

# 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*.



PAUL HARRING / CNS

**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



RA PHOTO / SHUTTERSTOCK

<b>Monday</b> June 30 Weekday Gn 18:16–33 Mt 8:18–22	<b>Friday</b> July 4 Weekday Gn 23:1–4, 19; 24:1–8, 62–67 Mt 9:9–13
<b>Tuesday</b> July 1 Weekday Gn 19:15–29 Mt 8:23–27	<b>Saturday</b> July 5 Weekday Gn 27:1–5, 15–29 Mt 9:14–17
<b>Wednesday</b> July 2 Weekday Gn 21:5, 8–20a Mt 8:28–34	<b>Sunday</b> 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
<b>Thursday</b> July 3 St. Thomas, Apostle Eph 2:19–22 Jn 20:24–29	

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

June 29, 2025  
Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles  
Acts 12:1–11 / 2 Timothy 4:6–8, 17–18 / Matthew 16:13–19



## Roots and Wings

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**“T**here 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.

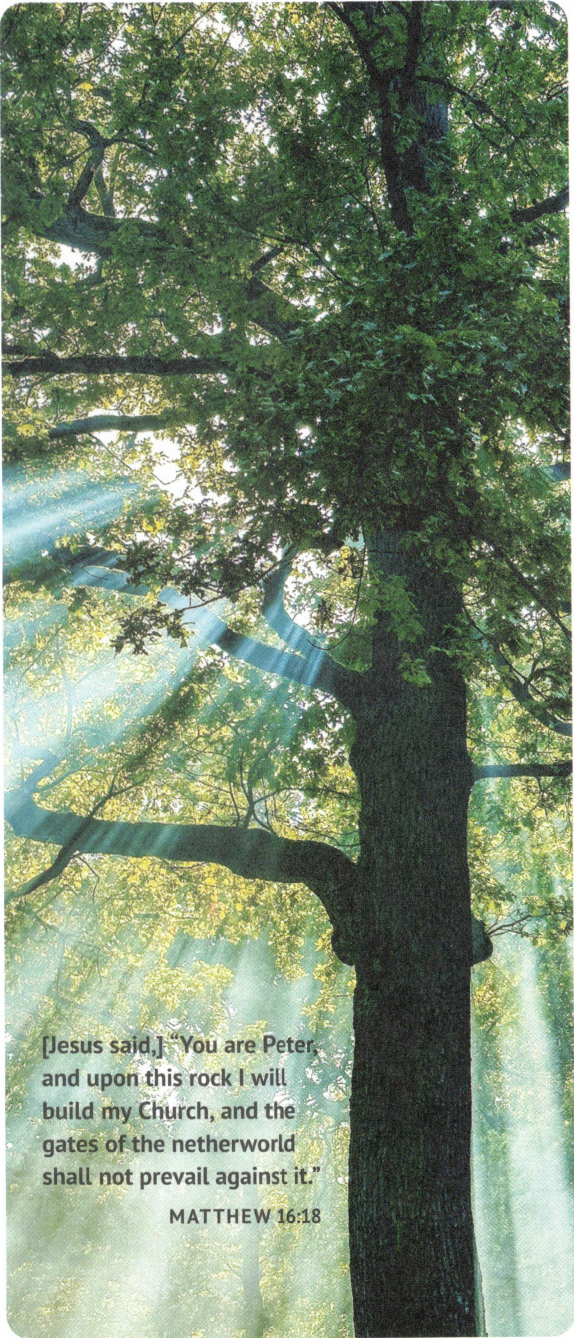
The solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul honors both of these dynamics in the Church. It was Peter who was the Rock, who was able to recognize God’s presence made flesh among us, who would say to Jesus, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16).

