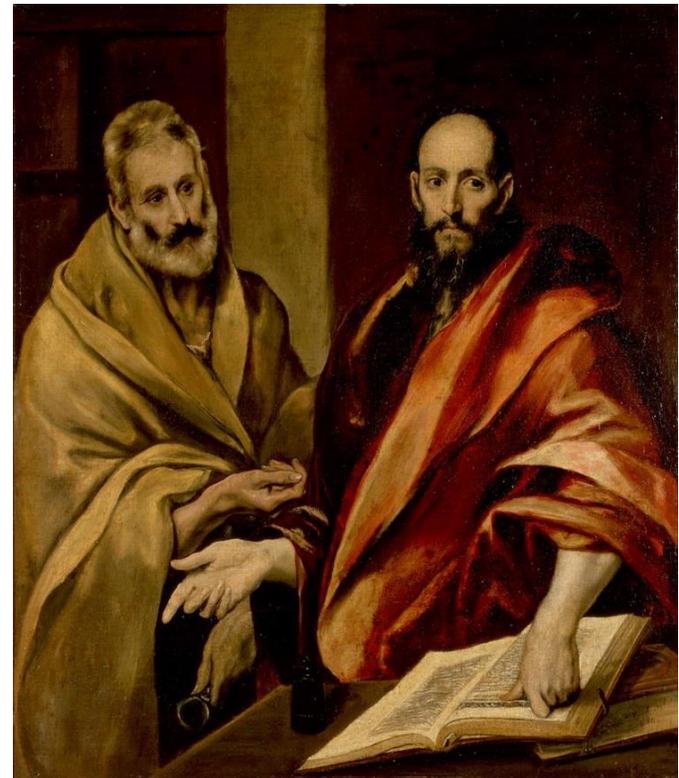


# Link to Liturgy



## Sts. Peter and Paul Feast Day

*Link to Liturgy provides faithful resources which use the latest audiovisual means alongside traditional means to evangelize & catechize thus linking life to the Gospel & the Gospel to life. Sign up Free to Link to Liturgy.*



### Lessons and Discussions

#### Page 5 – Peter and Paul

*“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”*

#### Page 7 – Saint Paul’s Journeys

*“Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”*

#### Page 9 – Letters of Saint Paul [Part I]

*“I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.”*

#### Page 14 – Letters of Saint Paul [Part II]

*“I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.”*

**Introit Entrance Antiphon – Simple English Propers**

This should be chanted so that the time of prayer, study and discussion can be made sacred. Another song can be substituted, but should have the same theme.

*Constitues eos* *Ps 45 (44): 17, 18*

III  
**Y**OU will make them princes over all the earth; \*  
 they will keep the memori-al of your name, in every age  
 and gener-a-tion.

**Alternative Options:**Hymns

Faith of Our Fathers  
 Holy God, We Praise Thy Name  
 The Church's One Foundation

**Collect – Roman Missal**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
 Amen

O God, who on the Solemnity of the Apostles Peter and Paul give us the noble and holy joy of this day, grant, we pray, that your Church may in all things follow the teaching of those through whom she received the beginnings of right religion. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Gospel Reading – Matthew 16:13-19 – Roman Missal – During the Day**

Oremus. Omnipotens sempiterne Deus, qui gloriosae Virginis Matris Mariae corpus et animam, ut dignum Filii tui habitaculum effici mereretur, Spiritu Sancto cooperante, praeparasti, da, ut cuius commemoratione laetamur; eius pia intercessione, ab instantibus malis et a morte perpetua liberemur. Per eundem Christum Dominum nostrum. Amen.

**Slave Regina (English Translation)**

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee to we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, Who by the working of the Holy Spirit didst prepare both body and soul of the glorious Virgin Mother, Mary, that she might deserve to be made a worthy dwelling for Thy Son, grant that we who rejoice in her memory, may, by her loving intercession, be delivered from present evils and from lasting death, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

