Christ is Risen!

On June 29th, we will celebrate the feast of the Chiefs of the Apostles, Sts. Peter and Paul. These two servants of God led the Apostles after Christ’s Ascension in the spreading of the Good News of the Church throughout the world. We celebrate them together, though they came to their calling in very different ways and at different times. St. Peter was a humble fisherman, not well educated, not well-spoken, who was called by Christ to become one of his disciples. Over the three years of His ministry, Christ taught and trained St. Peter, gradually building him up to take on God’s calling to be not just a disciple (a student), but an Apostle. St. Paul, on the other hand, was very well educated and very well spoken, one of the ruling elite. More than that, he was an enemy of the Church, an enemy of Christ, until Christ struck him blind on the road to Damascus. If we think of St. Peter’s calling as being gradual and gentle, then St. Paul’s calling was more like being hit over the head with a club. Each of us is called by God to be a saint. We are to be holy as God is holy, perfect as God is perfect, and to love God and our neighbor. But, like the Apostles Peter and Paul, each of us also has a unique calling. All are called to love, but not everyone’s path to love will be the same. For example, some are called to learn to love God through a spouse, through holy matrimony. Some are called to love God as monks and nuns. Still others are called neither to monasticism nor to marriage, but learn to love God as celibate laypeople in the world. All are called to serve, but not all are called to be Apostles, or priests. Some are called as artists, some as professionals. But this calling is not simply something we’re good at or like doing. Rather, it is rather the particular way that each of us is called to “work out our salvation.”

To some of us, our calling is given early, while others wait for years. Sometimes, the process is like the gentle voice of Christ urging Peter on. Other times, as with St. Paul, God has to use the 2-by-4 to get our attention. But if we don’t know yet what we are called to be, how do we find out?

First, we have to want it. There were many people who met Christ during His ministry and did not recognize Him or His call for them to repent. As Fr. Thomas Hopko said, “the will to find God’s will is essential.” We need the pure desire to see, to hear, to understand, and to obey. We have to leave our own will behind, and learn instead to say, like the prophet Samuel, “Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.”

Second, we should know that we’re going to need help! We need God’s help even just to want to follow Christ, even that simple act of willing to listen to God is beyond us, on our own. This means that we need to ask, we need to pray to God not just to give us our calling, but to prepare us so that when He calls us, we are able to hear His voice and follow Him.

Father’s message continued back page ....
Many thanks to all the women who prepare the Prosforon each week. It is truly an important offering for the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. If you are unable to prepare Prosforon for your scheduled Sunday, please contact the church office promptly.

PHILOPTOCHOS CORNER

Philoptochos members worked very hard during this Easter season to bring beauty and fellowship to our church. Again this year Helen Morris decorated the church with gorgeous flowers that gave so much pleasure to all. We thank her!

Our June meeting is planned for Wednesday, June 5th at 5:30 for dinner. We will meet at Timber’s Bar and Grill. Invitation is for all members and those that would like to join us.

Have a great summer and we look forward to working together during the festival.

Joni Porchia,
President
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**Saint Demetrios Calendar of Events - June 2019**

- **Sunday**
  - **6:30 AM** Divine Liturgy
  - **9:30 AM** Compline
  - **10:30 AM** Holy Cross Service
  - **12:30 PM** Vesperas (6:00 PM)
  - **7:30 PM** Philokalion Lectio

- **Monday**
  - **6:30 AM** Divine Liturgy (10:00 AM)
  - **9:30 AM** Compline

- **Tuesday**
  - **6:30 AM** Divine Liturgy
  - **9:30 AM** Compline

- **Wednesday**
  - **6:30 AM** Divine Liturgy
  - **9:30 AM** Compline

- **Thursday**
  - **6:30 AM** Divine Liturgy
  - **9:30 AM** Compline

- **Friday**
  - **6:30 AM** Divine Liturgy
  - **9:30 AM** Compline

- **Saturday**
  - **6:30 AM** Divine Liturgy
  - **9:30 AM** Compline

- **Sunday**
  - **6:30 AM** Divine Liturgy
  - **9:30 AM** Compline
Father’s Message Continued…

Finally, we must be faithful where we are. Fr. Hopko once wrote that a clear expression of our own disobedience and self-will is our desire to be someone else, somewhere else, sometime else. How often have we heard, or even said that if only we lived in other place, in other time, or in other circumstances, then we could be holy? If we only had more time, if we only lived closer to Church, if we only had more money. But God isn’t calling us in another time, or another place, and He isn’t calling the more perfect version of “me” that exists only in my head. He is calling us here, now, and as we are. Indeed, He has given us this particular time and place for our salvation. Our particular calling is not just what “feels right” or what “makes us happy,” but it is rather exactly what we need to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. We are called, as the saying goes, “to blossom where we are planted.”

As we celebrate the Chiefs of the Apostles, let us consider our own callings. Let us earnestly seek to hear the voice of Christ, asking for His help and striving here and now to leave everything else and follow Him. Let us follow God’s call to us to be faithful Christians, and earnestly seek our individually calling so that in every place, and in every way, we may proclaim the coming of Christ.

Christ is Risen!

-Fr. Timothy