

St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity Parish

406 Court Street Syracuse, NY 13208

Office (315) 478-0916 Fax (315) 423-8096

June 29, 2025

**UPON THIS
ROCK I BUILD
MY CHURCH.
MT 16:18**



From Fr. Brendan Foley

Today the Church observes the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul—a feast that is every June 29. We might look at these apostles and think we could never have anything in common with them, nor is it likely to be able to imitate their faith and perseverance. However, we are called to stand on their foundation! We honor them today not because of their own merits, but rather because in their humility and docility of heart, they allowed the grace of Jesus to be their all even above their own sinfulness and imperfections—the accomplishments we look to in their lives is rather the fruit of the Holy Spirit's mission, and reminds us of Jesus' own words at the last supper: "...apart from me, you can do nothing" (Jn 15:5).

Sometimes among our separated brothers and sisters in Protestant communities, there is an effort to separate St. Peter and St. Paul, that there was division or conflict between them and that there was a distinction in the Gospel they insisted on preaching to the world. This really has no merit, and scripturally we can see why the opposite is true and why it would be important for us to continue upholding these two apostles as being tremendous instruments for the Lord and his Church as two sides of the same coin. Ancient art will very often depict the two in an embrace, together. Together they gave witness by shedding their blood so that Jesus would come to be known and loved to the ends of the earth for all time. Their lives provide us the inseparable gifts of unity and evangelization.

St. Peter, always depicted with primacy and with the keys of the kingdom, reminds us of leadership, governance, law, authority, and direction. It also represents structure, unity, order, and complex decision-making (especially as we hear in the Gospel today about Jesus bestowing on him the power of "binding and loosing"). The symbol of a key provides some important insights, too. A flimsy, soft, and misshapen key can only partially function. It will not achieve its end: opening and closing a door. Like a strong key, the Church must be firm, solid, and properly structured. This type of key achieves its end when opening and closing a door.

Paul is most often depicted holding a sword. Of course, Paul was martyred in Rome by the sword, yes, but like a sword, Paul's words pierced the Roman Empire much more deeply than the Roman guards could ever pierce his skin. Paul's letters to various communities and his preaching changed the landscape of Western civilization. So with the sword Paul reminds us of evangelization, preaching, teaching, writing, catechesis, missionary work, transforming the culture, and dialoguing with various groups. Evangelization must pierce cultural perceptions, understandings, and opinions like the sword. The sword of evangelization must cut through the superficial and erroneous aspects of the culture.

With these features of their discipleship, we can see why it is crucial for us to celebrate them together. If we only ever emphasize the evangelization of St. Paul, we risk losing the integrity of the unity of the body, the structure that holds everything together. If we only ever prioritize the integrity of the structure and institution and the body, we neglect the mission to bear the gospel to the world. When we hold the invitation from St. Peter and St. Paul together, we realize the incredibly daunting, difficult, yet nonetheless vital task before us always: unity and evangelization, drawing others to Jesus Christ the Lord. And how encouraging for us that Jesus himself chose these imperfect, sinful men to be foundational instruments for his mission! St. Peter time and again failed Jesus, and would have lived the rest of his life with the memory of having denied Jesus in his hour of need. St. Paul had fought and had even consented to the murder of Christians and persecuted the early Church. If Jesus would mercifully break into their lives to offer them his healing, his light, his truth, his Gospel, and use their gifts and hearts for the building up of his body, what does it say about what Jesus can do and wants to do in our own lives as his disciples? None of us are beyond the hope of transformative grace, none of us are forgotten nor overlooked by God, if the Lord used Peter and Paul as instruments of unity and evangelization, what will he do with you?! May Sts. Peter and Paul pray for us this day that we too be rescued by the love of God and may we respond anew to the call to be disciples!

Pastor: Father Brendan Foley

Mass Schedule SJB/HT Sunday 9:00am

Reconciliation Thursday 4:00-5:00 pm

Office Hours SJB/HT

Monday-Thursday 9:00am-4:00pm Friday 9:00am 2:30pm

E-mail - nbergeson@syrдио.org

Web Site - www.stjohnthebaptist-holytrinity.com

Syr. Dio. Web-site - www.syracusediocese.org

Secretary/Bulletin: Nancy Bergeson

In Residence: Fr. Paschal Anionye

Music Director/Organist: Mr. James Stanley

Buildings/Grounds: Robert Warren

Religious Education: Betty Warren

Sacristan/Grounds: Allan Chouinard

Altar Servers: Benjamin Chouinard

Alyssa Warren & Cecilia Judge



Rectory Offices Closed

SJB/HT and OLP/SP rectories will be closed on Friday July 4th in observance of the Independence Day Holiday. Have a safe and Blessed 4th of July weekend.

