

SAINTS PETER & PAUL, APOSTLES

JUNE 29, 2025



Saints Peter and Paul are two of the most important leaders in the history of the Church.

Peter, which means “rock,” is remembered as the rock of the early Church. Jesus gave this ordinary fisherman that name and trusted him to guide the first Christians.

Paul once was a man who persecuted Christians, but he changed after meeting Jesus on the road to Damascus. He became a bold preacher and also wrote letters to Christian communities, which are now an important part of the Bible.

Peter teaches us about trusting God even when it is difficult. He walked on water when Jesus called him, but he began to sink when he doubted. He denied Jesus three times out of fear, but later had the courage to preach about him in front of powerful leaders. Paul was as an enemy of Christians, yet he evolved into a great missionary. Their lives illustrate that faith is a journey, reminding us that it's OK to stumble as long as we continue to trust God and listen for his guidance.

Peter and Paul had different missions and sometimes disagreed. But they worked through their disagreements because they had the same goal: To spread the message of Jesus. Unity is more important than differences.

Both Peter and Paul died as martyrs in Rome. The Church celebrates their feast day on June 29 to honor their work and their courage.

MASS INTENTIONS

5 p.m.: Norma Visco, Florence Bannon
and Peg Boyle

10 a.m.: Domingo Rodriguez, Christina Marino,
Frederico Palumbo and Linda Thurston

CONSOLATION CORNER

Have you ever heard the term “complicated grief?”

Sometimes it refers to the length of time one spends grieving. Because we live in a society where we rush from one task to another, there can be expectations – from others or self-imposed – that one should be “over the loss” or at least “doing better” by a certain point.

But grief knows no timeline nor does it follow “rules.”

Complicated grief can also refer to the type of death. A miscarriage, a stillbirth or the death of a baby or a child is particularly tragic because children are not supposed to predecease their parents. There can be misperceptions that the loss can't be as significant if the baby hasn't been born yet – including the death of a baby labeled “abortion.” And how can parents possibly be consoled at the loss of a child and all the accompanying dreams for the future? So some people think it's less painful to avoid conversation about the loss, further complicating our emotional responses.

Death by murder or suicide are also losses that complicate our grief. Guilt, shame, society's reactions and misunderstandings taint our reactions. Guilt that we didn't do more, that we weren't aware of undue stress; shame that we feel abandoned in this time of need because the reactions of others lead to silence when all we want to do is talk about our loved ones.

Often the stigma attached to suicide can result in isolation, compounding the pain. Misunderstandings about the Church's response, such as whether a Mass of the Resurrection can be celebrated after a suicide (or the death of a baby not carried to term) complicate our grief. A psychiatrist once told me that clinical depression is a terminal illness. That helped me to understand that it is not the “fault” of the deceased. Any baptized Catholic is eligible to be buried following a Mass of Christian Burial. Suicide is a tragedy, often the result of mental illness, not an act of despair.

God's love embraces us always. Our loved ones deserve to have their memories honored. We must work at redeeming the lives of our loved ones who have died by suicide and support their suffering family and friends.

“Nothing can make up for the absence of someone we love. God doesn't fill the gap but keeps it empty to help us keep alive our communion with each other, even at the cost of pain,” says Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Lutheran pastor and writer executed by the Nazis.

Above all, let us be kind and compassionate to each other. If you are not getting what you need in times of difficulty, please reach out.

In an ongoing effort to offer bereavement support, this column, written by Julie Laurenzi, a retired licensed clinical social worker and head of our Consolation Ministry, will periodically appear here. Reach out to her at 518-225-1170 or Julie.laurenzi@gmail.com with questions or suggestions



CONDOLENCES

We extend our deepest sympathies to Bill Bassett upon the recent death of his wife, Sue. Please keep them in your prayers.

GAMES ON PARADE

For a unique look at the games people play, plan to participate in Friday's **July 4th Parade**. Our Youth Ministry has decided this year's float theme will be just that – games. Board games. Card games. Game characters. Dress in game-inspired attire and/or bring a prop – all family-friendly, please. Create something on your own or collaborate with others.

All St. Paul's youth and their families are invited!

Also welcome are extra hands to arrive at Circleville Middle School between 9 and 9:30 a.m. to put the finishing touches on the float. The parade, again hosted by the Circleville Volunteer Fire Company, steps off around 10 a.m. It proceeds down Renton Road, makes a right onto Goshen Turnpike and a left onto Route 302, a route is always lined with familiar faces. The Youth Ministry will be handing out goodies along the way.

At Sam Fast Lane, the parade turns right and heads into C. Hudson Thompson Memorial Park, more commonly known as Circleville Park. Fire Company volunteers will provide refreshments and, you guessed it, games.

Are you game? If so, let Deb or Chris at stpaulsym@gmail.com or call Chris at 845-248-3120. They'll also be happy to answer any questions.

RAFFLE TICKET UPDATE

Four more chances to win!

As an additional incentive, every ticket purchased by the conclusion of this multi-parish fundraiser will also be entered into a St. Paul's drawing! We redeemed reward points from our business credit card and will be giving \$150 in gift cards to four lucky winners.

As of June 24, 524 tickets have been sold, generating a total of \$13,050 – **or \$6,525 for St. Paul's**. Thank you to all who have participated. Tickets and payment are due by **Tuesday, July 9**.

However, you can purchase tickets online up to the morning of the raffle

You can use, or share with others, the QR code at right to purchase those tickets online. It is specific to St. Paul's. Please note that this is NOT the same QR code found on the printed tickets; that QR code is there to thwart fraud.

Printed tickets are also available in the office or in the sacristy after Mass.

For information: www.catholicinitiatives.org

The livestreamed drawing takes place on **July 19** and can be viewed at parishraffle.com



"God loves us beyond comprehension, and we cannot diminish God's love for us."

- St. Peter

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds."

- St. Paul

GATHER AS A COMMUNITY

Next weekend, we will have the opportunity to mingle once again after Mass. On Saturday evening, there will be wine and cheese while baked goods and coffee will accent the conversations on Sunday.

Please plan to stop in and say hello!

TIME TO STOCK THE SHELVES

We are on course to serve about 150 people facing food insecurity in June. If you are able to participate in **Food Pantry Sunday**, the first Sunday of the month, which is next weekend, we'd be most grateful. On behalf of all the families we are assisting, thank you!

Be assured your contributions of unexpired and non-perishable pantry staples are always welcome and are distributed quickly to those in need.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Regular Sunday Collection

June 9-15 – \$ 6,097.16

Envelopes: \$ 2,045.00 – Online: \$ 4,052.16

June 16-22 – \$ 7,899.17

Envelopes: \$ 3,289.00 – Online: \$ 4,610.17

THANK YOU!

CARDINAL'S 2025 APPEAL

We're about 82% of the way there!

Our parish goal is **\$50,600** of which **\$41,320** has been received/pledged from 100 families as of June 24. Please prayerfully consider your gift, which you can make online at www.cardinalsappeal.org. Thank you



the
CARDINAL'S
ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL
*Sharing God's Gifts Throughout
the Archdiocese of New York*

MASS ATTENDANCE

June 15: 5 p.m. – 77; 10 a.m. – 189

June 22: 5 p.m. – 75; 10 a.m. – 139

