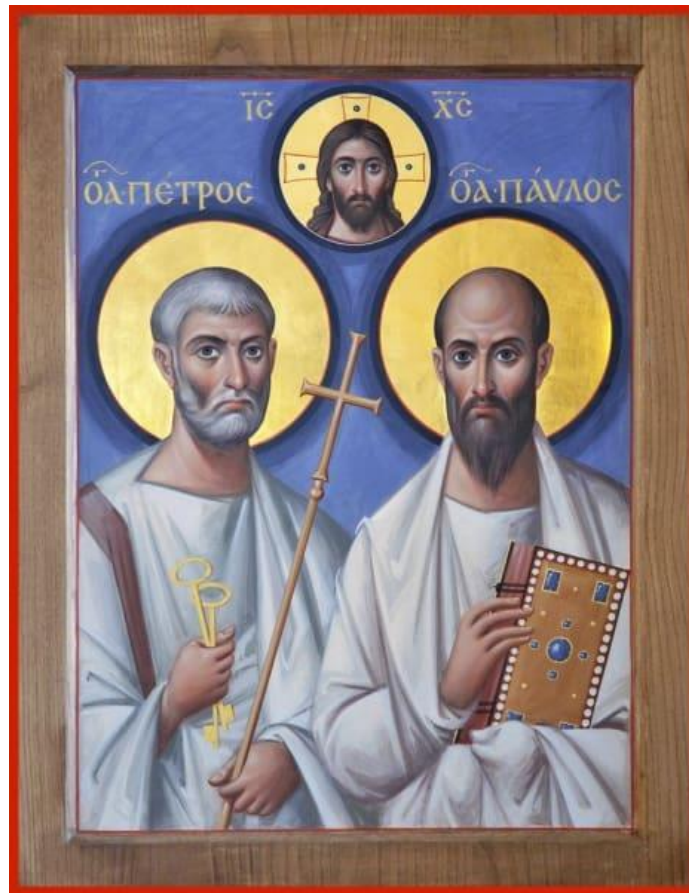


**St Ignatios of Antioch
Melkite Greek Catholic Church
1003 Merry Street
Augusta, Georgia 30904
706 364-6219**



**4th Sunday after Pentecost
25 June 2023**

JUNE 29 – FEAST OF THE APOSTLES PETER AND PAUL



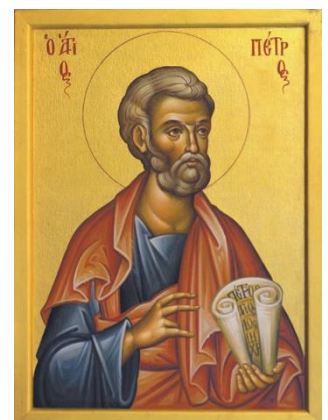
WHEN ICONS ARGUE

THE FAST OF THE APOSTLES which follows the feast of Pentecost concludes with two special commemorations: on June 29 we remember the glorious leaders of the apostles, Peter and Paul; on the next day we observe a synaxis (assembly) for all Twelve. The feast of Saints Peter and Paul is particularly observed as the throne-feast of two apostolic patriarchates: Antioch (where both apostles ministered earlier in the lives) and Rome (where both were martyred and buried).

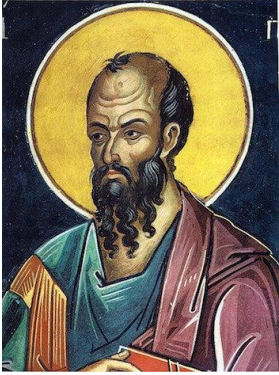
Peter and Paul in Antioch

The Acts of the Apostles devotes its first part to the ministry of St Peter in the Holy Land. The second part concentrates on the ministry of St. Paul in Asia Minor and Europe. In the middle we find reports of the first controversy among the Christians: whether Gentile converts must observe the Law of Moses as well as believing in Christ.

