

WORKSHEETS

No 2 / July, 2020

The feast of the Holy Apostles

Peter and Paul





DID YOU KNOW?

The earliest Christian calendars most often contain the names of martyrs. The martyrs had a special place in the consciousness of the early Christian communities, since they sealed their faith in Christ with their blood. Memories of the Holy Apostles, especially those who ended their lives as martyrs, were gradually entered into the church calendars.

There is no doubt that the cult of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul developed very soon after their martyrdom. Every ancient calendar in the Christian East and West mentions this holiday. Of the first twelve Apostles in the 4th and 5th centuries, most of them entered the calendars of the churches that considered them as their founders. This also applies to the places where their relics were discovered (in Rome, the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul; in Jerusalem, the Holy Apostle James; in Alexandria, the Holy Apostle Mark). Their local memory soon acquired a universal Christian character. Finally, Emperor Constantine the Great in 330 AD built a church in Constantinople in honor of the Holy Apostles.

The memory of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul is celebrated on July 12 since, according to Christian tradition, both Apostles suffered martyrdom in Rome on that day in the year of 67 during the reign of Emperor Nero. Apostle Peter was buried on the Vatican Hill and Apostle Paul in a cemetery near the Ostia Road, not far from Rome.

According to Prudence's description, during his visit to Rome in 405, on the feasts of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, the entire city was in a prayerful mood. A great river of people would form the processions, which flowed into the two churches of both Apostles, quite distant from each other. In both churches, the bishop served the Holy Liturgy on that day. On July 13, the memory of all twelve Holy Apostles is celebrated.

In the church of St. Peter, which was placed in the corner of St. Sophia in Constantinople, the feast of the Venerable Chains of the Holy Apostle Peter was celebrated on January 29. According to Roman tradition, the body of the Holy Apostle Peter rests in the foundations of the Church of St. Peter in Vatican City. During the archeological excavations carried out in 1942 under the Basilica of St. Peter in Rome, at the place where his body is believed to be buried, a plaque with the inscription in Greek "Peter is here" was found.

At the location where the Holy Apostle Paul was buried, Emperor Constantine the Great built a basilica known as Saint Paul outside the (city) walls in 324. During the construction of the church, his relics were placed in a sarcophagus and are still located in this shrine. On the tombstone there is an inscription written in Latin "Paul the Apostle Martyr."



DID YOU KNOW?

1. The earliest Christian calendars most often contain the names of:

- A. Bishops
- B. Martyrs
- C. Emperors

Who was the founder of the church in Alexandria?

- A. Holy Apostle Paul
- B. Holy Apostle Peter
- C. Holy Apostle Mark

3. Who built a church in Constantinople in honor of the Holy Apostles?

- A. Emperor Constantine the Great
- B. Empress Helen
- C. Bishop Sylvester

4. Where was the Holy Apostle Peter buried?

- A. Constantinople
- B. Vatican Hill in Rome
- C. Cleveland

5. What was the name of a basilica built at the location where the Holy Apostle Paul was buried?

- A. Saint Paul outside the (city) walls
- B. Saint Paul
- C. Saint Paul the Apostle

ANSWERS: 1. B; 2. C; 3. A; 4. B; 5. A.

The Twelve Apostles of Christ's

The word apostle is of Greek origin and means "the one who is sent." The term apostle is found in the books of the New Testament (Luke 6:13). The Lord Jesus Christ had 12 Apostles, who are also called disciples and even friends of Christ. Their names are found in the Gospel of Matthew (10: 1-4); Mark (3: 13-19); Luke (6: 12-16); Acts (1:13). After the Descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles, they preached the teaching of Christ to Jewish people and to all other nations. The Church of Christ established the Lenten season in their memory.

