

Saints Peter and Paul, 29 June, 2025

Intentions:

June 29 - In loving memory of **Roger St. Martin**, requested by
Avelina Bercades
Mass Intentions: \$15.00

Offertory Collection

June 22 - \$645.00 Thank You

NOTE:

We request the name and address of our gracious donor using envelope #41. Please reach me at anwaohiri@gmail.com Blessings.

Masses during the Week

Wed: 8am adoration/confession 9am mass at St Michael
Thurs: 8:30am, confession, 9am mass at St. Michael
Fri: 8:30am, confession, 9am mass at St. Michael

- Bottle Drive -
Next Saturday, July 5, 2025

June 30

First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church: This day is dedicated to the Christians martyred under the Emperor Nero. In the year 64, a great fire broke out in Rome. When suspicion fell on Nero, he accused Christians of having set the fire. The historian Tacitus wrote that while no one believed this, countless Christians were seized nevertheless, mocked and put to death in unspeakable ways.

Lost and Found

Periodically, please check the lost and found basket at the church entrance for articles you may have left behind.

Pope's Intentions for the Month of July

For formation in discernment: Let us pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel.



Prayers for the Sick. Please pray for the sick among our families and friends, especially Roy Campbell, Patricia Cassidy, Suzanne Lafontaine, Priscilla Rowley, and Lorraine Stafford. *The names will remain on the list until we are otherwise advised.*

Gospel Reflection: *Petros* (Gk.): A masculine noun meaning “rock” or “stone”. Although a common word in Greek, there is no evidence that Peter was ever a proper name before Jesus renamed Simon. This accentuates the symbolism of the name: Simon is himself the rock upon which Jesus builds the Church.

• Further NT evidence suggests that Jesus’ words to Peter were originally spoken in Aramaic. In this language, the word *kepha* is the equivalent of Peter and denotes a “sizeable rock”—one suitable as a building foundation.

• This Aramaic name is preserved as “*Cephas*” 9 times in the NT (Jn 1:42; 1 Cor 1:12; 15:5; Gal 1:18; 2:9, etc.). At another level, Simon’s name change recalls the OT episodes where God renamed Abram as Abraham (Gen 17:5) and Jacob as Israel (Gen 32:28).

Peter now stands in this biblical tradition where new names signify new God-given roles in salvation history. In Peter’s case, Jesus designates him the foundation stone of the New Covenant Church. Just as the Temples of the OT were built upon a great stone (1 Kings 5:17; Ezra 3:10), so Jesus builds his NT Church upon the foundational rock of Peter (cf. Eph 2:20; Rev 21:14). (commentary of Dr. Scott Hahn).

Administrator's Corner

United in Faith Empowered By Love:

Today, we celebrate the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, two pillars of the Church who embodied the heart of Jesus' mission. As St. Augustine of Hippo beautifully puts it, "Both apostles share the same feast day, for these two were one; and even though they suffered on different days, they were as one. Peter went first, and Paul followed."

Peter, the fisherman from Galilee, was called by Jesus with his brother Andrew at the beginning of his public ministry to become a “fisher of men” Mtt. 4:18-20. Peter witnessed the most important moments of Jesus' public life, such as the Transfiguration Mtt. 17:1-2, the last supper Mtt 26:17-30, and his prayer in the Garden of Olives just before the Passion Mtt. 26:36-37; after the paschal events Christ entrusted him with the task of tending God's flock in his name Jn 21: 15-17. Pope Francis notes that Peter's personal decision to follow Jesus transformed his life. Similarly, Paul's encounter with the risen Christ on the road to Damascus transformed him from a persecutor of Christians to a passionate apostle to the Gentiles.

St Gregory of Nyssa, writing about St Paul says that “no one has known Christ better than Paul, nor surpassed him in the careful example he gave of what anyone should be who bears Christ’s name. So precisely did he mirror his master that he became his very image. By a painstaking imitation, he was transformed into his model and it seemed to be no longer Paul who lived and spoke, but Christ himself.”



