



Roots and Wings

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

"There are two things we should give our children: one is roots and the other is wings." So goes the adage. It is in knowing our roots that we know who we are. It is with wings that we then shape the future—a future sprouting from those roots but also blossoming into something new. If there were only the roots, we would never know life's richness. Without wings, never would we come to beauty.

The solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul honors both of these dynamics in the Church. It was Peter who was the Rock, who was able to recognize God's presence made flesh among us, who would say to Jesus, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16).

It was Paul who pushed the envelope, who proclaimed that God's saving love was for Jews and Gentiles—both members of the household of God—without distinction. It was Paul who argued that circumcision was not necessary for a believer. It was Paul who recognized that the Law was indeed a blessing, yet also that obeying the Law does not save us—it is the love of Christ Jesus that saves us.

Many are rooted through faith in Christ Jesus. Some live out that faith as Catholics, others as Lutherans or Methodists, still others as Orthodox or Anglicans. All of us rooted in Christ, all of us living out faith, each blossoming in our own fruitfulness as guided by the Spirit, for the purpose of tradition is to pass on the flame and not to preserve the ashes. ●

Reflect

*Am I more comfortable with roots or wings?
Am I more like St. Peter or St. Paul, and why?*



[Jesus said,] "You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it."

MATTHEW 16:18

St. Agnes • St. Boniface • St. John the Evangelist

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Solemnity of Saint Peter and Paul (C) June 29, 2025

Mark places this incident at Caesarea Philippi. Luke, because of the importance he wishes to give to prayer in his Gospel, places it in the context of Jesus praying. But Matthew keeps it at Caesarea Philippi. In today's Gospel, Jesus asks the disciples for a "field report" by asking what people are saying about him. He refers to himself as the Son of Man, a term derived from the Jewish Scriptures, found in the book of Daniel and in other apocryphal writings. Many scholars suggest that "Son of Man" is best understood to mean "human being."

As Jesus turns the question directly to the disciples and asks what they believe, Peter speaks for all of them when he announces that they believe Jesus to be the Christ. "Christ" is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word for "messiah," which means "the anointed one." At the time of Jesus, the image of the "messiah" was laden with popular expectations, most of which looked for a political leader who would free the Jewish people from Roman occupation.

Because Jesus has referred to himself several times in Matthew by Christological titles this moment is not the revelation of who Jesus is as in Mark. Instead, it marks an important moment in the development of the Church. Jesus uses this occasion to bless Peter, who represents all the disciples but also has a unique role to play in the founding of the new community. Peter is blessed not because of a personal insight but because God revealed to him who Jesus is. Peter is the rock on which Jesus will build the Church.

**Mass Schedule & Intentions
For the week of June 30, 2025**

Mon.	June	30	7:00 AM	SJ	NO MASS
Tues.	July	01	7:00 AM	SJ	NO MASS
Wed.	July	02	5:30 PM	SA	Igancio O. Kiyoshi †
Thurs.	July	03	5:30 PM	SB	Mary Jane Pandorf †
Fri.	July	04	7:00 AM	SJ	Jon Walz
Sat.	July	05	6:00 PM	SJ	People of the Parish
Sun.	July	06	9:30 AM	SA	Jim & Sherry Davenport†
Sun.	July	06	11:00AM	SB	Nora Whipple †




Jon Walz July 4th
Norma Barraza July 6th

Needed: Fr Michael needs a house cleaner. Flexible schedule about 2 hours twice a month. You do get paid.

Ministry Schedule

Date: July 6	St Agnes	St Boniface	St John's
Time	<u>Sunday 9:30 AM</u>	<u>Sunday 11:00 AM</u>	<u>Saturday 6:00 PM</u>
Hospitality	Sue D. & Pam L.	Steve & Kristen B.	Steve & Cindy F.
Lector	Pam L.	Emily P.	Molly W.
Server		Charli P. & Olivia D.	Kelsey A. & Avery B.
EMHC	Sue D. & Pam L.	David P. & Diane P.	Rex & Kristie W.
Communion to shut ins or Music		David P.	Music: Johnston's

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>St. Agnes</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Our Gifts to God & Church</i> June 22, 2025 <u>Total Collection:</u> \$249.00 <u>Diocesan Appeal</u> Dollar Goal = \$2515 of \$4014 Donor Goal: 6 of 16</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thrift Store Open July 11 9AM to 4PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>St. Boniface</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Our Gifts to God & Church</i> June 22, 2025 <u>Total Collection:</u> \$500.00 <u>Diocesan Appeal</u> Donation Goal MET!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>St. John's</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Our Gifts to God & Church</i> June 22, 2025 <u>Total Collection:</u> \$601.00 <u>Diocesan Appeal</u> Donation Goal MET!</p>
<p><u>Parish Council Meetings:</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">St Agnes July 9th 6 PM St Boniface July 10th 6 PM St John's July 7th 7:45 PM</p>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="text-align: center; flex: 1;"> <p>St. Peter and St. Paul</p> <p>Pray for us!</p> </div>  </div>	

June 29 – Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles

Blessed Redeemer, the Apostles Peter and Paul were leaders and models in strengthening the faith of the infant Church, and I ask them to pray for my faith to grow strong. Saint Paul wrote in his second letter to Saint Timothy, "I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God that you have." Wherever I am still a baby in my relationship with You, weak and uncertain, I ask Saints Peter and Paul to pray for me to grow into spiritual maturity. Help me, O Lord, to increase in faith and trust. Where Your presence is but a spark in me, fan it into a flame that brightens other people's lives. Saints Peter and Paul, pray for me. Amen.

Dear Padre,

What does the Church say about free will and predestination? I am confused and wonder if there is any fundamental difference?

The Church can be viewed as the champion of free will, for it is descriptive of God's grace at work in his creation. On the other hand, the Church does not champion predestination. The Church understands that this concept is in direct opposition and contradicts the creative act of God. It is understandable how someone might confuse these two different perspectives. In fact, some Christian belief systems have historically confused them; for example, those who follow the thought of John Calvin (1509–1564), including various Congregational, Reformed, and Presbyterian churches. But, regardless of the confusion, the two positions are not complementary, and someone cannot hold both positions because they are incompatible with each other. Catholics believe that we have been created by God with free will. In response to this wonderful gift, we are invited to form our consciences and live our lives lovingly and deliberately as people who choose to respond, in total freedom, to the Way, the Truth, and the Life that is found in Jesus. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org



Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

What can I do for the Church? Not complaining about the Church, but committing myself to the Church. Participating with passion and humility.... That is what a synodal Church means: everyone has a part to play, no individual in the place of others or above others. There are no first- or second-class Christians; everyone has been called.

HOMILY, ROME, JUNE 29, 2022

Monday

June 30

Weekday

Gn 18:16–33

Mt 8:18–22

Tuesday

July 1

Weekday

Gn 19:15–29

Mt 8:23–27

Wednesday

July 2

Weekday

Gn 21:5, 8–20a

Mt 8:28–34

Thursday

July 3

St. Thomas, Apostle

Eph 2:19–22

Jn 20:24–29

Friday

July 4

Weekday

Gn 23:1–4, 19;

24:1–8, 62–67

Mt 9:9–13

Saturday

July 5

Weekday

Gn 27:1–5, 15–29

Mt 9:14–17

Sunday

July 6

Fourteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Is 66:10–14c

Gal 6:14–18

Lk 10:1–12, 17–20

or 10:1–9