The original Christian community in Jerusalem, led by James, the Lord's Brother, was composed of believing Jews. They objected to Peter receiving Gentiles into the Church. Peter defended his actions



because the Gentile believers had received the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Jerusalem believers responded in awe, *“Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life”* (Acts 10:18).



The controversy erupted again, however, when St Paul was sent by the Church of Antioch to preach Christ in Cyprus and Asia Minor. Although he first taught in the Jewish synagogues, he soon gained a greater following among the Gentiles. When Paul returned to Antioch and reported what he had done, news spread to Jerusalem. Jewish believers in Christ from Jerusalem told Paul’s Gentile converts that they also had to be circumcised and keep the Law of Moses.

St Peter was drawn into the controversy when he came to Antioch, as St Paul describes in Gal 2: *“...I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision”* (Gal 2:11-12).

Ultimately the dispute was taken to the apostles and elders in Jerusalem. There Peter defended Paul, saying *“Why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?”* (Acts 15:10) A popular icon shows the reconciled apostles embracing. Finally, James issued his ruling as head of the local Church: Gentile converts to Christ need only abstain from *“things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled and from sexual immorality”* (Acts 15:29).

Here the apostles retained the practice recorded in the story of Noah where God says, *“Everything that lives and moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you green plants, I now give you everything. But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it”* (Gen 9:4). Since strangled animals do not shed blood they too were forbidden.

The ban on consuming blood was frequently repeated during the first centuries for a reason not found in Acts. Fourth-century Christians in Asia Minor found themselves in conflict with the Manichean sect which prohibited the eating of meat. The Christians countered at the Synod of Gangra (AD 340) by defending the eating of meat, as long as the prohibition of blood was observed. The decree of this synod was confirmed by the Council of Chalcedon in 451.

We continue to observe this ban on fast days. We do not eat meat or fish, which have red blood, but may eat shellfish which do not.

St Peter is traditionally said to have remained in Antioch for seven years while St Paul continued on his missionary journeys. Peter’s family is said to have remained there and, as far back as the first century AD, people in Antioch were claiming descent from the chief apostle. Certain Semaan families of modern-day Syria and Lebanon continue to make this claim.

Peter and Paul in Rome

The last chapters of Acts speak of St. Paul’s journey to Rome. Arrested in Jerusalem, he was tried by the Roman procurator, Porcius Festus. Paul, claiming his right as a Roman citizen,

appealed to be heard by Caesar himself. The procurator acceded, *“You have appealed to Caesar; to Caesar you shall go”* (Acts 25:12).

Acts concludes by saying that, once in Rome St Paul lived under guard *“two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God...”* (Acts 28:30-31). As a Roman citizen, St Paul was ultimately beheaded.

St Peter’s connection with Rome is not documented in Scripture, but written evidence from as early as the second century attests that he was thought to have preached there, where he was crucified upside down at his own request, feeling unworthy to die in the same way that Jesus did.

Two great churches were built over their burial places in the fourth century by St Constantine the Great. He erected St Peter’s on the Vatican Hill, which was replaced in the sixteenth century by the basilica we see today. Following modern excavations the bones of a man in his 60s was unearthed there and on June 26, 1968 Pope Paul VI announced that the relics of St. Peter had been identified.



Constantine also commissioned St Paul’s Outside the Walls which has been enlarged and rebuilt several times in the succeeding centuries. The saint’s body lies in a crypt below the altar, except for his head which is enshrined in the pope’s cathedral, St John Lateran.

Throughout history the Church of Rome has been considered pre-eminent because of the presence of these two apostles. Tertullian perhaps expressed it best: *“What a happy Church that is, on which the apostles poured out their whole doctrine with their blood; where Peter had a passion like that of the Lord, where Paul was crowned with the death of John [the Baptist, by being beheaded].”*



St. John Lateran Basilica

The Church Praises the Apostles

With what garlands of praise shall we crown Peter and Paul, the greatest of the heralds of the Word of God, distinct in their person, but one in spirit – the one the chief of the apostles, the other who labored more than all the rest? Christ God, who is most merciful, fittingly crowned them both with diadems of glory and immortality.