NAMES OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES:

- **ANDREW** was a fisherman. The Apostle Andrew is the founder of the Church of Constantinople. He died a martyr's death in Patras, Greece. The feast of the Holy Apostle Andrew is celebrated on December 13.
- **PETER** was a fisherman. The Apostle Peter is the supreme Apostle and the founder of the Church of Antioch. He was killed in Rome, Italy, during the reign of Emperor Nero, around the year 67. The Feast of the Holy Apostle Peter is celebrated on July 12.
- **JACOB** was the son of Zebedee. His brother John was also an Apostle. Jacob was the first bishop of Jerusalem. He is the first of the Apostles who suffered a martyr's death, ordered by Herod Agrippa in 44. The feast of the Holy Apostle James is celebrated on November 5.
- **JOHN** was the son of Zebedee. His brother James was also an apostle. John was the youngest of Christ's disciples. The Apostle John was the only one under the Cross during the crucifixion, when the Lord entrusted the Mother of God to him for safekeeping. He spent most of his life in Ephesus (Turkey). He was later exiled to the island of Patmos. He lived to a ripe old age and died a natural death. The Feast of the Holy Apostle John is celebrated on October 9.
- **PHILIP** was a native of Bethsaida. He should not be confused with Philip, one of the seven deacons. The Apostle Philip preached the gospel in Asia. He suffered a martyr's death, crucified on a cross. The feast of the Holy Apostle Philip is celebrated on November 27.

- **JUDAS (LEVITE)** should not be confused with Judas Iscariot, who sold Christ for 30 silver coins. The Apostle Judas preached the Gospel in the regions of Judea, Samaria, Galilee, Syria, Arabia, Mesopotamia and Armenia. He suffered a martyr's death by pagans in the vicinity of Ararat in Armenia. The feast of the Holy Apostle Judas is celebrated on July 2.
- **BARTHOLOMEW**, according to Tradition, preached the Gospel in India. He suffered a martyr's death in Armenia. The feast of the Holy Apostle Bartholomew is celebrated on June 24.
- **MATTHEW** was a tax collector. He is the author of the first Gospel. After the initial mission among the Jews in Judea, he went to Ethiopia. There he suffered a martyr's death by being burned at the stake. The feast of the Holy Apostle Matthew is celebrated on November 29.
- **JAMES (ALPHEUS)** was the brother of the Apostle Matthew. He preached the Gospel of Christ in the lands of Egypt. He suffered a martyr's death in Egypt by being crucified. The Feast of the Holy Apostle James is celebrated on October 22.
- **THOMAS (THE SO-CALLED "TWIN")** was a native of the Galilean city of Paneada. After Pentecost, he was in the areas of today's India and converted many to Christianity. He suffered a martyr's death. The feast of the Holy Apostle Thomas is celebrated on October 19.
- **SIMON (THE ZEALOT)** was a native of Cana of Galilee. He preached the Gospel in Africa, but also in England. He suffered a martyr's death in Georgia where he was crucified. The feast of the Holy Apostle Simon is celebrated on May 23.
- **MATTHIAS** was a native of Bethlehem of Judea. After the Lord's Ascension, he replaced Judas Iscariot and became a member of the twelve Apostles (Acts 1: 15-26). He preached the Gospel in Syria of Antioch and parts of Cappadocia, western Georgia and Greek Macedonia. He suffered a martyr's death, stoned by the Jews in Jerusalem. The Feast of the Holy Apostle Matthias is celebrated on August 22.

Who was the Holy Apostle Peter?

The Holy Apostle Peter was a disciple of Christ and one of the twelve Apostles. The Gospel mentions that, together with his brother Andrew, he was a fisherman in the small seaside town of Bethsaida in Palestine (John 1:44). His father's name was Jonah and at birth he was named Simon. (John 1:42; Matthew 16:17). At the Savior's call, Peter and Andrew become "hunters of men" (Matthew 4: 18-19, Mark 1: 16-17) and faithfully followed Christ on his earthly mission. After the Descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles, he fearlessly preached the word of Christ's resurrection to the Jews and other nations.

The Acts of the Holy Apostles describe his great deeds. His life ended in martyrdom in Rome, during the reign of Emperor Nero. The Holy Apostle Peter asked his tormentors to grant his request and to be crucified upside down, considering himself unworthy of the death of the Lord Whom he loved with all his being.

