sacred Heart-Marilyn Pfeiffer 815-955-8246 (call or text)

Terri Weakley— 815-514-8171

Question of the Week

Collections Weekend of June 21-22, 2025

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,746

Sacred Heart—\$1,253

St. James—\$843

Thank you for your generosity!

A Stewardship Moment

Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles

Weekend of June 28/29, 2025

"Who do you say that I am?" (Matt 16:15). The question Jesus poses to his disciples in today's Gospel comes at a critical turning point in his ministry. Jesus truly wants his disciples to know how they understand him. He, in turn, wants to know if they have the courage and commitment to follow in his footsteps on the remainder of his journey to the cross. He also wants to know how they identify themselves as disciples. Good stewards know they are invited to let Jesus and their faith community call forth their deepest identity as followers of Christ Jesus. What is Jesus saying to you about your identity as his follower? Who do you say you are?



Please pray for the repose of the soul of

+Ana Marie Fritz Marcotte

May she and all the faithful departed rest in eternal peace.
Our sincere sympathy to Ana Marie's family and friends.



Current Status for 2025 CMAA

Parish	Goal	Pledged	Paid
Sacred Heart	\$6,600	\$7,450	\$5,300
St. James	\$9,700	\$6,770	\$6,555
St. MM	\$8,900	\$7,400	\$6,825



I will give you the keys...
MT. 16:19

Parish News:

All Parishes—

⇒ Tri-Parish Office Hours— Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am—12 pm.

St. Margaret Mary-

St. James-

Sacred Heart-

An Eight Year Old Was Asked To 'Explain God.' Here's How He Answered.

Habituation

"One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth.

He doesn't make grown-ups, just babies. I think they are smaller and easier to make. That way, He doesn't have to take up His valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.

God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times besides bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because He hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in His ears, unless He has thought of a way to turn it off.

God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere, which keeps Him pretty busy. So, you shouldn't be wasting His time by going over your mom and dad's heads asking for something they said you couldn't have.

Gospel Shorts Are You an 'Excusiologist'?

We all make excuses for decisions we make or actions we take. For the Christian, this is a matter of character. The three would-be followers of Jesus in Luke 9:51-62 made excuses for refusing the invitation to become disciples. All of them had a common problem, interest, but no conviction or commitment. Jesus tells us that the Way of the Cross involves tough decisions and total commitment and dedication to God. There can be no religion on our own terms, no divided loyalties or misplaced priorities, and no excuses to exempt ourselves from following Christ.

Reflection Heal Thyself

We are all a part of the church. When we change, the church changes. When we all take responsibility for the health of our church, the health of our church will increase.



Obscure saint of the week: The First Martyrs of the Church of Rome (June 30) were Christians who were blamed by the Roman Emperor Nero with setting fire to Rome, and were sentenced to death as punishment. They were all disciples of the Apostles. The total number of these those martyred is known only to God.

Other obscure saint of the week: St. Adele of Orp-le-Grand (June 30) was born to the Gallic nobility. She was a member of the Merovingians, and she became a nun in the 7th century at the monastery of Nivelles, Belgium. She founded a monastery in Orp-le-Grand (part of modern Orp-Jauce, Belgium). As it grew, she built a larger oratory dedicated to Saint Martin in a nearby valley and moved the community there. In both forms, she served as abbess of the house.

A local legend about her appears in different forms, but they have in common that she either became blind and was healed by a miracle, or that she was born blind and gained her eyesight during baptism. This, naturally, led to her patronage of eye problems; there is a well dedicated to her, the water of which is supposed to heal eyes.



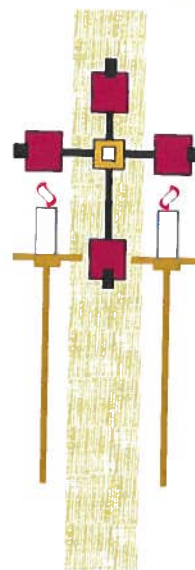
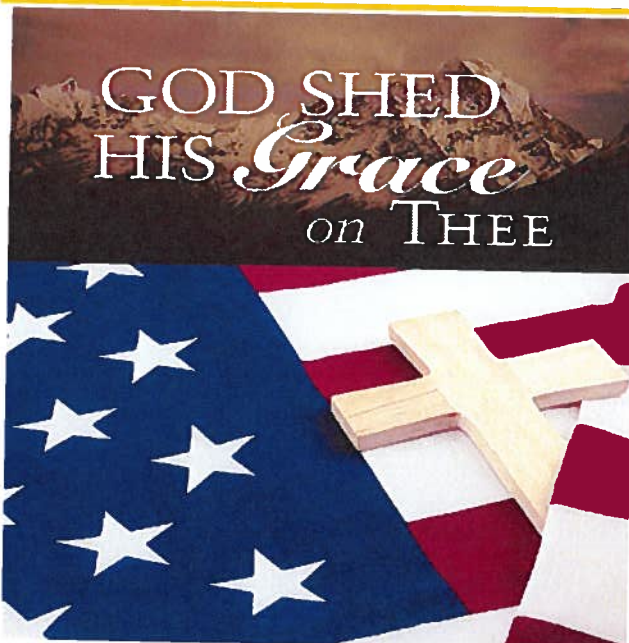
The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

