

**Acts 12: 1-11, 2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 17-18
Matthew 16: 13-19**

FOCUS: We are called to bear witness to the truth of Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Today the Church honors Saints Peter and Paul for the Christ-like way they lived their faith in the face of dire adversity. Martyrs for the faith, both paid the highest price for their beliefs. With red vestments the Church recognizes, in a visual way, the supreme witness to the faith given by the blood of the martyrs. Some people may think that martyrdom occurred mainly during the early period of Christianity and somewhat less frequently up through the Middle Ages. Actually, during the twentieth century the Catholic Church has counted hundreds of men and women among those who have died for their faith. The basis for martyrdom is the belief that God is truth, and each of us is called to be a witness to that truth in words and deeds. Although most of us will not imitate the supreme witness of the martyrs in death, we do have an obligation to imitate them in witnessing to the truth as seen in today's Scripture readings.

The Peter we find in today's Gospel is the same Peter we have come to know as the one who is much like us; the one who does not always understand the teachings of Jesus; the one who is terrified in the boat in the storm; the one who falls asleep in the garden, and who later denies Jesus three times. Yet, in today's gospel passage Simon Peter clearly understands that Jesus is the Messiah. He gets it right for once, and Jesus knows that God has revealed this to him. Since Peter is receptive to God's revelation, Jesus names him Rock and gives him the authority and power to lead the Church. Peter eventually becomes a rather determined witness to the truth as seen in today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter was arrested and thrown in prison for preaching the truth that Jesus suffered, died, and rose from the dead so that all may be saved. The Church's success, first among the Jewish people, later among the Gentiles, was a tremendous threat to the religious and political leaders of the time. This perceived threat was matched with an equally effective persecution of the disciples. In spite of persecution, Peter remained courageous in the face of opposition. Filled with the Holy Spirit and fully aware of the authority given to him by Jesus, he continued to speak the truth despite the consequences. Peter died around the year 64 A.D. in Rome during the persecution by Nero.

Paul, once a persecutor of Christians, is also a witness to the truth of Jesus as recorded in his Second Letter to Timothy. This letter was probably written toward the end of Paul's ministry to the Gentiles for he says he has fought the good fight, and run the race, and he has kept the faith. Paul is not boasting, but recognizes the strength of the Lord at his side and anxiously awaits the prize of eternal life. Paul speaks with confidence that, no matter what happens, God will continue to rescue him; therefore, his advice to Timothy, and to us, is to rely solely on God. If we do our best in giving witness to the message of Jesus, there may be rejection and opposition to the truth we speak, yet, God will deliver us from all harm. After all, it is God on whom we rely. The same Spirit that filled the lives of Peter and Paul is at work in our lives guiding us to be witnesses to the truth. Can we be as open as they were to the movement of the Spirit in our lives?

MILITARY COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

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MCCW is sponsoring a family Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in nearby Middletown, NY. Please join us as we carpool to the Shrine on Monday June 30th! We'll depart from the chapel parking lot at 10:30 a.m. We'll celebrate mass, have a picnic lunch (bring your own) and join the Shrine Director for a tour! We ask for a \$5.00 donation per family to give to the Shrine. Please R.S.V.P. to Elisa Bell at 446-8753.

Please join the Military Council of Catholic Women (MCCW) during our summer First Friday programs. We will meet July 11th and August 4th to celebrate Mass (at the regularly scheduled 12:05 Liturgy) and join in fellowship during a potluck lunch following Mass. Families are welcome!

SCRIPTURE FOR WEEK OF June 29, 2003

Mon – Genesis 18: 16-33, Matthew 8: 18-22

Tue – Genesis 19: 15-29, Matthew 8: 23-27

Blessed Junipero

Wed – Genesis 21: 5, 8-20a, Matthew 8: 28-34

Thurs – Ephesians 2: 19-22, John 20: 24-29

Saint Thomas

Fri – Genesis 23: 1-4, 19; 24: 1-8, 62-67, Matthew 9: 9-13

Saint Elizabeth

Sat – Genesis 27: 1-5, 15-29, Matthew 9: 14-17

Saint Anthony

ANNOUNCED MASSES

Sat 28 June 1715 Parishioners of MHT

Sun 29 June 1000

Mon 30 June 1205

Tue 1 July 1205

Wed 2 July 1205 Mike O'Neill

Thurs 3 July 1205 Rose Foss

Fri 4 July 1205

Attendance and Offering Last Weekend:

Attendance 400 Offering \$2,022.93

This Designated Offering : July 12 & 13 will be for "Sacred Heart"

HOST FAMILY FOR Jul 5-6

1715 Volunteer

1000 Volunteer

LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS Jul 5-6

1715 M. Naessens, S. Nowatkowski, D. Rutkowski

1000 T. Povich, D. McGurk, M. Torres

USHERS FOR Jul 5-6

1715 Volunteer

1000 Volunteer

ALTAR SERVERS Jul 5-6

1715 Cory Trainor, Danny Trainor, Kelsey Ragsdale

1000 Steve Nelson, Michael Strunck, James Strunck

PROCLAIMERS FOR Jul 5-6

1715 Dan Ragsdale / Cindy Scullion

1716 Kathleen Campbell / Matt Vetter

Important dates for your Calendar:

3 Jul Reconciliation, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction, will be on Thursdays through the summer months.

