

PILLARS OF THE EARLY CHURCH

The two most prominent figures in the history of the Christian religion during the first decades were the Apostles Peter and Paul. The Church has always honored them together, their special feastday a highlight of the summer.



sermon on Pentecost Day, resulting in thousands embracing faith in Christ. His confession of the Lord as “the Christ, the Son of the Living God,” is the doctrine that forms the foundation of Christianity.

St. Paul is the great missionary of the earliest Church. Following his amazing conversion from a persecutor to an apostle, Paul spent his years travelling throughout the then-known world, establishing parishes and preaching the Gospel. He wrote many epistles - letters to the churches, he was imprisoned, he was shipwrecked, he was beaten and starved and suffered greatly for his Master.

It is the Acts of the Apostles, that wonderful book of the Bible that paints a graphic picture of life in the earliest Church, that tells the story of these defenders of the Faith. The first 9 chapters tell of Peter and Jerusalem, the center of the Church. The next chapters focus on Paul and the city of Antioch, which became a prominent place. Indeed, Peter founded the Church there and became its first Bishop.

The two great pillars of the Church are said to have been martyred in the year 67. During their ministries, they fueled the fires of our early Christian Faith.

St. Peter is usually depicted as the leader among our Lord’s twelve apostles. He is the one who preached a powerful

Icon by Austin Kachek - Manville, NJ

Two Apostles who
nourished the Garden of
Christianity



3rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN

July 10, 2016.

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TODAY'S READINGS

GOSPEL: Matthew 6, 22-33; **EPISTLE:** Rom. 5, 1-10;

TODAY WE COMMEMORATE:

SAINT SAMPSON, THE HOSPITABLE ONE WHO RECEIVED STRANGERS

Sampson was born of wealthy and eminent parents in old Rome where he studied all the secular sciences of that time and dedicated himself particularly to the science of medicine. Sampson was compassionate and an unmercenary and administered cures to the sick, both body and soul, counseling everyone to fulfill the requirements of the Christian Faith. Afterward he moved to Constantinople where he lived in a small house from which he dispensed alms, comfort, counsel, hope and medicine to all just as the sun disperses its rays of light and, in general, gave help to the helpless, both spiritually and physically. The patriarch heard of the great virtues of this man and ordained him a priest. At that time, Emperor Justinian the Great became ill and his illness, according to the conviction of all physicians, was incurable. The emperor prayed to God with great fervency and God revealed in a dream to him that Sampson would heal him. And indeed, when the emperor learned of Sampson, he invited him to his court and just as the elder placed his hand on the ailing place, the emperor recovered. When the emperor offered him enormous wealth for this, Sampson thanked him and did not want to accept anything saying to him: "O Emperor, even I had gold and silver and other goods, but I left all for the sake of Christ in order to gain eternal heavenly goods." But when the emperor insisted on doing something for him, holy Sampson implored the emperor to build him a home [hospice] for the poor. In this home Sampson served the poor as a parent serves his children. Mercy toward the poor and the helpless was natural to him. Finally, this saintly man, completely filled with heavenly power and goodness, reposed peacefully on June 27, 530 A.D. and was interred in the church of his relative, the holy martyr Mocius. After his death, Sampson appeared many times to those who called upon him for assistance.

REFLECTION

There is no one so stupid as he who cannot see his own sins and cannot see the virtues of others. There is no one so enlightened as he who can see and recognize his own sins and the virtues of others. Those who only see the faults of others and criticize them, St. John Chrysostom equates them to flies that fall on the wounds of others, not in order to heal them but rather to gnaw and to poison them more." God has sent us here for penance [Epitimija]," these are the words of Blessed Theophilus of Kiev (+1853). He who knows and feels that he is here for repentance immerses himself in silence and contemplation about his own sin, which has brought him to repentance. The same Blessed Theophilus further said: "Weep also for the sins of your fellow man; without this not one created human being will be saved." To weep or to proclaim - how is it written my son? With Blessed Theophilus, it is written: "To weep over one's own sins but with Satan, to proclaim the sins of others." About himself, Blessed Theophilus at the point of death left this testament to his brethren: "Remember the odious Theophilus!" This is the testament of the holiest human being in Kiev in the year 1853 A.D.

Our **Annual Diocesan Day at Shadland** will be held on Sunday, August 7, 2016. Sunday activities will begin at 10 a.m. with the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy followed by the Picnic and Program, featuring our Folklore Group from Tambura Week and music for dancing.

OUR CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED ON AUGUST 7TH SO THAT WE MAY ALL ATTEND!

**SATAN SUBTRACTS AND DIVIDES.
GOD MULTIPLIES AND MULTIPLIES.**

On Tuesday, July 12th, is the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles
DIVINE LITURGY WILL START AT 9:30AM.

Our **102nd Church Slava Celebration** will be held on Saturday, July 30th and Sunday, July 31st. The Vesper Service will be served at 5:00 p.m. Saturday evening. On Sunday, Divine Liturgy will start at 10 a.m. with the Slava Procession around the church, blessing of the Kolac and Koljivo. This year our honored

Kum will be
~ PETE MILICH~

We will honor our **2016 Church School Graduates** at the banquet as well they are:

Julia Knapp, Mirko Loncar, Elijah Sklack, Ryan Zeljak

**A CELEBRATION IN HONOR OF
HIS GRACE BISHOP DR. MITROPHAN**

will be held on Saturday, August 13th, 2016 here in Aliquippa. Please pick up the information letter next to the bulletin for specific details.

Banquet tickets are \$60 per person for the sit down dinner and must BE ORDERED NO LATER THAN August 1st. Make your check payable to "Serbian Orthodox Diocese" and mail it to:

D. Bascot, 1704 Vermont Ave. West Mifflin, PA 15122

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As a continuation of this celebration our ST. ELIJAH CORNERSTONE MEN'S CLUB will host a picnic at our Picnic grounds. BBQ lamb and pig will be available along with other items in the kitchen. Musical entertainment will be provided by the Orchestra RADOST.

100th Anniversary of SNF KENNYWOOD please contact the home office by calling (412) 458-5227 to order your tickets. This year the park will celebrate a "Century of Serbdom" featuring on the main stage our SNF children dancing and playing songs of our glorious Serbian culture as well as a combined chorus directed by George Milosh which will entertain you as well. This is one year you do not want to miss!

VISITS:

July 7th - Beaver Meadows - Mike Kozlina, Bob Sparcie, Mary "Cookie" Loverich, Jennie Zakovich, Sara Pesich, Smilja Milosh

July 7th - Trinity Oaks - Martha Jackson

July 8th - Friendship Ridge - Sarah Jerich, Helen Belich, Ann Belich, Robin Lapceвич, Cynthia Bratich, Joe and Carol Kascur