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





The  
**Catholic Church**  
in Pocahontas County  
West Virginia

*OUR MISSION*

If anyone  
wishes to be first,  
he shall be  
the last of all  
and the servant of all.  
(Mark 9:35, NAB-RE)

ST. JOHN NEUMANN PARISH & CHURCH OFFICE, 714 Tenth Avenue, Marlinton WV 24954  
ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST MISSION, 92 Catholic Church Road, Rts 250 & 92, Bartow WV 24920  
ST. BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX CHAPEL, 6332 Snowshoe Drive, Snowshoe WV 26209  
Telephone: St. John Neumann 304-799-6778, St. Bernard of Clairvaux 304-572-0847  
Website: [PocahontasCatholic.org](http://PocahontasCatholic.org)  
E-mail: [Pastor@PocahontasCatholic.org](mailto:Pastor@PocahontasCatholic.org)



Patty Bryant  
Margaret Bryant  
Ann Burke  
Danielle Cade  
Dick Connor  
Drema Moore  
Cynthia Olson  
Quinn Riffle

**EUCHARIST THIS WEEK**

Monday	8:00 a.m.	St. John
Wednesday	8:00 a.m.	St. John
Friday	8:00 a.m.	St. John
Saturday	6:30 p.m.	St. Bernard
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	St. John
	11:30 a.m.	St. Mark



*St. John Neumann Church is open for private prayer  
every day during daylight.  
The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered  
before each Eucharist or by appointment,  
and at St. Bernard on Saturdays 5:30-6:00 p.m.  
The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick  
is available any time upon request.*



Please call the Church office (304-799-6778) if you know of a parishioner who is sick, in the hospital or nursing home, homebound, deployed, or in prison.

To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact WV Child Protective Services at 800-352-6513.  
To report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, please contact the Diocese at 888-434-6237 or 304-233-0880.  
To report suspected cases of sexual misconduct or sexual abuse by a bishop or eparch, please contact [ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://ReportBishopAbuse.org) or call 800-276-1562.

**TODAY'S SCRIPTURE PASSAGE**

*"I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven."  
(Matthew 16:19, NAB-RE)*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTES**

- Bishop Brennan has requested a **special collection this weekend** to help those affected by the devastating floods in northern West Virginia.



- Weekly **Bible Study** on the *Book of Revelation* will be this Tuesday (July 1) at 2 p.m. at St. John Neumann Church. This is our last session, and we will take up the so-called "rapture," invented by John Nelson Darby in 1830, which is neither Catholic nor biblical teaching. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- Thank you to all the *Allegheny Echoes* refreshment angels.
- Marlinton-area **Bible School** is scheduled for 6-8 p.m. each evening July 14-17 at the Nazarene Church – just 2 weeks from now. Our Church will provide supper and the lesson on Wednesday (July 16) and we need volunteers to lead activities



and to prepare our pizza and salad supper. Interested?

- Fourth of July** fireworks at Snowshoe will be Saturday (July 5) at dark. Remember also we have 4 Snowshoe "fun passes" available to parishioners.

**LAST WEEKEND**

	<u>attendance</u>	<u>collection</u>
St. John Neumann	50	\$1,015.00
Fund for the Poor		\$265.00
St. Mark the Evangelist	8	\$165.00
Fund for the Poor		\$23.00
memorial gifts		\$500.00
St. Bernard of Clairvaux	18	\$205.00
Fund for the Poor		\$120.00
total	76	\$2,293.00

**Catholic Sharing Appeal - 2025**

	<u>donors</u>	<u>goal</u>	<u>pledges</u>	<u>% of goal</u>
St. John Neumann & St. Bernard	7	\$3,800	\$2,180	57%
St Mark the Evangelist	2	\$1,600	\$400	25%

Thank you to all those who have already contributed.

SOLEMNITY OF ST. PETER & ST. PAUL - DURING THE DAY

First Reading (Acts 12:1-11)

In those days, King Herod laid hands upon some members of the Church to harm them. He had James, the brother of John, killed by the sword, and when he saw that this was pleasing to the Jews he proceeded to arrest Peter also.  
– It was the feast of Unleavened Bread.–  
He had him taken into custody and put in prison under the guard of four squads of four soldiers each. He intended to bring him before the people after Passover.  
Peter thus was being kept in prison, but prayer by the Church was fervently being made to God on his behalf.

