

June 29nd, 2025

3rd Sunday after Pentecost - Tone 2

The Holy and Glorious Apostles, Peter and Paul

Scripture Readings

2 Corinthians 11:21-12:9 (Epistle, Apostles)

To our shame I say that we were too weak for that! But in whatever anyone is bold – I speak foolishly – I am bold also. Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? So am I. Are they ministers of Christ? – I speak as a fool – I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness – besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation? If I must boast, I will boast in the things which concern my infirmity. The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands. It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago – whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows – such a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man – whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows – how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me. And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Matthew 16:13-19 (Gospel, Apostles)

When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Many Years!

Extending a warm welcome to:
Fr. George Khristich, who has
taken over as rector at St. Mary's
Holy Dormition Orthodox Church

anniversaries

July
17th - Harry & Polly Mikita
20th - Ernie & Jeanie Mikita
22nd - Bill & Rachel Stevens

birthdays

June
28th - Mylee Ratzlaff
30th - Chandler Glover
July
1st - Kylie Jackson
2nd - Lorene Denson
6th - Rodney Glover
7th - Bron Burnside
7th - Jonathan Mikita
8th - Brianna Pyatt
8th - Carrie Ann Guy
13th - Wyatt Mikita
15th - Linda Hendrix
16th - LD Meier
17th - Bryan Hlatki
17th - Haylee Schulte
17th - Hannah Schulte
18th - Brooklyn Billmire
19th - Grady Leithead
19th - Evie Stevens
21st - Whitney Tunink
22nd - Luke Meier
23rd - Marcellus Rozdilski
27rd - Brayden Glover
29th - Jason Mikita

Service Schedule

July 5th Great Vespers
— Saturday 6:00p

July 6th Divine Liturgy
— Sunday 9:30a

The Holy Apostles Peter and Paul

A Summary of St. Augustine's Sermon on this topic:

Today the Church venerates the martyrdom of Apostles Peter and Paul, whose faith and sacrifice anchor its foundation. Saint Peter, known for his fervent devotion, confessed Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of the Living God" (Matthew 16:16), earning the title "Peter" (Petrus), meaning "rock" (petra). Augustine clarifies that the Church is built on this confession of Christ's divinity, not Peter himself, with Christ as the true "spiritual Rock" (1 Corinthians 10:1-4). As first among the Apostles (Matthew 10:2), Peter represents the Church, receiving "the keys of the Kingdom" to bind and loose sins (Matthew 16:19). This authority, however, extends to the entire Church, as Jesus later grants all Apostles the power to remit or retain sins (John 20:22-23; Matthew 18:18). After His Resurrection, Jesus thrice asks Peter, "Lovest thou Me?" and commands, "Feed My sheep" (John 21:15-17), countering Peter's earlier denial (Matthew 26:69-75) and affirming his role as a shepherd. This charge extends to all Apostles and their successors, who are urged to feed Christ's flock willingly (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2-4). Peter's martyrdom seals his apostleship, glorifying him eternally.

Saint Paul, formerly Saul, transforms from a persecutor "breathing threatenings and slaughter" (Acts 9:1) to a devoted Apostle. On the road to Damascus, Christ confronts him, saying, "Saul, why persecutest thou Me?" (Acts 9:4), revealing His unity with the Church. Saul, trembling, submits and is baptized as a "chosen vessel" to preach to Gentiles, kings, and Israel (Acts 9:15). His name, Paul, meaning "small," reflects his humility (1 Corinthians 15:9-10). Enduring chains, shipwrecks, and martyrdom, Paul's life testifies to Christ's grace.

Though martyred on different days, Peter and Paul are celebrated together for their shared mission. Peter represents the Church's foundation, Paul its universal outreach. Their deaths distinguish true shepherds, who give their lives for Christ's flock (John 10:11), from false teachers who exploit it (Matthew 7:15). The Church, built on Christ the cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20), holds the power to bind and loose sins. Augustine warns believers to fear binding (remaining in sin) and loosening (returning to sin), as only the Church can remit sins (Proverbs 5:22). The Apostles' example, alongside Christ, the "author and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2), and countless martyrs, makes the path of faith more accessible. Christians are called to emulate Peter and Paul's faith, love, and perseverance, relying on Christ's grace, for "without Me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5), to attain eternal bliss.

Key Themes:

Christ as the Foundation: The Church is built on the confession of Christ's divinity, not on any individual, with Peter and Paul as representatives of its mission.

Church Authority: The power to bind and loose sins belongs to the universal Church, not a single person, emphasizing its collective role.

Transformation and Redemption: Peter's restoration and Paul's conversion highlight Christ's power to redeem and transform lives for His purpose.

Martyrdom and Sacrifice: Both Apostles' deaths exemplify the ultimate commitment to Christ, contrasting with false shepherds who seek personal gain.

Call to Imitation: Believers are urged to follow the Apostles' faith and perseverance, trusting in Christ's grace to attain eternal life.

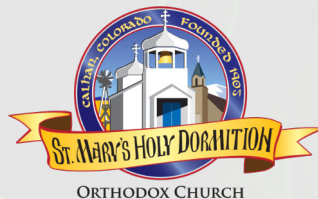
<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2025/06/29/101840-the-holy-glorious-and-all-praised-leaders-of-the-apostles-peter>

Troparion | tone 4

*O first-enthroned of the Apostles, and teachers of the universe:
entreat the Master of all to grant peace to the world, and to our souls great mercy!*

Kontakion | tone 2

O Lord, Thou hast taken up to eternal rest and to the enjoyment of Thy blessings the two divinely inspired preachers, the leaders of the Apostles, for Thou hast accepted their labors and deaths as a sweet-smelling sacrifice, for Thou alone knowest what lies in the hearts of men.



Prayer List

living

Met. Tikhon, Abp. Benjamin, Archim. Vasily, Fr. Andreas, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Dennis, Meryl, Harold, Tammy, Litsa, Lilliana, Carl, Christina, Lindy, John, Alicia, Patricia, Danny, Jerry, Roberta, Wendy, Judy, Michael, Jill, Beverly, Lily with child, Infant Dominic, Tayla with child, Joseph, Alisha with child, Jackie, Amber with child, Anna with child, Joan, Trisha, Stella, Lee, Carol, Ethan, infant AdaLynn, Nauvlet, Leilah, Austin, Brian, Josh, Mother Magdalena, Kodiak, Miriham, Cheri, infant Gus, April, Madalyn, McKenzie, MaKiya, Hannah, Haylee, Keith, Samantha, Christina, Jake, Ashton, infant Sophie, Jeanie, Jetlyn, Lauren, Bob, Taylee with child, Georgianna, Clint, Murl, Carolyn, Millie, Earnie, child Charlotte, Cathy, Michael

Those who are confined: Ethen, Casey, Basil, Mark, Hannah, Theodore

departed

Fr. Thomas, Milt, Dave, Lonnie, Paul, infant Dorothy, Vladimir, James, Larry, Vontae, Carol

Kids Food Program

Remnant Summer Food Program. For all children ages 18 or younger - no income requirements and open to all families. Must register to participate. *Note: Must register by the Wednesday prior to pickup.*

www.kidseat.org

Coffee Hour

Thank you Lori Meier for graciously serving coffee hour last week! —many years!

Today's coffee hour is hosted by the ladies group with potluck sides provided by the parish. All are welcome to attend, following liturgy.

Next Sunday, July 6th coffee hour will be a pot luck, as Parish Council will meet with Fr. George.

The July 13th coffee hour is available to host—reserve your spot! The signup sheet is in the parish hall.