

EXTERNAL SOLEMNITY OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

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On June 29, A.D. 67, St. Peter was crucified, head downward, by order of Nero, on a hill overlooking the Vatican. On the same day, St. Paul was beheaded outside one of the gates of Rome. The Romans celebrated this feast with splendor equal to, if not surpassing, that of Easter. There are two stations, the one at St. Peter's, the other at St. Paul's, but in both Masses the Collects are common to the two apostles indissolubly united in a single prayer. It is just because of this ancient feeling, which is common not only to the Romans but to all the Fathers, that the two founders of the Roman Church can never be divided.

Tradition has preserved the memory of the places in which St. Peter and St. Paul dwelt. It is certain the chair of St. Peter and the chains of St. Paul were carefully guarded. The Vatican Basilica is erected over the burial place of St. Peter; the Ostian Basilica, St. Paul's-Outside-the-Walls, honors the Apostle of the Gentiles.

INTROIT Acts 12: 11

Nunc scio vere, quia misit Dóminus Ángelum suum: et erípuit me de manu Heródis, et de omni exspectatióne plebis Judæórum. (Ps. 138: 1, 2) Dómine, probásti me, et cognovísti me: tu cognovísti sessiónem meam, et resurrectionem meam. Glória Patri et Fílii et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Nunc scio vere, quia misit Dóminus Ángelum suum: et erípuit me de manu Heródis, et de omni exspectatióne plebis Judæórum.

COLLECT

Deus, qui hodiérnam diem Apóstolorum tuórum Petri et Pauli mártýrio consecrásti: da Ecclésiæ tuæ, eórum in ómnibus sequi præcéptum; per quos religiónis sumpsit exórdium. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

(For 6th Sunday after Pentecost)

Deus virtútum, cujus est totum quod est óptimum: ínsere pectóribus nostris amórem tui nóminis, et præsta in nobis religiónis augméntum: ut, quæ sunt bona, nútrias, ac pietátis stúdio, quæ sunt nutríta, custódiás. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

LESSON Acts 12: 1-11

In diébus illis: Misit Heródes rex manus, ut afflígeret quosdam de ecclésiá. Occidit autem Jacóbum fratrem Joánnis gládio. Videns autem quia placéret Judæis, appósuit ut apprehénderet et Petrum erant autem dies Azymórum. Quem cum apprehendisset, misit in cárcerem, tradens quátuor quaterniónibus mílitum custodiéndum, volens post Pascha prodúcere eum pópulo. Et Petrus quidem servabátur in cárcere. Orátio autem fiebat sáne intermissió ab Ecclésiá ad Deum pro eo. Cum autem productúrus eum esset Heródes, in ipsa nocte erat Petrus dórmians inter duos mílites, vinctus caténis duábus: et custódes ante óstium custodiébant cárcerem. Et ecce Angelus Dómini ástitit: et lumén refulsít in habitáculo: percussóque látere Petri, excitávit eum, dicens: Surge velocíter. Et ceciderunt caténæ de mánibus ejus. Dixit autem Angelus ad eum: Præcingere, et cálcea te cáligas tuas. Et fecit sic. Et dixit illi: Círcúmda tibi vestiméntum tuum, et séquere me. Et éxiens sequebátur eum, et nesciébát quia verum est, quod fiebat per Angelum: existimábát autem se visum vidére. Transeúntes autem primam et secúndam custódiám, venérunt ad portam férream, quæ ducit ad civitátem: quæ ultro apérta est eis. Et exeúntes processérunt vicum unum: et contínuo discéssit Angelus ab eo. Et Petrus ad se revérsus, dixit: Nunc scio vere, quia misit Dóminus Angelum suum, et erípuit me de manu Heródis, et de omni exspectatióne plebis Judæórum.

GRADUAL Psalms 44: 17, 18

Constitúes eos príncipes super omnem terram: mémoires erunt nóminis tui, Dómine. Pro pátribus tuis nati sunt tibi filii: proptérea pópuli confitebúntur tibi. Allelúja, allelúja. (Matt. 16: 18) Tu es Petrus, et super hanc petram ædificábo Ecclésiám Meam. Allelúja.

GOSPEL Matthew 16: 13-19

In illo témpore: Venit Jesus in partes Cæsaréæ Philíppi, et interrogábat discípulos suos, dicens: Quem dicunt hómines esse Fílium hóminis? At illi dixerunt: Álii Joánnem Baptistám, aut unum Eliám, álii vero Jeremíam, aut unum ex prophétis. Dicit illis Jesus: Vos autem quem me esse dicitis? Respóndens Simon Petrus, dixit: Tu es Christus Fílius Dei vivi. Respóndens autem Jesus, dixit ei: Beátus est Simon BarJona: quia caro et sanguis non revelávit tibi, sed Pater Meus, Qui in Cælis est. Et ego dico tibi, quia tu es Petrus, et super hanc petram ædificábo Ecclésiám Meam, et portæ inferi non prævalébunt advérsus eam. Et tibi dabo claves regni Cælórum. Et quodcúmque ligáveris super terram, erit ligátum et in Cælis: et quodcúmque sólveris super terram, erit solutum et in Cælis.

OFFERTORY Psalms 44: 17, 18

Constitúes eos príncipes super omnem terram: mémoires erant nóminis tui, Dómine, in omni progénie et generatióne.

