

Encountering the Word

with Nicholas Labanca

Saints Peter and Paul (C)

Acts 12:1–11 • 2 Timothy 4:6–8, 17–18 • Matthew 16:13–19



Courageous Witnesses to the Faith

The Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul on June 29 is a day rich in meaning, highlighting the lives of these two pillars of the Church. In the Byzantine tradition, Peter and Paul are honored as “Teachers of the Universe” and “Luminaries of the Church,” reflecting their foundational roles in spreading the Gospel to every corner of the world. Their significance in the early Church is clear, with early Christian inscriptions calling on them to “make intercession” for the faithful. This deep veneration reflects not only respect but also recognition of their powerful reflection of Christ.



Saints Peter and Paul, In the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Krizevci, Croatia

These apostles remind us of the model of “spiritual multiplication.” Like Christ, who poured into twelve disciples and particularly the three closest to him, Peter and Paul focused on nurturing a core group of disciples, creating a foundation for the Church that has continued to grow. St. Paul exemplified this by mentoring figures like Timothy and Titus, ensuring that the Gospel spread far beyond his own reach.

This model is one we are called to adopt in our own lives. Are there one or two people we can walk with and share the message of Christ with intentionally, as Peter and Paul did? Evangelization is not just about teaching or studying but also about sharing life and supporting others in faith.

Inspired by St. John Paul II, we can look to the perseverance of Saints Peter and Paul, trusting that God’s grace will sustain us. Like these

two great apostles, we can cooperate with God’s grace to bring light to the world, strengthened by their example and intercession. As they faced trials with zeal, may we, too, be courageous witnesses to the Faith.

Live the Gospel

Nicholas Labanca says, “‘Spiritual multiplication’ was key to the mission of the apostles Peter and Paul, the saints we celebrate today. Like Christ, they invested in a few disciples who then spread the Faith. This week, be like Peter and Paul and consider who you might ‘walk with’ spiritually—one or two people you can guide or encourage in faith. Seek the saints’ intercession as you share the light of Christ with others, trusting in God’s grace to bring growth and transformation.”

Dive Deeper

Scan this code to watch:



Or go to

<https://media.ascensionpress.com/2020/06/29/why-sts-peter-and-pauls-day-is-a-solemnity/>

Ponder and Pray

- » Reflecting on the title “Luminaries of the Church” for Peter and Paul, how can you strive to bring Christ’s light into your community or workplace?

- » How can the examples of courage and trust shown by Peter and Paul inspire you to persevere in the face of obstacles?

- » What might the example of Peter and Paul teach you about surrendering more deeply to God’s will?

“

**The Lord will rescue me
from every evil threat and
will bring me safe to his
heavenly Kingdom.**

—2 Timothy 4:18

”

Make It Your Own

You and others in your household may use this space to write anything about today’s Mass. It might be your view of today’s reflection, your priest’s homily, your answers to the questions on this page—anything to help you and your household get the most out of today’s Mass.