When Jesus arrived in the villages of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "What are people saying about who the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some think he is John the Baptizer, some say Elijah, some say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets." He pressed them, "And how about you? Who do you say I am?"

Simon Peter said, "You're the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

Jesus came back, "God bless you, Simon, son of Jonah! You didn't get that answer out of books or from teachers. My Father in heaven. God himself let you in on this secret of who I really am. And now I'm going to tell you who you are, really are. You are Peter, a rock. This is the rock on which I will put together my church, a church so expansive with energy that not even the gates of hell will be able to keep it out.

"And that's not all. You will have complete and free access to God's kingdom, keys to open any and every door: no more barriers between heaven and earth, earth and heaven. A yes on earth is yes in heaven. A no on earth is no in heaven" (from Matthew 16).



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A Prayer for America

Father in Heaven,
We, the people, in the
land of the free and
the home of the brave,
desperately need You.
Oh that we would leave our ways
of seeking to be blessed
and instead seek to bless others.
We beg for Your guidance and wisdom
for our leaders.

We ask You to protect our land
from enemies, both within and without.
And we praise you for the freedom
we have through the blood of Your Son.
May Your plan be the desire of our nation.

Amen

rachelfwoj.com

Catholic Snacks, Get Fed

Did you know that St. Benedict was nearly poisoned twice?

St. Benedict is a powerful protector against Satan. Do you know why?

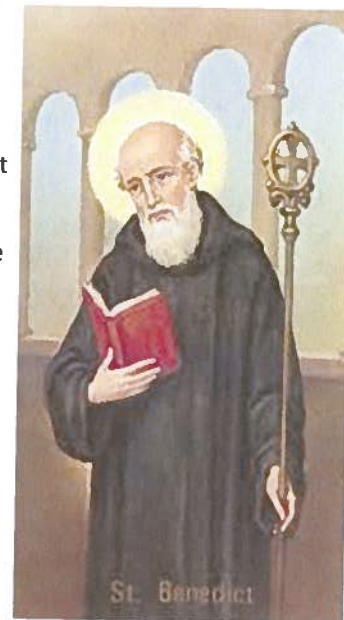
St. Benedict is one of the most popular and beloved saints of all time—and the St. Benedict medal is well known as a sacramental for spiritual protection. But do you know why St. Benedict is often called upon for protection?

As a younger man, Benedict was completely disappointed by the immorality and materialism he saw in Rome, where he had gone to study. So he left to become a hermit. While living in the mountains he developed a reputation for his holiness.

Eventually, a community of monks asked him to join them as their abbot. He agreed, and all went well at first. Some of the monks grew jealous of the Saint's holiness and became bitter toward his strict rules.

They decided to get rid of him by poisoning his wine. But St. Benedict prayed a blessing over his poisoned cup—and it instantly shattered.

On another occasion, a jealous priest tried to kill him with poisoned bread. St. Benedict again prayed over his meal and a raven swooped down and took the bread from him before he could eat it. Because of these two legends, St. Benedict is often pictured in sacred art with a chipped chalice or a raven with a piece of bread in its mouth.



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"How come every summer vacation you read *The Book of Job* a lot?"



Peter's Pence is an offering that may be small, but has a profound symbolic value: it expresses **love and trust** for the Holy Father, Peter's successor.

It is a tangible gesture of **closeness** to the Pope's mission of bringing the Gospel and spreading charity and love all over the world.



The **aims** of your donation:

- to support the Holy Father's **mission**
- to support the Pope's **charitable** initiatives
- to provide aid in humanitarian **emergencies**

Thanks to donations to Peter's Pence, it has been possible to fund 236 projects in 76 countries.
(source: annual report 2024)

Visit www.obolodisanpietro.va
or scan the QR code



SAVE THE DATE

The Celebration of the conclusion of the National Eucharistic Revival will take place at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus in Joliet on Sunday July 13 beginning with the 10:30 am Mass.

After the Mass Bishop Hicks will lead a Eucharistic Procession around the Cathedral grounds ending in the Cathedral with Benediction.