Interesting facts from the life of the Holy Apostle Peter

- Brothers Andrew and Peter are the first disciples of Christ. When he became a disciple, he was given the Jewish name Kifa, which is Peter in Greek and means "stone."
- The Holy Apostle Peter witnessed the events of Christ's Transfiguration on Mount Tabor.
- The Gospels write that at the Last Supper, the Lord Jesus Christ prophesied that the Apostle Peter would renounce Him three times before the rooster crowed three times.
- The Holy Apostle Peter deeply believed that Christ was the Savior. When Christ asked what people thought of him, Peter answered: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.



Test your Knowledge

1. Where did Holy Apostle Peter live?

- A. Jerusalem
- B. Bethsaida
- C. Rome

2. What was the name of the Holy Apostle Peter's brother?

- A. Andrew
- B. Paul
- C. John

3. What did the Holy Apostle Peter do for a living? He was:

- A. Accountant
- B. Writer
- C. Fisherman

4. What does the word Peter mean?

- A. Flower
- B. Rock
- C. Leon

5. Where did the Holy Apostle Peter die?

- A. Rome
- B. Belgrade
- C. Athens

ANSWERS: 1. B; 2. A; 3. C; 4. B; 5. A.



Who was The Holy Apostle Paul?

The Holy Apostle Paul was the Apostle of the Gentiles. He was a Jew, from the tribe of Benjamin, and his birth name was Saul. His parents were respectable citizens and lived in Rome for a time, and later moved to Tarsus in Cilicia. Saul's family had Roman citizenship. Saul studied the law of Moses with the famous teacher Gamaliel in Jerusalem. One of his friends was Barnabas, who later became a disciple of Christ.

Saul zealously respected the Law. During that time in Jerusalem and the surrounding area, the Holy Apostles courageously spread the news of Christ's resurrection from the dead. Saul, however, ridiculed Christians, and it didn't take him long to support their persecution. He even supported the execution of Archdeacon Stephen, his cousin (Acts 7, 58). In addition, he himself became the persecutor of all those who believed in Christ. Then one day on the way to Damascus where he had set out to disperse the Christians, he was suddenly illuminated by light from heaven. As he fell from his horse, he heard a voice asking him why he was persecuting Christians. It was the voice of the crucified Lord Jesus Christ. The encounter with the Lord frightened him at first, since Saul became blind.

A conscience spoke in the heart of young Saul, and when he asked what he should do to see again, the Lord told him to go to the city of Damascus (Acts 7, 58). Arriving in Damascus, he was baptized by the Holy Apostle Ananias and his sight was restored. At his baptism, he was named Paul. Paul became the protector of Christians and the Apostle of the Gentiles. He zealously preached Christian teaching throughout the Mediterranean. He founded churches and appointed disciples as bishops of young Christian communities. His epistles resonate with the Church of Christ as the strongest voice of the conscience of the human race. He died when he was cut with a sword in Rome. At the place of his execution, Emperor Constantine the Great built a basilica in 324.



Test your Knowledge

1. Where was the Holy Apostle Paul educated?

- A. Rome
- B. Jerusalem
- C. Tarsus

2. On the way to Damascus, what happened to the Holy Apostle Paul?:

- A. Sun was shining
- B. Rain fell
- C. A Light shone on him

3. Archdeacon and First Martyr Saint Stephen was what to the Holy Apostle Paul?

- A. Cousin
- B. Friend
- C. Enemy

4. In which city was the Holy Apostle Paul baptized?

- A. Rome
- B. Jerusalem
- C. Damascus

5. The Holy Apostle Paul was an Apostle of:

- A. Jews
- B. Gentiles
- C. He was not an Apostle

6. What is the name of the emperor who built the basilica in memory of the Holy Apostle Paul?

- A. Constantine
- B. Peter
- C. Andrew

ANSWERS: 1. B; 2. C; 3. A; 4. C; 5. B; 6. A.