**“The End” Notes**

- [1] Pope Paul VI
- [2] Daily Roman Missal 3rd Edition, pg. 1785
- [3] Divine Intimacy pg. 1137
- [4] CCC 552
- [5] CCC 552
- [6] Divine Intimacy pg. 1137
- [7] Daily Roman Missal 3rd Edition, pg. 1785
- [8] Divine Intimacy, vol. II, pg. 265
- [9] Divine Intimacy, vol. II, pgs. 265-266
- [10] The Roman Martyrology pg. 133
- [11] Fernandez, In Conversation with God 6, 56.3 pg. 370
- [12] Goffine, The Church's Year pg. 623
- [13] Pope Benedict XVI, The Apostles pg. 126
- [14] John Paul II, Homily, 3 December 1978
- [15] Second Vatican Council, Apostolicam actuositatem, 14
- [16] Pope Benedict XVI, The Apostles pg. 123-124
- [17] Pope Benedict XVI, The Apostles pgs. 127-128
- [18] Introduction to Romans, NAB pg. 1261
- [19] Introduction to Romans, NAB pg. 1303

**Marian Antiphon – Salve Regina**

V  
S

Alve Re-gí-na, \* ma-ter mi-se-ri-córdi-æ, Vi-ta, dul-  
cé-do, et spes nostra, salve. Ad te clamá-mus, éxsu-  
les, fí-li-i Hevæ. Ad te suspi-rá-mus, geméntes et flen-  
tes in hac lacrimá-rum valle. E-ia ergo, Advo-cá-ta  
nostra, illos tu-os mi-se-ri-córdes ó-cu-los ad nos con-  
vér-te. Et Je-sum, be-ne-díctum fructum ventris tu-i,  
no-bis post hoc exsí-li-um osténde. O cle-mens:  
O pi-a: O dulcis Virgo Ma-rí-a.

V. Ora pro nobis, sancta Dei Genitrix.

R. Ut digni efficamur promissionibus Christi.

**NOTE:** In the Roman Catholic Tridentine Lectionary this Gospel is read on the Feast of St. Silvester (12/31)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
- Glory to you O Lord

When Jesus went into the region 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

- Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

**Spiritual Reading – Office of Readings**

From a sermon by Saint Augustine, bishop

This day has been made holy by the passion of the blessed apostles Peter and Paul. We are, therefore, not talking about some obscure martyrs. *For their voice has gone forth to all the world, and to the ends of the earth their message.* These martyrs realized what they taught: they pursued justice, they confessed the truth, they died for it.

Saint Peter, the first of the apostles and a fervent lover of Christ, merited to hear these words: *I say to you that you are Peter*, for he had said: *You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.* Then Christ said: *And I say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church.* On this rock I will build the faith that you now confess, and on your words: *You are the Christ, the Son of*

*the living God, I will build my Church. For you are Peter, and the name Peter comes from *petra*, the word for “rock,” and not vice versa. “Peter” comes, therefore, from *petra*, just as “Christian” comes from Christ.*

*As you are aware, Jesus chose his disciples before his passion and called them apostles; and among these almost everywhere Peter alone deserved to represent the entire Church. And because of that role which he alone had, he merited to hear the words: To you I shall give the keys of the kingdom of heaven. For it was not one man who received the keys, but the entire Church considered as one. Now insofar as he represented the unity and universality of the Church, Peter’s preeminence is clear from the words: To you I give, for what was given was given to all. For the fact that it was the Church that received the keys of the kingdom of God is clear from what the Lord says elsewhere to all the apostles: Receive the Holy Spirit, adding immediately, whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven, and whose sins you retain, they are retained.*

Rightly then did the Lord after his resurrection entrust Peter with the feeding of his sheep. Yet he was not the only disciple to merit the feeding of the Lord’s sheep; but Christ in speaking only to one suggests the unity of all; and so he speaks to Peter, because Peter is first among the apostles. Therefore do not be disheartened, Peter; reply once, reply twice, reply a third time. The triple confession of your love is to regain what was lost three times by your fear. You must loose three times what you bound three times; untie by love that which your fear bound. Once, and again, and a third time did the Lord entrust his sheep to Peter.

Both apostles share the same feast day, for these two were one; and even though they suffered on different days, they were as one. Peter went first, and Paul followed. And so we celebrate this day made holy for us by the apostles’ blood. Let us embrace what they believed, their life, their labors, their sufferings, their preaching and their confession of faith.

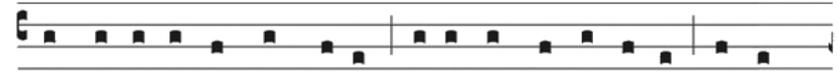
### Responsory – Office of Readings

Blessed apostle Paul, preacher of the truth and teacher of the Gentiles,

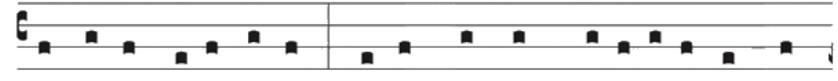
– you are truly worthy of praise.



