

**Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul,
Apostles**



The Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul reminds us that God does extraordinary things through imperfect people. Peter, who was emotionally reactive and afraid, and Paul, who carried deep zeal and later deep remorse—both were transformed by grace and became foundations of the Church. For those of us who grew up in homes marked by chaos, neglect, or inconsistency, their lives offer profound hope.

Many adult children develop roles and behaviors to survive: people-pleasing, perfectionism, shutting down, or trying to stay invisible. These patterns helped us cope but often left us feeling disconnected, unseen, or unsure of who we truly are. In recovery, we begin to peel back those layers—not all at once, but gradually—as we discover who God made us to be.

Saint Paul reflects on his own transformation in this Sunday's 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.
...But 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.*

We may feel far from sainthood, but we are no strangers to being “rescued from the lion’s mouth.” Whether it was addiction, compulsive behavior, fear, shame, or despair, many of us know what it feels like to be trapped—and what it’s like to be pulled out by grace. Saints Peter and Paul remind us that God not only rescues, He also restores and redeems. Our past does not disqualify us from living with purpose—it prepares us to offer hope to others.

Like Peter and Paul, we may not have started out strong—but we are learning to finish well. We no longer need to live according to old scripts. Recovery and the sacraments help re-form our identity. We are no longer just survivors—we are children of God, co-heirs with Christ, part of His Church, and called to be agents of healing and reconciliation.

We walk this journey with others who understand. Fellowship helps us shed shame, find our voice, and rebuild our lives with integrity. We are not alone in the race. Together, we practice living in freedom, one step and one day at a time.

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- How have you related to Peter or Paul's early struggles or later transformation?
- What "old roles" or survival patterns are you continuing to release in your recovery?
- What helps you stay grounded in your identity as a beloved child of God, even when challenges arise?

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First Reading: Acts 12:1-11

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

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

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-19