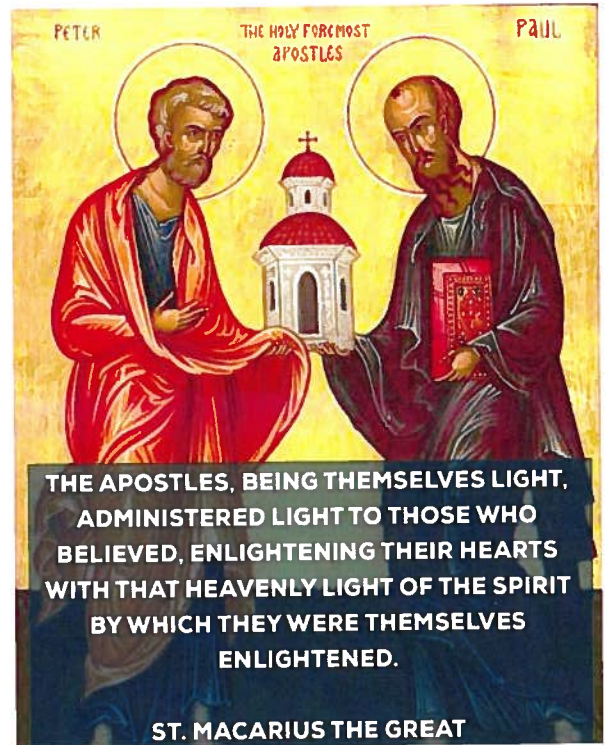


Mark your calendar and make plans to attend this Mass and Eucharistic Procession.



**TAKE UP
YOUR CROSS
AND FOLLOW ME**

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Questions Catholics Ask

We hear so much about what men do in the Bible. Do women do more than participate in the “begats”?

Yes! But you might not know it from the amount of airtime they get in most biblical surveys. Many people are surprised to learn that at least 333 women appear in Scripture. I say at least, since sometimes we’re just told women are present; not who they are or how many they are.

Journalist Edith Deen made a fascinating study of these women in categories that are themselves illuminating as to the roles women play in our sacred story. First she considers the main female actors of Genesis: Eve, of course; but also wives, mothers, and sisters of the patriarchs. Next, Deen studies significant women in the time of Moses and the Judges. Then come bold women of the era of Kings, including a few shrewd Queens. Finally she turns her attention to resourceful women around Jesus and in the early church. In each survey section, both heroes and villains are featured.

While these portraits of the better-known players are interesting, what may be more intriguing is Deen’s alphabetical index of every named woman in Scripture: all 279, from Abi to Zipporah, offered with a helpful citation plus a quick description of their significance. This is followed by a chronicle of unnamed women: 40 daughters, 28 wives, 20 mothers, 8 widows, and 44 others known essentially by their relationships to men.

This total of 333 stories in which a woman or group of women influences salvation history is both delightful and maddening. We’re delighted women feature relentlessly in the record. It’s also disturbing that so many of these stories are unfamiliar to us. They’re rarely proclaimed at Mass or taught in religious education. Ask the average churchgoer to list as many biblical women as they can. I’ve encountered many who draw a blank after Eve, Mary, and Mary Magdalene.

Because so many women in the biblical record—indeed, in the historical records of any civilization—are unnamed, we may need prodding to recall the Medium of Endor, the Wise Woman of Tekoa, and the Virtuous Wife of Proverbs. It takes a little jogging to consider those featured in parables like the Ten Wise and Foolish Bridesmaids, or the Woman with the Lost Coin. It’s a start, at least, to realize that there are 333 stories about women. But it’s more important to expand our personal list, so we recognize more than a handful of them.

Scripture: 1 Samuel 28:4-25; 2 Samuel 14:1-20; Proverbs 31:10-31; Matthew 25:1-13; Luke 15:8-10



We’re delighted women feature relentlessly in the record. It’s also disturbing that so many of these stories are unfamiliar to us.