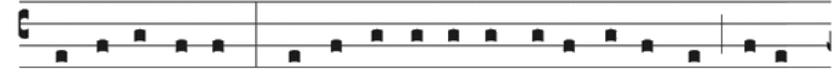
Pa-ter no-ster, qui es in cœ-lis: Sancti- fi-cé-tur nomen tu- um:



Ad-vé-ni- at reg-num tu- um: Fi- at vo- lún-tas tu- a, sic- ut



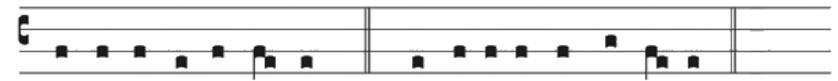
in cœ-lo, et in ter-ra. Pa-nem nostrum quo-ti-di- a-num da



no-bis hó-di- e: Et di-mít-te no-bis dé-bi- ta no-stra, sic-ut



et nos di-mít-ti-mus de-bi- tó-ri-bus nostris. Et ne nos indú-



cas in ten-ta- ti - ó- nem. **R.** Sed lí-be-ra nos a ma- lo.

Promises of Christ, enjoy His Presence and love Him forever in time and eternity.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be Amen

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

**Oratory: Place of Prayer – Our Father – Pater Noster**

This prayer is found on page 15 and chant is found on page 49 of the Oratory: Place of Prayer Book. To purchase the Oratory: Place of Prayer Book - <http://remnantband.bandcamp.com/merch>

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Through you all peoples have come to know God's grace.  
– You are truly worthy of praise.

**Peter and Paul – Lesson and Discussion**

*“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”*

Today we celebrate a very important feast in the Church, the solemnity of Peter and Paul. “The Apostles Peter and Paul are considered by the faithful, and rightly, as the first pillars, not only of the Holy Roman See, but also of the universal Church of the living God, spread to the utmost bounds of the earth. Founders of the Church of Rome, the Mother and teacher of the other Christian communities, it was they who gave impulse to its growth by the supreme testimony of their martyrdom suffered in Rom with fortitude: Peter, whom Our Lord Jesus Christ chose as the foundation of his Church and Bishop of this illustrious city, and Paul, the Doctor of the Gentiles, teacher and friend of the first community founded here.”[1]

**VIDEO – Saints Peter and Paul – POP CULTURE CONNECTION – 2:59**

<http://youtu.be/heQGyDikark>

This video gives a brief overview of the lives of Sts. Peter and Paul and the reason we celebrate this feast day.

**Why do we celebrate this solemnity?** “Sts. Peter and Paul are the principal Pillars of the Church founded by Christ. St. Peter was chosen by Christ to be his first Vicar on earth; he was endowed with the power of the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven and given the role of Shepherd of Christ's flock. In St. Peter and his successors, the popes, there is a visible sign of unity and communion in faith and charity. Divine grace led St. Peter to profess Christ's divinity. He suffered martyrdom under Nero about AD 64 and is buried at the hill of the Vatican.”[2] Both men helped establish the Church in Rome.

**Why are Peter and Paul consider the “pillars of the church”?**

“The Feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, Princes of the Church, awakens in our souls a greater love for the Church and for our Holy Father the Pope.”[3] We should remember that Peter is always first among the members of the Church. “Simon Peter holds the first place in the college of the Twelve.”[4] He is first among the apostles in scripture and first among the names of this holy day. “Because of the faith he confessed Peter will remain the unshakeable rock of the Church. His mission will be

to keep this faith from every lapse and to strengthen his brothers in it.”[5] Saint Ambrose said, “Where Peter is, there is the Church.” “This means that wherever the Pope, Peter’s successor, is, there the Church is. Rightly, then, should we consider the Feast of St. Peter as the Feast of the Church, the Feast of our Holy Father the Pope, and one which should awaken in every Christian soul a profound sense of belonging to the Church and of devotion to the Sovereign Pontiff.”[6]

However, this does not negate the importance of Saint Paul. After Saint Peter, Paul is the second most important apostle. Without Paul, who knows what would have happened to the Church between the conversion of Jews and Gentiles at that time. Because of Paul who knows if Christianity would have spread as far and as fast as it did. “St. Paul was chosen to form part of the College of Apostles by Christ himself after his dramatic conversion on the road to Damascus. Selected to bring Christ’s name to all peoples, he was a great missionary, advocate of pagans, and ‘Apostle of the Gentiles.’”[7]

#### **Why do we have the feast day with Peter and Paul together?**

These men are so important to the Church that they have their own individual feast days as well as today to celebrate them together. “The Liturgy unites in a single celebration Peter, the head of the Church, and Paul, the Apostle of the gentiles. Both are the living foundation of the Church, built up by their labors and their ceaseless preaching, and made fruitful in the end by their martyrdom.”[8] The other reason we celebrate them together is because both Peter and Paul were martyred on the same day.