Both Peter and Paul performed amazing wonders that converted many to Christianity. Similarly both had very painful disagreement about the role of Gentiles in the church. Peter and Paul suffered rejection and persecution in the hands of fellow Jews and eventually suffered martyrdom in Rome, demonstrating their unwavering commitment to the Gospel. Tradition holds that Peter was crucified upside down, feeling unworthy to die in the same manner as Jesus, while Paul, as a Roman citizen, was beheaded. Their bravery inspires us to stand firm in our faith.

We celebrate their feast day on June 29, honoring their shared testimony to the enduring power of faith and love. Saint Peter is the patron saint of the papacy, fishermen, and builders, while Saint Paul is the patron saint of missionaries, writers, and theologians.

We can draw these important lessons from their lives:

The lives of Peter and Paul teach us that God can use anyone to do His work. Peter was an ordinary fisherman, and Paul started as someone who opposed Christians. Both became leaders of the Church. This reminds us that no matter our past or weaknesses, we can serve God if we are willing to follow Him. As we often say, "God does not call the qualified but qualifies those He calls."

Peter’s life teaches us about trust and forgiveness. He made mistakes, like when he denied Jesus three times. But Peter repented and accepted Jesus’ forgiveness. He went on to lead the early Church with courage. This shows us that failure is not the end. When we turn back to God, He gives us another chance. Paul’s life shows the power of change. He was once an enemy of Christians, but after his conversion, he became one of the greatest missionaries. Paul reminds us that God’s grace can change even the hardest hearts. No one is too far away from God to come back to Him.

Peter and Paul must have wrestled with balancing their personal desires and plans with the divine call and demands. Their human weakness did not discourage them to give up rather it helped them to be more open to the action of the Holy Spirit for guidance in their personal lives and the sacred mission entrusted to them. Dear parishioners you and I may have our different struggles in life. No matter how difficult and shameful they may be they do not define us. Hence if we deliberately and consistently open ourselves to the guidance of the Holy Spirit we will bear good fruits just as it happened to saints Peter and Paul.

Both Peter and Paul show us how to be brave in our faith. They faced threats, prison, and even death, but they kept preaching the Gospel. Their courage inspires us to stand firm in our beliefs, even when it is not easy.

Prayer: Lord God, you called imperfect humans like Peter and Paul, taught them and entrusted them with a mission of Hope, a truth born of personal encounter of forgiveness received, of grace embraced, of lives transformed by love. Shape us O Lord, as you shaped them. Give us the humility to follow, the boldness to proclaim, and the compassion to serve. Amen.

Pastoral Directory

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 Financial Council Chair: Janne Campbell 832-4290
 Pastoral Council Chair: Martine Messier 808-4573
 Mass Intentions & Bulletin: Marilyn Deslauriers 222-3762
 Pastoral Care: Father Anthony Nwaohiri 623-3419
 Advertising Ministry: Lorraine Brisson 832-3351
 Deacon James Kubina

EMERGENCY: anwaohiri@gmail.com For emergencies, email this address with EMERGENCY in the subject or call the church office at 613-623-3419.

Lost and Found: Periodically, please check the lost and found basket

West Carleton Food Access Centre: (WCFAC) Please remember our local Food Bank each week by donating items to St. Gabriel's grocery cart. Cash donations of \$20.00 and over will receive a tax receipt. Please include your name and address on the envelope. See Suzanne Lee if you have any questions. Thank you for your support.



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All Welcome



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Weekly Eucharist

St. Gabriel's (Constance Bay) **St. Michael's** (Fitzroy Harbour)
 Sunday 11:00 am Mass Saturday 4:00 pm Mass
 Sunday 9:00 am Mass

live streaming link on YouTube St. Michael's Mass at 9 am Sunday

StMStG-Live

Confessions and Sacrament Of the Sick are also available by request.
 Please contact Fr. Anthony directly to book an appointment.

Pastoral Directory on inside flap