A	R	P	E	T	E	R	C	I	R	N
Z	P	E	L	T	E	P	A	U	L	E
L	R	O	M	E	V	E	A	X	B	L
J	E	R	U	S	A	L	E	M	C	O
O	K	V	I	A	N	D	R	E	W	Z
E	V	S	E	I	R	I	T	W	M	A
A	N	A	N	I	A	M	L	I	T	R
W	A	P	O	C	H	A	I	N	S	K
L	K	E	R	E	A	O	L	T	Q	A
A	E	N	F	A	I	T	H	P	A	Z
N	C	H	R	I	S	T	O	E	Y	S

PETER

PAUL

ROME

JERUSALEM

ANDREW

ANANIA

CHAINS

FAITH

CHRIST





The Veneration of the Precious Chains of Apostle Peter

When the Holy Apostle Peter preached the word about the crucified Christ to the Jews in Jerusalem, King Herod Agrippa had already begun to persecute the Christian church. James, the first bishop of the city of Jerusalem, was executed in cold blood. In addition, King Herod captured Peter, chained him in long chains and threw him into one of the prison dungeons. Because Herod feared for his throne, his intention was to kill Peter and thus further intimidate other Christians.

The Apostle Peter slept between two soldiers and guards stood in front of the dungeon door. One night an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone on the room. The angel of the Lord tapped Peter on the ribs, woke him up and said to him, "Get up quickly!" At that moment, while the guards were asleep, the chains fell off Peter's hands by themselves. He put on his shoes and came out of the prison with the angel. When they reached the gates of the city of Jerusalem, they opened on their own. The angel of the Lord then departed, and Peter recounted this event as a vision.

The Precious Chains were faithfully kept by Christians, respecting the memory of Peter, the great disciple of Christ. In addition, the Chains had healing power, and many sick treated their diseases by touching these Chains.

The Patriarch of Jerusalem, Saint Juvenal, gave these Chains as a gift to Empress Eudocia. The Empress sent one half of the Chains to the Church of the Holy Apostles in Constantinople, and the other to her daughter Empress Eudocia, the wife of Emperor Valentinian III, in Rome.

She showed the Precious Chains to Pope Leo I, who compared them to those Chains with which the Holy Apostle Peter was tied in the Mamertine Prison near the Forum in Rome. According to tradition, the Chains miraculously fused together into one unbreakable series of links! Because of this miracle, Empress Eudocia built the Basilica of Saint Peter in Chains (San Pietro in Vincoli) in the year 442. The Venerable Chains of the Holy Apostle Peter are kept in this church dedicated to this New Testament event.

The golden casket with Chains can be seen under the main altar of this beautiful basilica, which is located near the Colosseum.



The Precious Chains of The Holy Apostle Peter

In "Letters from Italy," the writer Ljubomir Nenadovic describes the encounter of Bishop Petar II Petrovic-Njegosh with these Chains. The writer describes that the bishop did not want to kiss the Chains, saying that "Montenegrins do not kiss chains". The Chains reminded him of the centuries-old slavery of the Serbian people under the Turks, and that is why he refused to kiss them, even though he deeply respected the image of the Holy Apostle Peter.

The Orthodox Church celebrates the memory of the miracle of Peter's rescue from bondage by the angel on January 29. Many Serbian Orthodox families celebrate this biblical event as their slava, praying to the Holy Apostle Peter to bind every sin and spiritual temptation directed at us with His Precious Chains.





Test your Knowledge

1. Peter's name meaning:

- a) fast
- b) wise
- c) rock
- d) peaceful

3. Both apostles died as martyr in:

- a) Jerusalem
- b) Athens
- c) Alexandria
- d) Rome

5. The Apostle Peter's brother was:

- a) John
- b) Andrew
- c) Lazarus
- d) Mark

7. We celebrate St. Peter's day on:

- a) May 12
- b) July 12
- c) January 12
- d) December 12

2. St. Paul's original name was:

- a) Saul
- b) Nicodemus
- c) Philemon
- d) Timothy

4. Apostle Paul was:

- a) watchmaker
- b) shoemaker
- c) a tentmaker
- d) dressmaker

6. Apostle Paul wrote ___ epistles:

- a) 11
- b) 7
- c) 4
- d) 14

8. Ap. Paul never visited:

- a) Ephesus
- b) Nicea
- c) Jerusalem
- d) Rome

ANSWERS:

1-c; 2-a; 3-d; 4-c; 5-b; 6-d; 7-b; 8-b



Our children

from Saints Peter and Paul SOC- Atlanta, FL



Elena Strang

Saint Peter denounced Christ three times but he repented when he realized the mistake he made.