The readings for the mass have them imprisoned and in chains. “The two Apostles in chains bear witness that only those who know how to face tribulations, persecutions, and even martyrdom for Christ are truly his disciples. At the same time their experience show that Christ does not abandon his apostles when they are persecuted: he intervenes on their behalf to save them from danger- for instance, as Peter was freed from prison- or to sustain them in their vicissitudes, as Paul declares: ‘The Lord stood by me and gave me strength...The Lord will rescue me from every evil and save me for his heavenly kingdom.’”[9]

**How did Peter and Paul die?** Peter was crucified upside down upon request because he did not feel worthy to be crucified right side up as his Lord. Paul was beheaded because he was a roman

*Popular verse from Philemon:* “Perhaps this is why he was away from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a brother, beloved especially to me, but even more so to you, as a man and in the Lord. So if you regard me as a partner, welcome him as you would me. And if he has done you any injustice or owes you anything; charge it to me.” (Philemon 15-18)

#### **Activity – Memorize the Letters in Order**

A way to memorize the letters of Paul (and could be used to memorize the whole bible) in order is to take a song that you like. Pick a song that you know the tune by heart. Now insert the words into the melody of the song. You may need to play around with the pentameter and song choice, but it can be a great way to learn them by memory. Below is a video of an example of someone made up the tune themselves.

#### **Profession of Faith or Popular Devotion – Novena to Sts. Peter and Paul**

*A novena is a 9-Day prayer that typically prayed leading up to a particular feast day. You can also pray this novena starting on the solemnity and eight days after.*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Holy Apostles Peter and Paul ,  
I choose you this day and forever to be my special patrons and advocates,  
you blessed Saint Peter - Prince of the Apostles , because you are the Rock upon the Almighty God has build His Holy Church;  
you blessed Saint Paul, because you were fore chosen by God as vessel of election and preacher of the truth to the whole world.

Obtain for me , I humbly pray you , lively Faith , firm Hope and burning Love, complete detachment from myself, contempt of the world,  
patience in adversity, humility in prosperity, attention in prayer, purity of diligence in fulfilling the duties of my state of life, constancy in my resolutions, resignation to the Will of God and perseverance in the Grace of God even unto death, so that by the means of your intercession and your glorious merits, I might be able to overcome the evil and I be made worthy of the

**Titus**

The letter to Titus gives advice to the large Mediterranean island of Crete where Titus was at the time. From what we know, Paul had never visited Crete in his journeys but was given reports by his disciples of what was happening there. Paul writes to give instruction to the older men and women, slaves, and the younger men and women. He also instructs everyone to be on guard against false teachings and to maintain self-control.

Here is the Breakdown:

Address (1:1-4)

Pastoral Charge (1:5-16)

Teaching the Christian Life (2:1-3:15)

*Popular verse from Titus:* “Remind them to be under the control of magistrates and authorities, to be obedient, to be open to every good enterprise. They are to slander no one, to be peaceable, considerate, exercising all graciousness toward everyone. For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, deluded, slaves to various desires and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful ourselves and hating one another.” (Titus 3:1-3)

**Philemon**

This letter was written by Paul between 61-63AD while imprisoned in Rome. The letter is addressed to three people: Philemon (Slave Owner), Apphia (woman), and Archippus (soldier). He writes to Philemon on behalf of a slave of Philemon named Onesimus who ran away from Colossae. Onesimus was also in jail with Paul who converted to Christianity. Paul sends Onesimus back to Philemon in obedience to the law but with this letter. Many times in our modern culture we hear people say that scripture says nothing of slavery, in fact it endorses it with Paul willingly handing the slave back over. There are two things though to be mentioned about this and about also pertains to this letter. It is easy to see that Paul is not in favor of slavery, but tolerates it. He does not outright speak against slavery here or any of his letters because he assumed the second coming was to happen at any moment. However, with this letter we can see Paul’s feelings towards direct slavery and that he did not agree with it. In fact, he advises Philemon to accept Onesimus as “brother, beloved...to me, but even more so to you” (16) which could be seen as radical for Paul’s time. Here’s the breakdown:

- Greeting and Thanksgiving (v. 1-7)
- Plea for Onesimus (v. 8-22)
- Final Greetings (v. 23-25)

citizen and had that right to be executed in that manner. “At Rome, the birthday of the holy Apostles Peter and Paul, who suffered in the same year and on the same day, under the Emperor Nero. The former [Peter] was crucified in that city, with his head downward, and was buried in the Vatican near the Triumphal Way; and there he is honoured with the veneration of the whole world. The latter was slain with the sword, and buried with like honour on the Via Ostiensis.”[10]

**What can we learn from Peter and Paul?** Saints Peter and Paul are the perfect examples of what it means to be a Christian. Peter shows that despite weakness we can become great only in Christ. Paul shows us that in spite of our past sins Jesus can call us out of sin and we can make a full conversion. “As we conclude our meditation we ask him for this same fidelity, in spite of the setbacks we suffer and all the obstacles we shall find placed in our way because we are Christians. We ask him to make us firm in the faith, fortes in fide, just as Saint Peter asked with the first Christians of his day to be.”[11]

**Saint Paul’s Journeys – Lesson and Discussion**

*“Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”*

Saint Paul’s whole mission was to preach the Good News with incredible zeal. Saint Paul said, “Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel!” (cf. 1Cor. 9:16) He truly lived out Jesus’ commandment, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation.” (Mark 16:15) “His unwearied labors in the vineyard of the Lord after his conversion, the sufferings which he endured upon his apostolic journeys, and the dangers and persecutions through which he passed in different countries, cannot be described.”[12]

**Where did Saint Paul go?** Saint Paul was the most traveled apostle. Paul’s main journeys totaled four. “The point of departure for his travels was the Church of Antioch in Syria, where for the first time the Gospel was announced to the Greeks and where also the name ‘Christians’ was coined for believers in Christ. From there he first went to Cyprus and then on different occasions to the regions of Asia Minor (Pisidia, Laconia, Galatia), and later to those of Europe (Macedonia, Greece). The most famous were the cities of Ephesus, Philippi, Thessalonica, Corinth, without forgetting Berea, Athens and Miletus. ...From a passage of the Letter to the Romans appears his proposal to

push on even to Spain, to the Far West, to announce the Gospel everywhere, even to the then known ends of the earth.”[13]



### VIDEO – Map/Timeline of Paul’s Missionary Journey – POP CULTURE CONNECTION – 2:18

<http://youtu.be/C42WAWs13Gg>

This video gives a visual aid of Saint Paul’s journeys along with some history of where he was when he wrote his letters.

### VIDEO – Peter and Paul – The Indispensable Men – POP CULTURE CONNECTION – 4:42

<http://youtu.be/8qUW7IxapdU>

The video is an excerpt from Fr. Barron’s “Catholicism” video series and focuses on some of the travels of Saint Paul.

**What did Saint Paul face while traveling?** “labors... imprisonment...beatings...numerous brushes with death...Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I passed a night and a day on the deep; on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my own race, dangers from Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers at sea, dangers

- Concluding Exhortations (3:1-16)
- Final Greeting (3:17-18)

*Popular verse from 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians:* “Therefore, brothers, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught, either by an oral statement or by a letter of ours.” (2<sup>nd</sup> Thess. 2:15)

### 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy

This letter along with the second letter to Timothy and Titus are known as the Pastoral Letters. They are pastoral in that Timothy and Titus were disciples of Paul and Paul acting as a “Bishop” wrote to his “priests” instructing them on the faith before his death. The first letter Timothy was close to Paul’s death. Paul writes to Timothy about practical things that needed to be addressed for the stability of the Church (false teachers, new leaders, and finances). Here’s the breakdown:

- Address (1:1-12)
- Sound Teaching (1:3-20)
- Problems of Discipline (2:1-4:16)
- Duties toward Others (5:1-6:2)
- False Teaching and True Wealth (6:2-19)
- Final Recommendation and Warning (6:20-21)

*Popular verse from 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy:* “Let no one have contempt for your youth, but set an example for those who believe, in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity.” (1Tm. 4:12)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy

This letter was written close to the hour of Paul’s execution. Paul is more personal in this letter than his first letter to Timothy. He spends some time in the letter reflecting on the journeys he had with Timothy knowing his mortality and puts his faith in God. Paul again stresses to Timothy to protect the church from false teachings and not be afraid of any persecutions that will come. Here is the breakdown:

- Address (1:1-5)
- Exhortations to Timothy (1:6-2:13)
- Instructions Concerning False Teaching (2:14-4:8)
- Personal Requests and Final Greetings (4:9-22)

*Popular verse from 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy:* “I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control.” (2Tm. 1:6-7) **BONUS:** “All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness.” (2Tm. 3:16)

- Conclusion (4:7-18)

*Popular verse from Colossians:* “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For in him were created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he himself might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile all things for him, making peace by the blood of his cross [through him], whether those on earth or those in heaven.” (Colossians 1:15-20)

### 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians

This letter is one of the oldest writings in the New Testament. Written around 51 AD, Paul writes to the people of Thessalonica. Thessalonica was the capital of a Roman province called Macedonia in northern Greece. He is writing this letter in response to what Timothy, a disciple of Paul, had reported when he visited. Paul writes to tell them that although they are being persecuted they shall see their true reward in heaven. He also addresses the peoples concerns about the second coming and the resurrection of their fellow believers who have died. Here is the breakdown:

- Address (1:1-10)
- Previous Relations with the Thessalonians (2:1-3:13)
- Specific Exhortations (4:1-5:25)
- Final Greeting (5:26-28)

*Popular verse from 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians:* “But you, brothers, are not in darkness, for that day to overtake you like a thief. For all of you are children of the light and children of the day. We are not of the night or of darkness. Therefore, let us not sleep as the rest do, but let us stay alert and sober...But since we are of the day, let us be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love and the helmet that is hope for salvation.” (1 Thess. 5:4-6,8)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians

The second letter written by Paul was written to clear up some confusion about when the second coming was really going to happen. He also wrote it to advise them in their persecutions. Here’s the breakdown:

- Address (1:1-12)
- Warning against Deception Concerning the Parousia (Second Coming) (2:1-17)

among false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many sleepless nights, through hunger and thirst, through frequent fastings, cold and exposure. And apart from these things there is the daily pressure upon me of my anxiety for all the Churches.” (2 Cor. 11:23)

**Why would he go through all that?** Simply put, Jesus Christ. “The love of Christ impels us...so that those who live might live no longer for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.” (2 Cor. 5:14-15) He endured all things for the love of God and love of Christ.

**How are we to follow the example of Saint Paul’s travels?** We may not be like Saint Paul in that we will be missionaries going throughout the whole world, but that does not mean we should neglect preaching and evangelizing wherever we go. Pope Saint John Paul II said, “Be deeply friends of Jesus and take to your family, your school, the district where you live, the example of a Christian life which is pure and cheerful. Be always young Christians, true witnesses to Christ’s teaching. Moreover, be bearers of Christ in this disturbed society, which needs him today more than ever. Announce to everyone by your lives that Christ alone is the true salvation of mankind.”[14]

The Second Vatican Council even touches on this topic of evangelization even when we are traveling for business or pleasure. “Even those who travel abroad for international activities, on business or on holiday, should keep in mind that no matter where they may be they are the travelling messengers of Christ, and should bear themselves truly as such.”[15]

Whether we travel 5 miles or 5,000 miles we should never miss an opportunity to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

### **VIDEO – Brian Kemper explains why he always wears pro-life t-shirts on airplanes – POP CULTURE CONNECTION – 6:04**

<http://youtu.be/tE2XOy7FkGM>

The video is about an experience Brian Kemper had on an airplane and evangelizing the Gospel of Life.

### **Letters of Saint Paul [Part I] – Lesson and Discussion**

*“I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.”*

Saint Paul is absolutely vital to the New Testament. In fact, he wrote more than half of the New Testament. “Certainly, after Jesus, he is one of the originals of whom we have the most information. In fact, we possess not only the account that Luke gives in the Acts of the Apostles, but also a group of Letters that have come directly from his hand and which, without intermediaries, reveal his personality and thought.”[16] Within his writings we learn a lot from Paul. Most notably his love for God. “In St. Paul’s Letters, after the Name of God which appears more than 500 times, the name most frequently mentioned is Christ’s (380 times). Thus, it is important to realize what a deep effect Jesus Christ can have on a person’s life, hence, also on our own lives.”[17]

**How are the letters arranged in the Bible?** The letters are arranged *not* by the time they were written (i.e. chronologically). They are divided into two parts: communities and individuals. The letters that were written to various churches or communities again were not put in chronological order, but based from the longest written letter to the shortest written letter (although Galatians is *slightly* shorter than Ephesians). The second part are to the individuals Paul wrote to.