Lector - Sunday June 29th

9:00am SJB/HT: Pat Minnoe

Lector - July 6th

9:00am SJB/HT: Lisa Johnson



Eucharistic Ministry

	Center	Mary's Side
June 29	Karen Fekete	Dave William
July 6	Mary Beth Cusano	Betty Warren
July 13	Cathy Horton	Larry Argiro
July 20	Dave William	Karen Fekete
July 27	Betty Warren	Mary Beth Cusano



A Family Perspective

Family Life Education July 4th

Our nation is blessed with so many opportunities our lives are often frenzied as we try to take advantage of all the possibilities. As we celebrate our Independence this weekend, perhaps we need to be aware of our dependence on fashion, fad and cultural pressure to consume.

Pray For Vocations

Today, Peter professed that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, and then Jesus gave Peter his task and built the Church upon him. Profess your faith in Christ and discover His love and call for you in His Church, possibly as a priest, deacon or consecrated religious. Reach out to the Vocation Office via email: vocations@syrdio.org and follow us on Instagram @vocationssyracuse.



Reflect: Readings and Gospel

1st Reading Question: In his miraculous escape from prison, Peter was convinced of God's saving work in his life. Where do you see God at work in your life?

2nd Reading Question: As Paul was nearing the end of his life, he realized that God had rescued him from many dangers and threats. As you reflect on your life, can you see times when God's saving hand was present for you?

Gospel: Jesus commissioned Peter to be the foundation ("rock") of his Church. Are there any roles or responsibilities you feel called to do in your parish? ©LPi

Mass Schedule OLP/SP 315-422-7163

Saturday Vigil - 4:00pm Vietnamese Mass 6:00pm
Sunday - 7:30am, 11:30am
9:30am Vietnamese
Monday - Thursday 9:00am in the Chapel
Reconciliation Wednesday 4:00-5:00pm

Call the Rectory to arrange for marriages, arrangements made six months prior to date. Contact our organist directly. Information will be provided. Call the rectory for baptisms and hospital/home visits.

The Mass Book for the remainder of the year is now open. Please call or visit for requests for August through December.



9:00am Mass Intentions for SJB/HT

Sunday June 29, 2025 - Kit Moore - Peter White

Maureen White - Peter White

Lillian Greenwood - Sally Lissi

Deceased class members of SJBA 1955 - Alumni

Sunday July 6, 2025 - Rocco Cannatta - Maria Princi

Lillian Greenwood - Jerry Mott

Albert, Billy, Donny & Tommy Bleskoski - The Family



Sacrificial Giving

Week June 22nd

SJB/HT Collection: \$1,984.00

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
Some Say



At first, the Apostles try to dodge the question.

When Jesus confronts them — and make no mistake, it is a confrontation — with the question “Who do you say that I am?” they act like a man whose wife has just asked him if she looks fat in these jeans.

The evasiveness of their answer puts politicians to shame: “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

Some say.

But Jesus doesn't let them off easy. He repeats himself. He wants an answer. “Who do you say that I am?”

They all know the answer. They all believe the answer. And they all know the answer could get them thrown in prison or killed. Only Peter is brave enough to say it: “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.”

People have a lot of opinions about God. They always have. They have a lot of opinions about Jesus and the Bible, about the Catholic Church and the Pope. Some of these opinions are well-founded, well-researched. Some of them are based in ignorance. Many are born of painful misunderstandings. But they are all just that: opinions.

Some say.

We know who Jesus is. We know who the Eucharist is. We know what the truth is. Amid the chaos and the violence and the excruciating loudness of this fallen world and all the words it shouts into the void about God and Jesus and right and wrong, we know.

But will we answer? ©LPi

HAPPY SUMMER TIME!

Wishing all a very Happy Summer.
Be Happy, Be Safe, Be Grateful.
Make many memories.



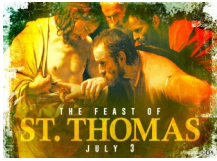
Sts. Peter And Paul, Apostles

What do you call brothers who are born on the same day? Twins, of course. That is what we celebrate today in the inestimable saints, Peter and Paul. Wait: twins? Yes. The early Church believed that Peter and Paul were martyred in Rome on the same day. Since the day of martyrdom is celebrated as a saints' birth into eternal life, the result is striking: Peter and Paul are twins in God's family, the Church.

