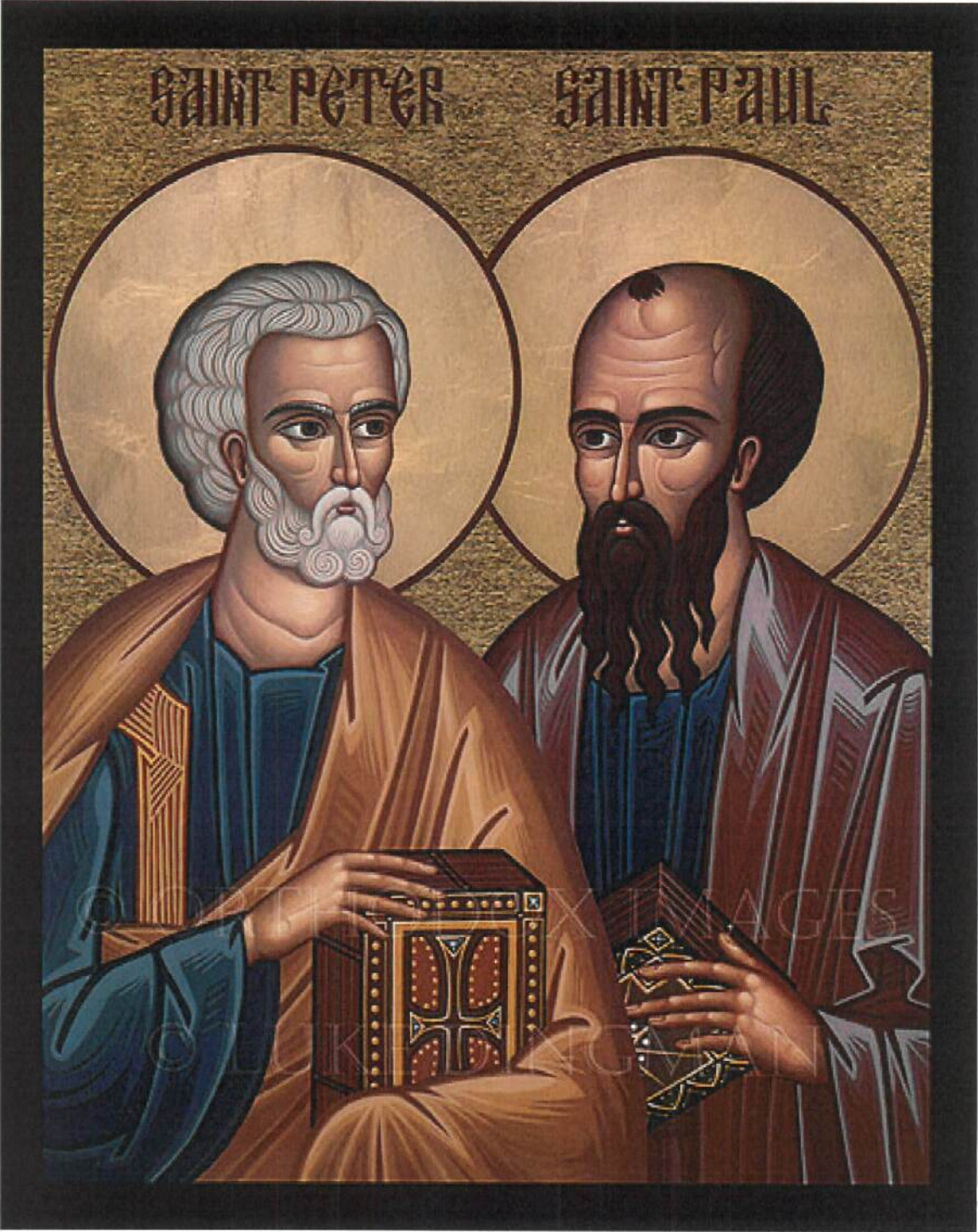




The Voice

June
July
2026





The Voice is published monthly by
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Meetings

Parish Council
 3rd Tuesday
 6:30 PM

Philoptochos
 1st Saturday
 10:00 AM

Bible Study
 Every 2nd & 4th
 Wednesday
 10:30 AM

GOYA
 last Sunday
 12:00 noon

Book Store
 Chayse Cloonan

F.I.S.H.E.R. Men
 Aaron Knapp
 Every 1st & 3rd Monday
 6:00 PM

Discover Orthodoxy
 Every 2nd & 4th Monday
 6:30 PM

Philoptochos

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Note to Parishioners:

We invite all parishioners to submit items of interest for our monthly newsletter, *The Voice*.

