

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



The Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul offers us a window into the lives of two men who were deeply flawed yet profoundly used by God. Peter, who denied Jesus at His most vulnerable moment, and Paul, who once persecuted Christians. Their stories show us that transformation is possible, not in spite of our weaknesses, but often through them. For those of us who love someone struggling with addiction, this is a hopeful truth: our mess is not the end of the story.

Peter and Paul remind us that God doesn't need perfection—He seeks willingness. In recovery, we learn that trying to manage, fix, or save our loved one is not our role. Instead, we surrender, one day at a time, and trust that God is working—sometimes behind the scenes, sometimes within us. The courage to let go and live with healthy boundaries is born not from self-will, but from grace.

Saint Paul's reflection in this Sunday's second reading (2 Timothy 4:6–8, 17–18) speaks deeply to the journey we're on:

*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.*

Paul's words remind us that God stands by us when we feel empty, exhausted, or helpless. He strengthens us to keep the faith when progress seems slow, when relationships are strained, or when we feel overwhelmed by fear or grief. He rescues us from the lion's mouth of despair and reminds us that we are not alone in this battle.

Like Peter, we may sometimes say or do the wrong thing. Like Paul, we may carry regrets about how we handled things in the past. But recovery invites us to practice new patterns—responding with love instead of fear, showing compassion while letting go, and trusting God to work in His time and His way.

We walk this path with others who understand. We don't have to carry the weight of our loved one's recovery—or their choices. We are called to our own spiritual growth, supported by a loving God and a fellowship that listens, encourages, and shares experience. Saints Peter and Paul didn't walk alone, and neither do we.

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- What part of Peter or Paul's story reflects your own experience as someone who loves a person with an addiction?
- When have you experienced God's strength or presence in the midst of uncertainty or suffering?
- How can you "keep the faith" today without needing to control someone else's recovery?

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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