By Norberto da Brezida - Own work, Roby1888, Public Domain

June 29, 2025

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles

Acts 12:1-11 | 2 Tim 4:6-8, 17-18 | Mt 16:13-19

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

Too often, we conceive of our earthly pilgrimage as a convoluted maze we must travel by ourselves. Consequently, many of us either ignore the question altogether or become overwhelmed by how ill-equipped we are for the task. But in today's Gospel, Jesus indicates that confusion was never part of his plan. Responding to Peter's profession of faith, Jesus says, "You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church." From the mouth of Eternal Wisdom comes words which establish a Church on Peter's God-given faith. Already a leader among the disciples, Peter now receives his vocation to be the foundation of unity among the Apostles. Their successors, the bishops, would be recognizable by their union with Peter's successors, the popes. Over time, the Church's understanding of Peter's authority would mature and deepen. From the beginning, however, Peter's role as shepherd meant that navigating the path to heaven was not something we were to do in isolation. We aren't asked to decipher the meaning of the Scriptures ourselves or to untangle centuries of theological speculation in order to follow Jesus. God, who knows we cannot make the journey alone, has given us a visible Church to be our guide.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Jesus established the Church so that we would have a sure and safe means of transit on our earthly pilgrimage. Convinced though we may be of this truth, we nevertheless have to contend with the storms that buffet her from within and without. Yet we can rest in Jesus' assurance to Peter: "the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it." The Church has survived for millennia as empires have risen and fallen around her. Even in her darkest hours, Christ has continued to speak through her and, by his sacraments, to touch us intimately with his love.

PRAY

Today's first reading, which takes place when Peter is in prison, contains an interesting detail: "Prayer by the Church was fervently being made to God on [Peter's] behalf." As members of Christ's Church on earth, we are not meant to be passive players. This week, pray for *Peter* — that is, for his successor, the pope — that he may fulfill his lofty and difficult vocation to lead the world to Christ.

SPIRITUALITY

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matt 16:18

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

You are Peter and upon this rock I
will build my Church,
and the gates of the netherworld
shall not prevail against it.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Matt 16:13-19; L591

When Jesus went into the re-
gion of Caesarea Philippi
he asked his disciples,
“Who do people say that the
Son of Man is?”

They replied, “Some say John
the Baptist, others Elijah,
still others Jeremiah or one
of the prophets.”

He said to them, “But who do
you say that I am?”

Simon Peter said in reply,
“You are the Christ, the Son of the
living God.”

Jesus said to him in reply, “Blessed are
you, Simon son of Jonah.

For flesh and blood has not revealed
this to you, but my heavenly
Father.

And so I say to you, you are Peter,
and upon this rock I will build my
Church,
and the gates of the netherworld
shall not prevail against it.

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.”

Reflecting on the Gospel

Central to today's gospel reading is the question from Jesus, “Who do you say that I am?” How would we answer this same question? Maybe we'd respond like the “some” referenced by the apostles—Jesus is a nice guy, a good moral teacher, someone who tells us all to get along. Alternatively, maybe we'd repeat something formulaic from the Catechism or a theology textbook—Jesus is the

Second Person of the Trinity, two natures in one person, and so on. Peter finds that Jesus is not satisfied with such an answer from others. Jesus probes further—who am I *to you*? Peter knows his response: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” A bold claim, and one that will have consequences for the rest of his life.

Today is a solemnity because of the significance of both Peter and Paul, two of the most important figures in the early church. Who could have guessed that a Galilean fisherman and a Pharisee from Tarsus could change the course of world history? Together, these great saints root the church firmly in the city of Rome—both ministered and were killed there—and are inseparable as leaders in the early church. They are also demonstrable proof that God qualifies the



called rather than the other way around. Even as Peter professes Jesus to be Christ, his faith is by no means perfect—immediately following the gospel passage today, Peter is rebuked by Jesus for his inability to comprehend Jesus's prediction of his own death. Peter famously denies Jesus three times after the Last Supper. However, we do not remember Peter primarily for his faults—we remember him for his response to Jesus's call. After the resurrection and the descent of the Spirit at Pentecost, Peter is so emboldened to proclaim Christ crucified and risen such that he is ultimately martyred for his faith—according to tradition, upside down, feeling unworthy to be killed in the same manner as Jesus. Peter lived and died in response to his claim in today's gospel—that Jesus is the Son of God.

When we first meet Saul of Tarsus, he is depicted as “trying to destroy the church” (Acts 8:3) and is forcibly sending Christians to imprisonment. In a drastic transformation, Saul is knocked off his horse by the surprise of encountering the risen Christ on the road to Damascus (this conversion is celebrated at its own feast). In this moment, Paul recognizes who Jesus is, and this realization upends his whole life. Following this experience, and given a new name, Paul repurposes the fervor he had for persecuting Christians to spreading the gospel to the Gentiles. Like Peter, Paul is also martyred for his faith, witnessing in death to the same Christ he had witnessed to in his life and writings.

Are we willing to let an encounter with Jesus Christ transform our own lives, regardless of where that leads us? Whether our own journey of faith is something like Peter's, like Paul's, or something uniquely our own, we can take consolation knowing that God chooses to love us and call us for mission as well. In celebrating today's feast, we honor two people who lived in service of Christ and his church, and we ask for their intercession in living lives fully committed to the gospel.