

Sunday, Jun 29, 2025

Loved despite our flaws

It is important to note that Saints Peter and Paul, the two men we call the “pillars of the church,” were both flawed and gifted human beings. Peter, the “rock” upon which Jesus built his church, was a simple fisher who was the first to recognize Jesus as the Messiah and also the first to deny knowing him. Paul, an educated Roman citizen, intended to imprison Christians but ended up becoming a follower of Jesus himself. He was Christianity’s first missionary, establishing communities throughout the Mediterranean world. We are each called to live the gospel message. These stories offer reassurance that our weaknesses are not too much for God to overcome.

SOLEMNITY OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL,
APOSTLES

Acts 12:1-11; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18; Matthew 16:13-19 (591).
“The Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the proclamation might be completed.”

Monday, Jun 30, 2025

Where do we go from here?

We may say that we are willing to follow Jesus anywhere. But Jesus will be quick to point out that “the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head.” So be prepared for some difficult times, hardships, and sacrifices. Venerable Pierre Toussaint, who was enslaved until he was 41, provides inspiration for the journey: “I have never felt I am a slave to any man or woman, but I am a servant of almighty God who made us all. When one of His children is in need, I am glad to be His slave.”

Genesis 18:16-33; Matthew 8:18-22 (377). *“Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head.”*

Tuesday, Jul 01, 2025

Calm among the chaos

One of the most famous of Jesus’ miracle stories is his calming of the waves. You remember: He and the disciples are out on a lake and a big wind comes along and starts to swamp the boat. The disciples panic and go to Jesus—who’s sleeping peacefully. You’d think these men, some of whom are fishers and presumably have been through storms before, would keep their nerve a little better. “Lord, save us!” they cry nonetheless, and Jesus, before settling the storm, chides them for their fragile faith. Christ has faith-building power over the sea, and by implication over the chaos people frequently encounter. This tale tells its hearers that Christ will protect his own. Have some faith in his care today.

Genesis 19:15-29; Matthew 8:23-27 (378). *“Why are you terrified, O you of little faith?”*

Wednesday, Jul 02, 2025

Strike up a conversation with God

Prayer has many forms and many expressions: It turns our hearts and minds to God with a desire to praise, request, give thanks, or intercede on behalf of others. Prayer is conversation with God; sitting in silence with God; sharing with God every hope and fear we carry. But as Saint Thomas Aquinas reminds us, “We set forth our petitions before God, not in order to make known to Him our

needs and desires, but rather so that we ourselves may realize that in these things it is necessary to turn to God for help.” Go ahead, place your concerns on God’s desk. There’s always space.

Genesis 21:5, 8-20a; Matthew 8:28-34 (379). *“When the poor one called out, the LORD heard.”*

Thursday, Jul 03, 2025

Your time will come

It can be lonely to listen to your friends talk about their spiritual experiences if yours are of the more mundane variety. Not everyone has apparitions in a grotto or hears voices in empty churches (and it’s not always a good thing if you do). If your friends weep with ecstasy during prayer or rave about their insights from spiritual direction, be happy for them. But also remember good apostle Thomas, who missed out on the big spiritual moment of being one of the first to see the risen Jesus, but he made up for it later with the most whopping profession of faith in all of scripture: my Lord and my God!

FEAST OF THOMAS, APOSTLE

Ephesians 2:19-22; John 20:24-29 (593). *“We have seen the Lord.”*

Friday, Jul 04, 2025

Go for the gold

Tax-collector-turned-apostle Matthew may not have had the most popular job when Jesus called him, but the key is not what we do before we hear the call but what we do after. Matthew dropped his lucrative post and followed Jesus without looking back. Would you do the same? If you sense that you often lack the courage of your convictions, look to Matthew for inspiration. He gave up the big bucks for even greater treasure—the honor of giving his riches to the poor. Apparently, per the teaching of Doctor of the Church Saint John Chrysostom: “God does not want golden vessels but golden hearts.”

Genesis 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67; Matthew 9:9-13 (381). *“He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the customs post. He said to him, ‘Follow me.’”*

Saturday, Jul 05, 2025

Be open to change

In Jesus something new was happening. He came to people who had particular expectations about who their savior was going to be. When Jesus started teaching and working among them, many did not accept him. He was not only breaking a lot of the rules, he was throwing a few out, too. Some did not realize he was revealing a radically different way of knowing and following God. His mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, whom the church honors today and many other Saturdays, was open to that newness. She herself had taken an unconventional path. Are you ready to let your faith in Jesus change you?

MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Genesis 27:1-5, 15-29; Matthew 9:14-17 (382). *“They pour new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved.”*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



© 2025 TrueQuest Communications. All rights reserved. Noncommercial reprints permitted with the following credit: Reprinted with permission from TakeFiveForFaith.com. Scripture citations from the New American Bible Revised Edition. Sign up for free daily email available at TakeFiveForFaith.com/subscribe.