This may include articles, stories that are relevant and important news in the lives of our parishioners.

Please submit material to the church office before the 15th of each month for review and inclusion in the next month's issue. Thank you.

Summer Fasting

Summertime! We think about school being finished, the kids at home and getting bored, the slow season in Florida (*our winter friends have gone "up North"*), vacation plans, camp, activities, and more. Somehow, for many people, God and Church are set aside.

There are, however, two fasting periods during the summer months to help us direct our thoughts and prayers. Fasting is an integral part of the Orthodox Christian life. Properly used fasting is a tool to help us focus our prayer life.

June 8th we will begin what is probably the lesser known, and thus less observed period of fasting, The Fast of the Apostles. What makes this fast elusive is that it varies in length each year depending on the Paschal Cycle, that is on the date of Pascha. This fast begins the Monday after All Saint's Day and extends through June 28th. Therefore it can last from zero days (as in 2002) to twenty-nine days (in 2010). This year the Fast of the Apostles is 21 days.

August brings the Dekapentavgousto, the fifteen days devoted to the Theotokos. We fast August 1st through the 14th. We participate in the Paraklesis prayer services where we chant hymns to the Theotokos and we pray for our loved ones and all those with special needs.

In "A Dictionary of Greek Orthodoxy" we read: "As with other religious ordinances and observances, the Christian Church adopted fasting from Judaism where it was enforced vigorously. Christ Himself observed fasting and recommended it by teaching (Matthew 6:16, Mark 2:20, and 9:29). The Apostles also observed fasting (Acts 13:2, 14:23; II Corinthians 2:27). In the early Church, regular fast days were soon established, two of them -- Wednesdays and Fridays -- being mentioned in the very ancient document Didache.

"... the value of fasting lies in its penitential character designed to strengthen the spiritual life by weakening the attractions of the senses. Coupled with self-reflection and prayer, fasting can prove a powerful ally to a believer in his struggle to raise himself above gluttony and other carnal and material urges. However, fasting is not of the nature of banking credits in heaven, as some seem to believe. St. John Chrysostom, in an eruption against fasting taken by some to be the embodiment of Christian living, said the famous, 'more attention should be paid to things that come out of one's mouth rather than the things that go in it'. Still, fasting may prove invaluable to those who take it seriously and not merely as an expression of outer piety which they feel they should observe."

Our Archdiocese Fasting Guidelines found in the annual Yearbook read, "Just as there are times for feasting, there are also times set aside for fasting. During these periods, certain foods are prohibited. These are, in order of frequency of prohibition, meat (including poultry), dairy products, fish, olive oil and wine. Fruits, vegetables, grains and shellfish are permitted throughout the year. Of course, the Orthodox Church never reduces the practice of fasting to a legalistic observance of dietary rules. Fasting, that is not accompanied by intensified prayer and acts of charity, inevitably becomes a source of pride. The Church also recognizes that not everyone can fast to the same degree, and assumes that individual Christians will observe the fast prescribed for them by their Spiritual Fathers."

Living our life as Christians faithfully, following the example and teachings of Jesus, should be our goal. The manner in which we do this is a serious endeavor, something we struggle with throughout our life. In our Orthodox Christian tradition we turn to a spiritual father as a guide in this journey. We use fasting and prayer as tools necessary to accomplish our task, that is reaching 'a Christian end of our lives, peaceful, without shame and suffering, and for a good account before the awesome judgement seat of Christ'.