4 Jul Daily Mass will be held @ 1205

I have a question. Whom do I call? Pastoral Coordinator... Kate Hayden 938-8760
Chaplain's Assistant... SPC Alexander 938-3721
Parish registration, Calendars, Bulletin, Maintenance, Room Scheduling, Purchase Orders, Mass Cards, Fund Requests.

Director Rel-Ed... Kay Heppes... 938-8761
Faith Formation, Rel. Education of Children & Adults, RCIA.

Wedding Coordinator... Lorraine Finn...932-2784
Wedding information, scheduling, paperwork,
Pre-Cana/Engaged Encounter information.

Director of Music... Meredith Baker...938-3544
Adult, Children's and Cadet Choir, Wedding Music, Liturgical Music.

Pastor... Fr. Vince Burns...938-3721
Reconciliation, Baptism, Anointing of the Sick, Pastoral and Sacramental Concerns.

Cadet Issues... Fr. Edson Wood...938-2784
Fr. Jerry Deponai ...938-2784

Visit our Web Site @<http://www.usma.edu/Chaplain/mht/>

RECONCILIATION, ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND BENEDICTION:

Thursdays 1820 –1930 at

MHT Chapel

RCIA

MHT Catholic Chapel needs folks who will work with us in welcoming people into our Catholic Church. We have the funds to send you to a week long training session sponsored by the North American Forum on the Catechumenate.

One of the most important missions of any parish is to welcome people into our Church and to share our Faith with them. The responsibility belongs to all of us, but specifically we need some parishioners to work with us on the **Rite of Christian Initiation** Team. No experience necessary, just a willingness to share faith with someone who is interested in our Catholic Faith. Please contact Father Vince or Kay Heppes for more information.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:

GOD'S TYM (Total Youth Ministries)

POC Tanya Tolentino @ 424-3609

Use your talents!

We appreciate the contribution each one of our parishioners makes to the act of corporate worship here at Most Holy Trinity. As we celebrate Mass on Saturday 1715 and Sunday 1000, singers and instrumentalists are invited to volunteer their efforts in support of the music leadership.

Contact LTC Andy Glen for information about the Folk Group on Saturdays (warm-up at 1630, before Mass) and/or Meredith Baker regarding the 1000(warm-up at 0930 Sundays).

It's Summer Vacation Time

As you make plans for family fun, don't take a "vacation" from your marriage. Schedule quality time on a couple vacation - a Marriage Encounter weekend. Enjoy a weekend getaway that will increase your communication and intimacy and guarantee vacation memories that will last a lifetime. The next weekend is August 15-17, at Mount Alvernia in Wappingers Falls, NY. For more information, call Tom or Mary Julich @ 446-1071 .

You can visit the National WWME web site: www.wwme.org

WE ARE NOT CLOSED FOR THE SUMMER

If you are new to West Point or an old-timer who has not yet registered or re-registered your child or children for Religious Education, the summer months are a great time to stop by the Religious Education Office, which is located in the Cloister Room (chapel basement). At this time, you can fill out a registration form and find out about our need for catechists, bus coordinators for the 2003-04 semester. Please call "Ms. Kay," Director of Religious Education @938-8761. ***OPENING DAY FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IS SEPTEMBER 7TH.***

Parish Registration

We ask families and single adults who worship with us to register officially as Most Holy Trinity Parishioners. Such registration helps us to be able to contact you and keep track of our parish. It also helps when you are seeking a letter of eligibility for being a sponsor and for some marriage requirements. You can pick up a registration form from the Rectory or use the one attached to the bulletin. Moving? If you will be leaving us, please notify us of the change.

PARISH CENSUS UPDATE

WELCOME to all new folks joining our parish & **FAREWELL** to all who are moving. Please help us keep our Census up-to-date by filling out this form:

Name _____

Address _____

City & Zip _____

Phone _____

Please Check one:

New registration

Updated registration

I am moving out of the area

Please drop off in offering basket at Mass or Parish office.