What songs of praise could be worthy of Peter and Paul? They are like two wings on which the knowledge of God spreads out to the far ends of the earth and soars aloft to Heaven, two hands from which the Gospel pours forth grace, two feet on which the doctrine of truth travels about the world, two rivers of wisdom, two arms of the cross through which the merciful Christ casts down the pride of demons!

With what spiritual songs shall we praise Peter and Paul? The voices of the fearful Sword of the Spirit, the illustrious ornament of Rome, the delight of the whole world, the God-inspired tablets of the New Testament, conceived and uttered in Sion by Christ, the all-merciful God!

~ Stichera from Vespers for June 29

Sunday Collections

Attendance	Date	Collection
30	30 April 2023	1,041.00
31	7 May 2023	552.00
	14 May 2023	680.00
	21 May 2023	
31	28 May 2023	431.00
23	4 June 2023	363.00
24	11 June 2023	715.00
39	18 June 2023	1,502.00

Divine Liturgy Intentions:

For the Living:

Bishop Francois, Fr. John Azar, Fr. James Graham, David Mangelsdorf, Brian Frank, Maria Barklage, Nookid Graham, Ali de la Vega, Dn. Kent & Diana Plowman, A Special Parish Intention, Mandie, Nick Baiad, Debi Hull, Charlie & Kathleen Barnette, Richie Damici, Medical Personnel and First Responders

For the Dead:

Greta Madeline Nino

Announcements

This Sunday is the baptism for Mark Cafeo. The family is inviting the entire parish out to a catered lunch at the Savannah River Brewing Company (813 5th St., Augusta). There will be no coffee hour in the Hall after Liturgy.

We are live-streaming on our Facebook page at the following days & times:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 8:00AM, The Third Hour

Friday – 6:00 PM Weekday Vespers

Saturday – 6:00PM Great Vespers

Sunday – 9:00AM Orthros & 10:00AM Divine Liturgy

WE'VE BEGUN PRAYING the 3rd Hour on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8am. This is a short prayer service from our version of the Liturgy of the Hours. It lasts less than 20 minutes or so. Come join us!

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES AROUND TOWN –Most Holy Trinity parish will be hosting a Men's Holy Hour every Friday morning from 6-7am. There will also be a coffee hour and reflection time afterwards – Men from all parishes are invited to attend for whatever portion of the time they are available. For the Ladies – St. Joseph's will be hosting a Women's Holy Hour on the first Monday of each month at 7pm.

MELKITE MUSIC 101

There is nothing like Melkite music. For beginners, the task of learning Byzantine chant can be daunting, however. This three-week series will cover some of the basics of Melkite music and give participants the tools to continue learning in their own communities. Each session will last two hours with a ten-minute break in the middle. Participants will be able to practice music, ask questions and learn where to find essential materials and resources.

Each session will run from 6-8pm (**CDT**) on Thursday July 20, 27 and August 3. Abouna Justin will open the Zoom link at 5:30 pm (CDT) so that those who wish to virtually 'attend' Vespers may do so.

July 20...Session 1: Introduction and Definitions, How to learn Melkite Music.
Divine Liturgy Music,
Learning the Eight Tones (part 1: Tones 7, 8, 1 and 2)

July 27...Session 2: Learning the Eight Tones (part 2: Tones 3, 4, 5 and 6), Praying
Vespers

August 3...Session 3: Praying Orthros, Feast Day Music

Those interested should email Abouna Justin at protosouth@stgeorgebham.com with "MELKITE MUSIC" in the subject line of the email. He will send out a Zoom link and any further details.