**How many letters did Paul write? Who did Paul write to?** In the New Testament, Saint Paul wrote thirteen letters: nine of them were for communities or churches in various places (Romans, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians) and four were for specific people (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy, Titus, and Philemon). There are scholar that debate whether or not Saint Paul wrote the letter to the Hebrews, but the majority consensus is Paul personally did not write that letter.

Why did Paul write these letters? What was the message of the letters? Why Saint Paul wrote each of the letters and the message of his letters varies from letter to letter. Let’s give a little detail for each of the letters Saint Paul wrote.

### **Romans**

“Of all the letters of Paul, that to the Christians at Rome has long held pride of place. It is the longest and most systematic unfolding of the apostle’s thought, expounding the gospel of God’s righteousness that saves all who believe...”[18] Saint Paul wish to write to the Christians of Rome in hopes to inspire support for him as he wished to evangelize to the western parts

Philipi was a city in northern part of Greece and it is taught that Paul establish the Christian church there, which is the first establish Christian church in Europe. He wrote the letter to the Philippians sometime between 55AD-63AD. Most theologians believe that Paul wrote this letter while he was imprisoned for preaching the gospel. In this letter Paul is hopeful and confident that he will not meet his end for he has much still to do for the various churches he help start. The letter’s main theme is to imitate Christ especially in the virtue of obedience as Christ did. Here’s the breakdown:

- Address (1:1-11)
- Progress of the Gospel (1:12-26)
- Instructions for the Community (1:27-2:18)
- Travel Plans of Paul and His Assistants (2:19-3:1)
- Polemic: Righteousness and the Goal in Christ (3:2-21)
- Instructions for the Community (4:1-9)
- Gratitude for the Philippians’ Generosity (4:10-20)
- Farewell (4:21-23)

*Popular verse from Philippians:* “Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus, Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:5-11)

### **Colossians**

Paul writes to the Colossians out of a response to a letter that was sent to him by the people in Colossae, which is a city in Asia Minor just east of Ephesus. Paul at the time of writing this letter, around 61AD, was imprisoned about to be sent to Rome where he would be a martyr. Paul writes to address many false teachings that have bubbled up by teachers who practiced cults and tried to blend their beliefs with Christianity. For example, they tried to stress more on angels and Jesus’ death and resurrection was not enough for salvation. Here is a breakdown:

- Address (1:1-14)
- The Preeminence of Christ (1:15-2:3)
- Warnings against False Teachers (2:4-23)
- The Ideal Christian Life in the World (3:1-4:6)

The Letter to the Ephesians is one of the older letters that was written for the churches in Asia Minor or Turkey. Ephesus was a city off the western coast of Turkey. The Letter is all about the unity of God and His Church. Paul “emphasize the unity in the church of Christ that has come about for both Jews and Gentiles within God’s household and indeed the ‘seven unities’ of church, Spirit, hope; one Lord, faith, and baptism; and the one God.” It is also important to note that Saint Paul also speaks on being saved and good works. That we are saved by Grace through faith acted out in good works. (cf. eph. 2:1-10) Lastly, we see how Paul writes about husbands and wives, and children and parents. He shows the depth and imagery of what it means to be a faithful spouse to each other. Here’s the breakdown:

- Address (1:1-14)
- Unity of the Church in Christ (1:15-2:22)
- World Mission of the Church (3:1-4:24)
- Daily Conduct, an Expression of Unity (4:25-6:20)
- Conclusion (6:21-24)

*Popular verse from Ephesians:* “Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives should be subordinate to their husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is head of his wife just as Christ is head of the church, he himself the savior of the body. As the church is subordinate to Christ, so wives should be subordinate to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word, that he might present to himself the church in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. So [also] husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one hates his own flesh but rather nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ does the church, because we are member of his body. ‘For this reason a man shall leave [his] father and [his] mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ This is a great mystery but I speak in reference to Christ and the church. In any case, each one of you should love his wife as himself, and the wife should respect her husband.” (Ephesians 5:21-33)

