

WORDS FROM THE PASTOR

Thirteenth Sunday Ordinal Time

June 27th, 2021

Calendar:

- **06/26/21 Saturday:** 7PM Marriage Prep
- **06/27/21 Sunday:** 11:30AM Sts. Peter & Paul Celebration – Bechyne, ND
- **06/27/21 thru 07/03/21 Sunday thru Saturday:** Fr. Lefor absent from Parishes on Boundary Water Canoe Trip. He will have no cell phone communication on this trip. Please contact Fr. Bert Miller or Fr. Brian Moen if need for a priest arises.
- **06/28/21 thru 07/03/21 Mon thru Sat:** NO DAILY MASS
- **07/02/21 Friday:** NO Men's Prayer Breakfast
- **07/03/21 Saturday:** 7:30 Saturday Evening Mass Bechyne by Fr. Bert Miller. **NOTE THE MASS TIME CHANGE**
- **07/04/21 Sunday:** Fr. Lefor returns – Normal Sunday Mass Schedule

Saints Peter and Paul by Franciscan Media

St. Peter (d. 64?) Saint Mark ends the first half of his Gospel with a triumphant climax. He has recorded doubt, misunderstanding, and the opposition of many to Jesus. Now St. Peter makes his glorious moments in St. Peter's life, beginning with the day he was called from his nets along the Sea of Galilee to become a fisher of men for Jesus.

The New Testament clearly shows St. Peter as the leader of the apostles, chosen by Jesus to have a special relationship with him. With James and John he was privileged to witness the Transfiguration, the raising of a dead child to life, and the agony in Gethsemane. His mother-in-law was cured by Jesus. He was sent with John to prepare for the last Passover before Jesus' death. His name is first on every list of apostles.

And to St. Peter only did Jesus say, "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" (Matthew 16:17b-19).

But the Gospels prove their own trustworthiness by the unflattering details they include about St. Peter. He clearly had no public relations person. It is a great comfort for ordinary mortals to know that Peter also has his human weakness, even in the presence of Jesus.

He generously gave up all things, yet he can ask in childish self-regard, "What are we going to get for all this?" (see Matthew 19:27). He receives the full force of Christ's anger when he

objects to the idea of a suffering Messiah: “Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do” (Matthew 16:23b).

St. Peter is willing to accept Jesus’ doctrine of forgiveness, but suggests a limit of seven times. He walks on the water in faith, but sinks in doubt. He refuses to let Jesus wash his feet, then wants his whole body cleansed. He swears at the Last Supper that he will never deny Jesus, and then swears to a servant maid that he has never known the man. He loyally resists the first attempt to arrest Jesus by cutting off Malchus’ ear, but in the end he runs away with the others. In the depth of his sorrow, Jesus looks on him and forgives him, and he goes out and sheds bitter tears. The Risen Jesus told St. Peter to feed his lambs and his sheep (John 21:15-17).

St. Paul (d. 64?) If the most well-known preacher today suddenly began preaching that the United States should adopt Marxism and not rely on the Constitution, the angry reaction would help us understand St. Paul’s life when he started preaching that Christ alone can save us. He had been the most pharisaic of Pharisees, the most legalistic of Mosaic lawyers. Now he suddenly appears to other Jews as a heretical welcomer of Gentiles, a traitor and apostate.

St. Paul’s central conviction was simple and absolute: Only God can save humanity. No human effort—even the most scrupulous observance of law—can create a human good which we can bring to God as reparation for sin and payment for grace. To be saved from itself, from sin, from the devil, and from death, humanity must open itself completely to the saving power of Jesus.

St. Paul never lost his love for his Jewish family, though he carried on a lifelong debate with them about the uselessness of the Law without Christ. He reminded the Gentiles that they were grafted on the parent stock of the Jews, who were still God’s chosen people, the children of the promise.

The two leading saints of the early Church are celebrated together in the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, (or the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul if celebrated on a Sunday). This celebration is a liturgical feast in honor of the martyrdom in Rome of the apostles St. Peter and St. Paul and is observed on June 29th. The Roman Martyrology (the official lists of solemnities, feasts, and other liturgical celebrations of the saints and martyrs) assigns June 29th as the feast day without thereby declaring that to be the day of their deaths. St. Augustine of Hippo (late 4th century) says in his Sermon 295: “One day is assigned for the celebration of the martyrdom of the two apostles. But those two were one. Although their martyrdom occurred on different days, they were one.” Thus it is clear that the celebration is of ancient origin. There is some speculation that the date selected may be the anniversary either of their death or of the translation of their relics.

In May of 2021 the Diocese of Fargo granted St. John Nepomucene an emergency loan for \$82,100 for the repair of its roof. \$71,350 plus 3% interest remains on this loan. Thank you for everyone’s immediate and generous response to this unforeseen need! \$300 was received this past week for this loan. **Thank You!**

St. John Nepomucene, St. Joseph, and Sts. Peter & Paul, Pray for Us!