Stefan Vukasinovic

From Christ's 12 apostles Peter was the oldest.



Mila Bratic

Apostol Paul loved to fish.



Victoria Weeks

Apostle Peter was the first to declare Jesus the Son of God.



Sara Sabo

The name Peter means rock.

Novak Sobo

I love it when its Slava of the church because then we all play on the playground and all the kids eat.



Our children

from Saints Peter and Paul SOC- Atlanta, FL



Emilija Vukasinovic

Our Church is called Peter and Paul.



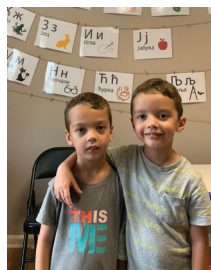
David Pelicans

Apostol Paul knew how to make a tent.



Khloe Macklin

Peter has a brother named Andrew who became an Apostle. Both became Christ's followers after their first meeting.



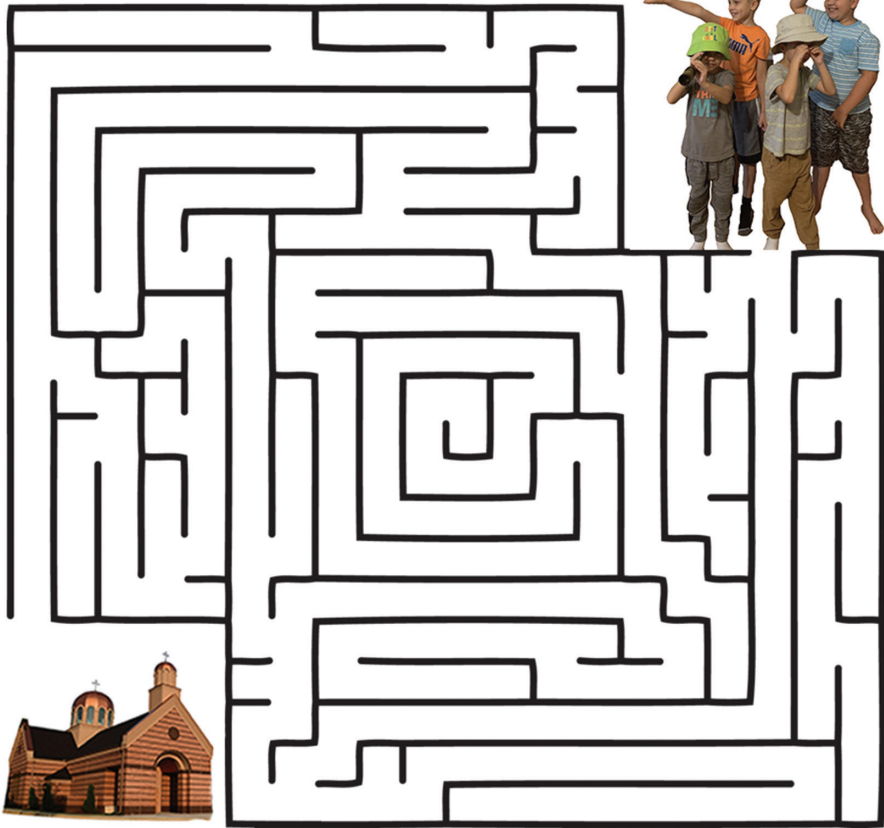
Nikola and Lazar Blagojevic

Our family slava is Saint Peter and Paul.



Stojan Gasic

I love it the most when for the church slava we cut the slava bread and later play together.



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