On the very night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter, secured by double chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while outside the door guards kept watch on the prison. Suddenly the angel of the Lord stood by him and a light shone in the cell.  
He tapped Peter on the side and awakened him, saying, “Get up quickly.”  
The chains fell from his wrists.  
The angel said to him, “Put on your belt and your sandals.”  
He did so.  
Then he said to him, “Put on your cloak and follow me.”  
So he followed him out, not realizing that what was happening through the angel was real; he thought he was seeing a vision.  
They passed the first guard, then the second, and came to the iron gate leading out to the city, which opened for them by itself.  
They emerged and made their way down an alley, and suddenly the angel left him.  
Then Peter recovered his senses and said, “Now I know for certain that the Lord sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people had been expecting.”

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9,  
*Grail translation, 1963*)

*Response:* The angel of the Lord will rescue those who fear him.

I will bless the Lord at all times,  
his praise always on my lips;  
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.  
The humble shall hear and be glad.

Glorify the Lord with me,  
together let us praise his name.  
I sought the Lord and he answered me;  
from all my terrors he set me free.

Look towards him and be radiant;  
let your faces not be abashed.  
This poor man called; the Lord heard him  
and rescued him from all his distress.

The angel of the Lord is encamped  
around those who revere him, to rescue them.  
Taste and see that the Lord is good.  
He is happy who seeks refuge in him.

Second Reading (2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18)

I, Paul, am already being poured out like a libation, and the time of my departure is at hand.  
I have competed well; I have finished the race;  
I have kept the faith.  
From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance.

The Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the proclamation might be completed and all the Gentiles might hear it.  
And I was rescued from the lion's mouth.  
The Lord will rescue me from every evil threat and will bring me safe to his heavenly Kingdom.  
To him be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation (Matthew 16:18)

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

## Gospel (Matthew 16:13-19)

When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi  
he asked his disciples,  
“Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”  
They replied, “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah,  
still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”  
He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”  
Simon Peter said in reply,  
“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”  
Jesus said to him in reply,  
“Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah.  
For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you,  
but my heavenly Father.  
And so I say to you, you are Peter,  
and upon this rock I will build my Church,  
and the gates of the netherworld  
shall not prevail against it.  
I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven.  
Whatever you bind on earth  
shall be bound in heaven;  
and whatever you loose on earth  
shall be loosed in heaven.”

## Reflection

The Church has a sense of humor, putting together in one feast day for all eternity two people who were very different from one another, who didn't get along, and were competitors – but now they are stuck together, in a way. Paul was the educated rabbi, the eloquent preacher, the one who always had a plan, and the one who thought very highly of himself, as reflected in the reading from his letter to Timothy. In fact, he wasn't one of the 13 apostles, though he, and only he, considered himself an apostle. Peter, on the other hand, was an apostle, and in fact was the chosen leader by the Lord, even though he was the simple fisherman, probably not educated, who constantly mis-understood what the Lord wanted, and even denied him. And it is to him, not Paul, that the Lord gives the keys to heaven and earth.

It tells us that there are many different ways to follow the Lord, and that these differences are not meant to separate us, but to force us to work together for the common purpose of spreading the Gospel. And sometimes, the least and the most unlikely are the ones who are the greatest, even though they don't think so or say so themselves.

**29 June 2025**  
**St. Peter & St. Paul**

*Penitential Rite*

Lord Jesus, you free us from slavery to sin:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division:

Christ have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life:

Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life.

*Prayer of the Faithful*

Almighty Father, your word has been proclaimed, and inspired by your teaching, we turn to you with our petitions:

- for the leaders of the Church, that they will work together for the sake of the Gospel, we pray
- for the leaders of our country, that they will work together for the common good, we pray
- for an increase in vocations to Church ministry, we pray
- for those in prison, we pray
- for those recovering from the floods in West Virginia, we pray
- for the people of Israel, Palestine, and Iran, that they will have peace, we pray
- for all of us gathered for Eucharist, that we will remember our dependence on God, we pray
- for all those who have died, that they will be saved, we pray
- and for your other intentions

*(pause)*

for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, we pray

Merciful Father, we ask you to hear our prayers, and we ask you to bring peace and harmony to our church and to our world. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.