### **Letters of Saint Paul [Part II] –Lesson and Discussion**

*“I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.”*

### **Philippians**

of the Roman world, Spain. The letter was probably written some time between 56-58 AD and is sometimes coined as the gospel of Paul. The letter at a glance is broken into these areas:

- Address (1:1-15)
- Humanity Lost without the Gospel (1:16-3:20)
- Justification through Faith in Christ (3:21-5:21)
- Justification and the Christian Life (6:1-8:39)
- Jews and Gentiles in God’s Plan (9:1-11:36)
- The Duties of Christians (12:1-15:3)
- Conclusion (15:14-16:27)

*Popular verse from Romans:* “I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourself to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.” (Rm. 12:1-2) **BONUS:** “What then shall we say? Shall we persist in sin that grace may abound? Of course not! How can we who died to sin yet live in it? Or are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.” (Rm. 6:1-4)

### **1st Corinthians**

Saint Paul wrote his first letter to the Corinthians in 56 AD mainly to the Gentile Christians in Corinth. Corinth was a city on the coast of Greece. He helped establish the Church there and saw to take care of the Christians there like a father. There were many problems facing Corinth at that time in Corinth, especially sexual immorality. He helped them understand the liturgy, morality, and mystery of the Body of Christ.

- Address (1:1-9)
- Disorders in the Corinthian Community (1:10-6:20)
  - o Divisions in the Church
  - o Moral Disorders
- Answers to the Corinthian’s Questions (7:1-11:1)
  - o Marriage and Virginity
  - o Offerings to Idols
- Problems in Liturgical Assemblies (11:2-14:40)
  - o Women’s Headdresses
  - o The Lord’s Supper
  - o Spiritual Gifts
- The Resurrection (15:1-11)
  - o The Resurrection of Christ

- The Resurrection of the Dead
- The Manner of the Resurrection
- Conclusion (16:1-24)

*Popular verse from 1st Corinthians:* “If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will be brought to nothing; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing. For we know partially and we prophesy partially. But when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things. At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know fully as I am fully known. So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” (1 Cor. 13:1-13)

### 2nd Corinthians

The second letter to the Corinthians was written out of response from backlash of the first letter. It was written around 57AD and is “the most personal of all of Paul’s extant writings, and it reveals much about his character.”[19] He writes in response to the attacks false prophets had said about him; that he was crazy, a bad speaker and not trustworthy. Paul shows true emotion of frustration and frankness but also shows great affection towards the church of Corinth. Here is the breakdown:

- Address (1:1-11)
- The Crisis between Paul and the Corinthians (1:12-7:16)
  - Past Relationships
  - Paul’s Ministry
  - Resolution of the Crisis
- The Collection for Jerusalem (8:1-9:15)
- Paul’s Defense of His Ministry (10:1-13:10)
- Conclusion (13:11-13)

*Popular verse from 2nd Corinthians:* “...he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.’ I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me. Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong.” (2 Cor. 12:9-10) **BONUS:** “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the holy Spirit be with all of you.” (2 Cor. 13:13-14) *(The reason this one is put in is because this is what the presider says always at the opening of every mass! Another point to show people how the Mass is scriptural.)*

### Galatians

The letter to the Galatians was probably written sometime between 54-55AD. Galatia was a region in the middle of modern day Turkey. The converts he personally brought into the Christian church were exclusively gentiles or pagans. After he had to leave there were other missionaries who came in to Galatia to tell these Gentile Christians that they must follow parts of the Jewish Law, for example be circumcised, in order to be Christian. Saint Paul wrote this letter in defense of what he originally taught, and that the Galatians do not have to follow the Jewish Law because of what was discussed at the Council of Jerusalem. This letter is one of the most emotionally charged letters Paul writes. Here is the breakdown:

- Address (1:1-5)
- Loyalty to the Gospel (1:6-10)
- Paul’s Defense of His Gospel and His Authority (1:11-2:21)
- Faith and Liberty (3:1-4:31)
- Exhortation to Christian Living (5:1-6:10)
- Conclusion (6:11-18)

*Popular verse from Galatians:* “For through faith you are all children of God in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free person, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Gal. 3:26-29) **BONUS:** “Brothers, even if a person is caught in some transgression, you who are spiritual should correct that one in a gentle spirit, looking to yourself, so that you also may not be tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and so you will fulfill the law of Christ.” (Gal. 6:1-2)

### Ephesians