

After the Heart of Jesus ...

*Jesus said, "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 16:18-19*



The feast we celebrate today, the Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul, is one of the few feasts that actually takes precedence over a Sunday celebration. It signifies the importance with which this feast and its meaning ought to have.

Peter and Paul are an odd couple to have together. These two didn't always see eye to eye, and perhaps often had disagreements. They even allowed their opinions of one another to show. Apparently Peter would have gladly served as editor for Paul's letters. Peter said that as far as he was concerned, some things in Paul's letters were "hard to understand." Paul publicly criticized Peter directly when he felt he was wrong. An incident recorded in Paul's letter to the Galatians has Peter backing away from eating with Gentiles because of what the Jews might say, and Paul corrects Peter for this.

So, the church brings this odd couple of biblical witnesses together in this Feast. Tradition has it that both of them may have been martyred on this date in 67 or 68 AD. But more than that what binds them together in unity and brings them together for this feast is their common confession of Jesus Christ as Lord. As Paul puts it in his letter to the Philippians, "I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Jesus Christ as Lord." And in the gospel Peter declares to Jesus, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." In their faith in Christ as Lord and Son of God they are united.

If the pews this weekend seem a little less full of high school teens, it is because over 50 teens and chaperones are at Lewis University for the annual Diocesan Youth Leadership Conference. We blessed the teens along with those going to Nazareth Farm and World Youth Day last Sunday at the noon Mass. We pray that these experiences of mission might help them grow in the faith the St. Peter and St. Paul gave their lives for.

The Faith Network Desk is staffed at all Masses to help parishioners find ways to deepen their understanding of faith and put their faith into action through ministries and outreach. Stop by the table to receive more information about opportunities to serve or for friendly advice about parish life and what's happening. Please note that we ask for a suggested donation for the booklets that are available in the carousel at the table. Most are only \$1, and there are envelopes to use to place donations in the collection basket. The following groups are currently looking for volunteers or new members: the Communication Board, Parish Pictorial Directory, and the Faith Network. Please stop by the Faith Network Desk for more information.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the receptions for Father Matthew and Father Phil the past two weekends. Several Knights of Columbus and their wives helped the first weekend, and a group of assorted parishioners helped the second. As I go around the parish during the week, celebrating Mass, visiting parishioners, and attending meetings, I am so aware of the numbers of people who give service to Christ through St. Walter that never get notice or great attention. And yet we are who we are because of so many who contribute their time and effort to build up our community at St. Walter. Thank you to those who are so generous with their time for us.



The dates for this summer's neighborhood gatherings, called Pastor's Forums, have been set. A schedule with a partial listing of hosts and topics are in this week's bulletin. Everyone should feel welcomed to attend one of the gatherings. There may still be a need for one additional host family.

As we gather this week to deepen our faith and love for God, may we strive to share His life with others ...

After the Heart of Jesus!

Father John