SECRET

Hostias, Dómine, quas, nómini tuo sacrándas offerimus, apostólica prosequátur orátio: per quam nos expiári tríbuas, et deféudi. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

(For 6th Sunday after Pentecost)

Propitiáre, Dómine, supplicatiónebus nostris, et has pópuli oblatiões benígnus assúme: ut nullíus sit írritum votum, nullíus vácuá postulátio, præsta: ut quod fidéliter pétimus, effícaciter consequámur. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

PREFACE OF THE APOSTLES

Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutáre, Te Dómine supplicíter exoráre, ut déteras Tuum pastor ætérne, non geresas: sed per beátos Apóstolos tuos contínuá protectiõe custódiás. Ut íisdem rectóribus gubernétur, quos óperis Tui vicários eidem custódiis præéche pastóres. Et ideó cum Ángelis et Archángelís, cum Thronis et Dominatiónebus, cumque omni milítia cæléstis exércitus, hymnum glóriæ Tuæ cánimus sine fine dicéntes:

COMMUNION Matthew 16: 18

Tu es Petrus, et super hanc petram ædificábo Ecclésiám Meam.

POSTCOMMUNION

Quos cælésti, Dómine, aliménto satiásti: apostólicis intercessiõeibus ab omni adversitate custódi. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

(For 6th Sunday after Pentecost)

Repléti sumus, Dómine, muníribus tuis: tríbue, quæsumus; ut eórum et mundémur effectú, et muniámur auxilió. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Now I know in very deed, that the Lord hath sent His angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews. (Ps. 138: 1, 2) Lord, Thou hast proved me, and known me: Thou hast known my sitting down, and my rising up. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Now I know in very deed, that the Lord hath sent His angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews.

O God, Who hast consecrated this day to the martyrdom of Thine apostles Peter and Paul, grant to Thy Church in all things to follow their teaching from whom it received the right ordering of religion in the beginning. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

O God of hosts, to Whom all that is best belong, graft in our hearts the love of Thy name, and grant us an increase of true religion: that Thou mayest foster what is good, and with tender zeal guard what Thou hast fostered.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

In those days, Herod the king stretched forth his hands to afflict some of the Church: and he killed James, the brother of John, with the sword; and seeing that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to take up Peter also. Now it was in the days of the Azymes: and when he had apprehended him, he cast him into prison, delivering him to four files of soldiers to be kept, intending after the pasch to bring him forth to the people. Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing by the Church unto God for him. And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains; and the keepers before the door kept the prison: and behold an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shined in the room and he striking Peter on the side, raised him up, saying, Arise quickly; and the chains fell off from his hands: and the angel said to him, Gird thyself and put on thy sandals; and he did so: and he said to him, Cast thy garment about thee and follow me: and going out he followed him: and he knew not that it was true which was done by the angel; but he thought he saw a vision. And passing through the first and the second ward, they came to the iron gate that leadeth to the city, which of itself opened to them; and going out, they passed on through one street, and immediately the angel departed from him. And Peter coming to himself, said, Now I know in very deed that the Lord hath sent His angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews.

Thou shalt make them princes over all the earth: they shall remember Thy name, O Lord. Instead of Thy fathers, sons are born to Thee; therefore shall people praise Thee. Alleluia, alleluia. (Matt. 16: 18) Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My Church. Alleluia.

At that time, Jesus came into the quarters of Cæsarea Philippi, and He asked His disciples, saying, Whom do men say that the Son of man is? But they said, Some, John the Baptist, and other some, Elias, and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. Jesus saith to them, But whom do you say that I am? Simon Peter answered, Thou art Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answering, said to him, Blessed art thou, Simon BarJona, because flesh and blood hath not revealed it to thee, but My Father Who is in Heaven: and I say to thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it; and to thee I will give the keys of the kingdom of Heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt bind upon earth, it shall be bound also in Heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth, it shall be loosed also in Heaven.

Thou shalt make them princes over all the earth: they shall remember Thy name, O Lord, throughout all generations.

May the prayer of Thine apostles, O Lord, accompany the sacrifices which we offer to be consecrated to Thy name, and through it do Thou grant us to be pardoned and defended. Through our Lord Jesus Christ Thy Son our Lord, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Be appeased, O Lord, by our humble prayers, and favorably receive the offerings of Thy people: and that the prayers of none be vain, no one petition void, grant, that what we ask faithfully, we may obtain effectually. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

It is truly meet and just, right and for our salvation, to entreat Thee humbly, O Lord, that Thou wouldst not desert Thy flock, O everlasting Shepherd, but, through Thy blessed Apostles, wouldst keep it under Thy constant protection; that it may be governed by those same rulers, whom as vicars of Thy work, Thou didst set over it to be thy pastors. And therefore with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominations, and with all the hosts of the heavenly army, we sing the hymn of Thy glory, evermore saying:

Thou art Peter: and upon this rock I will build My Church.

Preserve, O Lord from all dangers, by the intercession of Thine apostles, those whom Thou hast filled with Heavenly nourishment. Through the Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

We have been filled, Lord, with Thy gifts: grant we beseech thee, that we may both be cleansed by their effects, and defended by their aid. Through the same Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.