Who should care about this? Well, anyone who longs to live in a world marked by love and peace. Remember, the Romans believed that twins, Romulus and Remus, founded their city through an act of fratricide, the former murdering the latter. Sadly, the structures of this fallen world emerge through violence between those who should love each other. But in the Church, a new city has been founded upon this new set of twins, embodying the non-violent power of Jesus' cross and resurrection.

That's why traditional icons represent Peter and Paul in a fraternal and warm embrace. Contrasted with the violence of Rome's founders, it challenges us with a bold claim: do we believe that structures of merciful love are more powerful and lasting than those based on power, violence, and domination? Am I willing to see others in my life as my "twin," with whom I am called to give my life for Christ, or as my rival? Am I committed to living what is embodied in Romulus and Remus, or in Peter and Paul?

— Father John Muir



St. Thomas July 3rd

Saint Thomas the Apostle is best known for doubting the Resurrection of Jesus, when he said, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger into the nail-marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe" (John 20:25). Prior to this, the Gospels refer to Thomas several times. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke list him among the Apostles but do not provide details about his call. One of the few personal details given about Thomas is found in John's Gospel, which refers to him as "Didymus," meaning, "Twin." It is reasonable, then, to presume that he had a twin.



PUZZLE

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

BLESSED
SIMON
PETER

ROCK
BUILD
CHURCH

KEYS
KINGDOM
HEAVEN

J P E C S L R D K E B
L D S H E A B U I L D
R I E U M Y I O N S U
O A N R O C K F G H J
F W T C H A E S D S I
N V O H E T Y R O E L
D T U Y P O S I M O N
H E A V E N B A Y B U
T A B H T Y R M I F E
N H B L E S S E D A V
D I T Y R O H U Y T O



MISSION

God has given your parents the key to your house. Always let your parents open the door to your home. Let them welcome your friends.

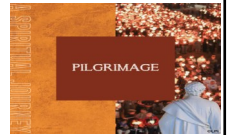


Devotions Explained

Pilgrimage, Explained

When the time came for the Transfiguration of Christ, Jesus took three of his disciples to "a high mountain by themselves," indicating that the sacred mysteriousness of this moment was something best experienced apart from the routine of ordinary life. This is the principle behind the act of pilgrimage: a journey to a place of spiritual significance, undertaken by one who is seeking closeness to Heaven while still on Earth.

Christian pilgrimages really began in the fourth century, when churches in the Holy Land were constructed in locations associated with the life of Christ. Throughout the centuries, pilgrims have likewise flocked to sites of Marian apparitions, miracles, and to places connected with the lives of saints. Some of the most iconic pilgrimage destinations include Fatima, Lourdes, and the Santiago de Compostela in Spain. ©LPi



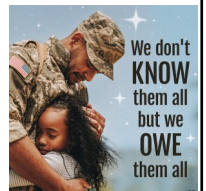
Prayer For Everyday And Everybody

Prayer of Pastoral Care

O God, Bless the souls You have entrusted to our care. As You hear every one of their prayers, help us to hear them, too. Answer their prayer intentions and personal needs through us and our ministry, as we all seek to do Your will. Amen. ©LPi

A Blessing For Our Service Members

Lord God, we are ever mindful of the cost paid for the liberty we possess, we ask that you bless the members of our armed forces. Give them courage, hope and strength. May they ever experience your support, love and healing. Be their power and protector, leading them from darkness to light. Amen.



Remember: Mike Affleck, Shawn Babcock, Nancy Bailey, B.J. Bubniak Family, Arlene Bukowski, Ashley Caiello, Robert Capria, Catherine Cushman, Linda Deapo, Theresa Domathowski, Hank Donohue, Ginny & Erin Donovan, Jenny Emmi, Tenley Farrow, Marilyn Ferretti, Ellen Gangemi, Gladys Graham, Robert Greenwood, Joseph Guinto, Jeanne Hammond, Mary Isgar, Carla Johnson, Tony Lauretti, Shirley Kerr, Emma Lane, Kay Ledermann, Jackie Limeri, Luciano & Maria Luisi, Judy & Skip Marioritti, Michael & Darlene Morga, Diane Moro, Peggy Palerino, The Pavia Children, Antoinette Perotta, Faith Setzer, Marion Sherwood, Esther Sindoni, John Sobon, Patricia Soule, Timothy K. Suppes, Patrick St. Thomas IV, Barbara Traino, Gerry Vaccaro, Shelly Visco, Matthew Watkins, and Fred Wheeler. **We also remember in our prayers our Service Men and Women & our Health Care Workers. Due to HIPAA laws, hospitals are not allowed to give names of patients. Please notify the parish office if you have a loved one in the hospital, a nursing home or is homebound and would like a visit.**