



# Bringing Home the Word

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)  
June 26, 2022

## Stay the Course to Jesus

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

One characteristic of Luke’s Gospel is that he arranges most of Christ’s preaching within a long journey from Galilee to Jerusalem. Jesus leaves behind his home in the north and travels south towards Jerusalem where his passion and death await. But Jesus places his steady focus is on his true homeland—heaven. That should be our main goal as well.

A farmer who plows a furrow or tills between rows of crops cannot be looking back at what he has already plowed, or he will inevitably stray off course. He keeps looking forward towards the end of the line. In the same way, we cannot

constantly look back at the pleasures, opportunities, and goods we have left behind to follow Our Lord.

Elisha burns his plow in sacrifice and also to express his definitive yes to the call. Like an explorer who burns his ships upon reaching a new land, his acceptance of Elijah’s invitation to be God’s prophet is total; there is no turning back.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a yes with no ifs, ands, or buts. Contradictory as this may seem, this is true freedom. Freedom isn’t doing what we want, when we want. This is actually slavery to our whims and constantly changing passions. We go nowhere and build nothing. Real freedom is having an unbounded capacity to recognize the truth, choose what is good, and live in the beauty of a life directed toward where we’ve set our hearts and minds. +

### A Word from Pope Francis

God’s first call is to *life*, through which he makes us persons....Then God calls us to *faith* and to become part of his family as children of God. Lastly, God calls us to a *particular state* in life. The greatest joy for every believer is to respond to this call he has for each of us....

Angelus, January 17, 2021



## Sunday Readings

### 1 Kings 19:16b, 19–21

Elisha left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, “Please, let me kiss my father and mother good-bye, and I will follow you.”

### Galatians 5:1, 13–18

For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement, namely, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

### Luke 9:51–62

Jesus said, “No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God.”

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- With all my imperfections, do I still feel called by God?
- What is holding me back from the good I want to do?

# St. Peter and St. Paul, Pray for Us

By Paige Byrne Shortal

This week we will celebrate the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul—two of the greatest saints of our Church. And they couldn't have been more different in how they came to faith in Jesus.

Peter walked with Jesus, talked with him, ate with him, camped out with him. And Peter was...well, slow to faith. He kept backsliding. Even after the mountain experience of the transfiguration where Jesus appears to him “dazzlingly white” and accompanied by Moses and Elijah; even after the calming of the storm and walking on water and the miraculous catch of fish; even after all the healings witnessed and hearing Jesus speak as no one had every spoken before—even after all that, Peter denied him and ran away. Yet it is clear that Jesus chose him, calling him the Rock on which he would build his church.

Paul was a very different personality. Before he came to gospel faith, he was a zealot, dedicated to persecuting the disciples of Jesus, a group he considered a heretical and dangerous sect within the Jewish community. And after his conversion on the road to Damascus, Paul, who was once called Saul, was just as zealous a disciple of Jesus, seldom with any doubts, never wavering, never looking back.

The first great council of the Church



was called because Peter and Paul disagreed. We are here today in churches all throughout the world in part because of the outcome of that council.

The disagreement between Peter and Paul had to do with Peter's treatment of the non-Jewish converts to the message of Jesus.

Remember, no one yet called themselves “Christian.” Followers of Jesus were Jews who came to believe that Jesus was the fulfillment of God's promise to the Jews. Peter held the non-Jewish believers in lesser regard and thought they would first have to submit to the law of Moses and be circumcised in order to be disciples of Jesus. Until they did so, Peter considered them “unclean” and refused to eat with them. And eating with them was the foundation of this new faith—what we know as the Eucharist. Peter was held in high regard and the other disciples followed his course.

Paul disagreed and said that while the Jewish people held the honorable position of being the first to know Christ, still Jesus was sent as the Savior of all, Jews and non-Jews. The Council of Jerusalem was called, and after vigorous argument, Peter and the other Jewish disciples came to see that Paul was right. What would have happened had Paul not challenged Peter? Or if the decision had gone the other way?

This story should give us great hope 2,000 years later. These two great saints, one might even say “founding saints” of our Church, disagreed over a matter of supreme importance. When there is conflict within the Church, the Holy Spirit is sure to be present, hovering, guiding, helping the truth to emerge. Saint Peter and St. Paul, pray for us. +

***Saints Peter and Paul  
were two of the greatest  
saints of our church.  
And they couldn't have been  
more different in how  
they came to faith in Jesus.***

**PRAYER**

*Lord, by your cross and  
resurrection you set us free.  
Liberate me from the prison  
of selfishness and empower me  
to lovingly serve my brothers  
and sisters.*

From *Faithful Meditations for Every Day  
of Ordinary Time*, Rev. Warren J. Savage  
and Mary Ann McSweeney

## WEEKDAY READINGS

June 27–July 2

**Monday**, Weekday:

Am 2:6–10, 13–16 / Mt 8:18–22

**Tuesday**, St. Irenaeus:

Am 3:1–8; 4:11–12 / Mt 8:23–27

**Wednesday**, Sts. Peter and Paul:

Acts 12:1–11 / 2 Tm 4:6–8, 17–18 / Mt 16:13–19

**Thursday**, Weekday:

Am 7:10–17 / Mt 9:1–8

**Friday**, Weekday:

Am 8:4–6, 9–12 / Mt 9:9–13

**Saturday**, Weekday:

Am 9:11–15 / Mt 9:14–17

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