Calling all single Catholics! August 25th-27th, 2023 - Join 400+ singles coming from all parts of the US (and beyond!) at the 22nd National Conference for Single Catholics at St. John's Resort, in Plymouth, MI *OR participate virtually and engage with others via the online socials and small group discussions.* This is your chance to connect with like-minded singles (of all ages). The weekend includes talks by dynamic speakers, music, social events, Mass, adoration, fellowship and more. (If joining us in-person, use the promo code (**PARISH23**) when you register to get \$50 off! *Discount for the first 50 sign ups nationwide to use this code.*) Visit NationalCatholicSingles.com for more information and to register. (Can't find your question answered on the website? Call 512-766-5798.)



Resurrectional Troparion

(*Tone 3*)

Let all in Hea - ven re - joice and all on earth

be glad, for the Lord has ex-er-ted po-wer with His

arm, by death He has tram-pled up-on Death, and

has be-come the first-born from the dead. He has de-

- li - ver'd us from the bo-som of Ha - des and has

gran-ted to the world great mer - cy.

Prokimenon

Reader: The Lord is my light and my Savior: whom shall I fear?

All: The Lord is my light and my Savior: whom shall I fear?

Reader: The Lord is the protector of my life: of whom shall I be afraid?

All: The Lord is my light and my Savior: whom shall I fear?

Reader: The Lord is my light and my Savior:

All: Whom shall I fear?

Readings for the Week:

Monday:	Rom 12:4-5; 15-21	Matt 12:9-13
Tuesday:	Rom 14:9-18	Matt 12:14-16; 22-30
Wednesday:	Rom 15:7, 16	Matt 12:38-45
Thursday:	Rom 15:17-29	Matt 12:46-13:3
Friday:	Rom 16:1-16	Matt 13:3-9
Saturday:	Rom 8:14-21	Matt 9:9-13

Saints of the Week:

June 25: Holy Woman Martyr Febronia
June 26: Holy Father David of Thessalonica
June 27: Holy Father Samson the Hospitable
June 28: Transfer of the Remains of the Holy Unmercenary Physicians Cyrus and John
June 29: Holy Apostles Peter and Paul
June 30: Synaxis of the Twelve Apostles
July 1: Holy Wonderworkers Cosmas and Damian of Rome
July 2: Feast of the Deposition of the Honorable Mantle of Our Lady the Theotokos, at Blachernae

Word Search

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

Abraham
Afflicted
Authority
Begged
Capernaum
Centurion
Cure
Darkness

Faith
Gnashing
Healed
Isaac
Jacob
Jesus
Marveled
Paralyzed

Roof
Servant
Soldiers
Subject
Weeping
Word
Worthy

Parish Information:

Rt. Rev. Michael Skrocki, JCD
Pastor

abounamike@aol.com

Knights of Columbus
JFK Council

1st Wednesday of the month, 7pm
Most Holy Trinity

4th Degree Assembly
2nd Wednesday of the month, 7pm
St. Ignatios

Publicans Prayer Group
Postponed until Further Notice

New Parishioners:
Please register with Fr. Michael.

Mystery of Holy Confession
Please contact Fr. Michael to set up a convenient time.

Mystery of Christian Initiation
Expectant parents should notify Fr. Michael prior to the birth of the child. Adult converts should contact Fr. Michael so arrangements may be made for any necessary instruction and sacraments.

Mystery of Holy Crowning
Those planning to marry should notify the Fr. Michael
at least six months prior to the desired Wedding date.

Mystery of Holy Anointing
Please notify Fr. Michael when you or a family member is in need of anointing.

To report sexual abuse by clergy, parish personnel or volunteers of the Eparchy of Newton, please call the **Victim Assistance Coordinator** at 1-800-479-5910.

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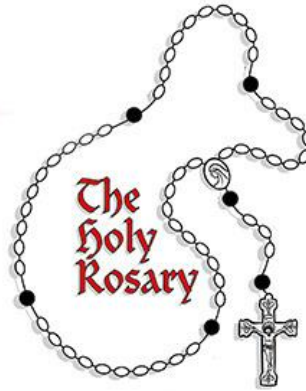
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