Peter and Paul, the Holy Apostles (June 29)

The divinely-blessed Peter was from Bethsaida of Galilee. He was the son of Jonas and the brother of Andrew the First-called. He was a fisherman by trade, unlearned and poor, and was called Simon; later he was renamed Peter by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, Who looked at him and said, "Thou art Simon the son of Jonas; thou shalt be called Cephas (which is by interpretation, Peter)" (John 1:42). On being raised by the Lord to the dignity of an Apostle and becoming inseparable from Him as His zealous disciple, he followed Him from the beginning of His preaching of salvation up until the very Passion, when, in the court of Caiaphas the high priest, he denied Him thrice because of his fear of the Jews and of the danger at hand. But again, after many bitter tears, he received complete forgiveness of his transgression. After the Resurrection of Christ and the descent of the Holy Spirit, he preached in Judea, Antioch, and certain parts of Asia, and finally came to Rome, where he was crucified upside down by Nero, and thus he ascended to the eternal habitations about the year 66 or 68, leaving two Catholic (General) Epistles to the Church of Christ.

Paul, the chosen vessel of Christ, the glory of the Church, the Apostle of the Nations and teacher of the whole world, was a Jew by race, of the tribe of Benjamin, having Tarsus as his homeland. He was a Roman citizen, fluent in the Greek language, an expert in knowledge of the Law, a Pharisee, born of a Pharisee, and a disciple of Gamaliel, a Pharisee and notable teacher of the Law in Jerusalem. For this cause, from the beginning, Paul was a most fervent zealot for the traditions of the Jews and a great persecutor of the Church of Christ; at that time, his name was Saul (Acts 22:3-4).

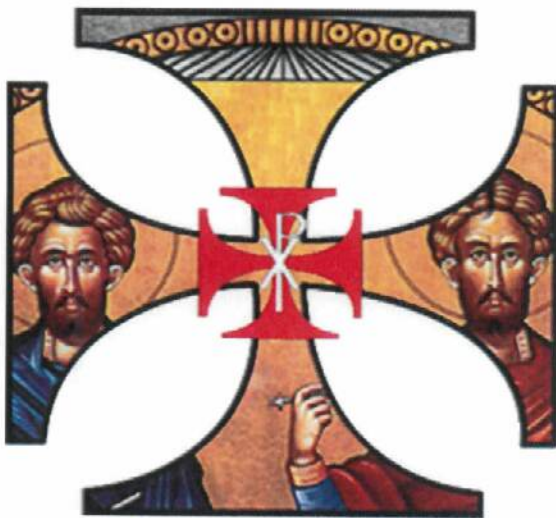
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a great persecutor of the Church of Christ; at that time, his name was Saul (Acts 22:3-4). In his great passion of rage and fury against the disciples of the Lord, he went to Damascus bearing letters of introduction from the high priest. His intention was to bring the disciples of Christ back to Jerusalem in bonds. As he was approaching Damascus, about midday there suddenly shone upon him a light from Heaven. Falling on the earth, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?" And he asked, "Who art Thou, Lord?" And the Lord said, "I am Jesus Whom thou persecutest; it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." And that heavenly voice and brilliance made him tremble, and he was blinded for a time. He was led by the hand into the city, and on account of a divine revelation to the Apostle Ananias (see Oct. 1), he was baptized by him, and both his bodily and spiritual eyes were opened to the knowledge of the Sun of Righteousness. And straightway- O wondrous transformation! - beyond all expectation, he spoke with boldness in the synagogues, proclaiming that "Christ is the Son of God" (Acts 9:1-21). As for his zeal in preaching the Gospel after these things had come to pass, as for his unabating labors and afflictions of diverse kinds, the wounds, the prisons, the bonds, the beatings, the stonings, the shipwrecks, the journeys, the perils on land, on sea, in cities, in wildernesses, the continual vigils, the daily fasting, the hunger, the thirst, the nakedness, and all those other things that he endured for the Name of Christ, and which he underwent before nations and kings and the Israelites, and above all, his care for all the churches, his fiery longing for the salvation of all, whereby he became all things to all men, that he might save them all if possible, and because of which, with his heart aflame, he continuously traveled throughout all parts, visiting them all, and like a bird of heaven flying from Asia and Europe, the West and East, neither staying nor abiding in any one place - all these things are related incident by incident in the Book of the Acts, and as he himself tells them in his Epistles. His Epistles, being fourteen in number, are explained in 250 homilies by the divine Chrysostom and make manifest the loftiness of his thoughts, the abundance of the revelations made to him, the wisdom given to him from God, wherewith he brings together in a wondrous manner the Old with the New Testaments, and expounds the mysteries thereof which had been concealed under types; he confirms the doctrines of the Faith, expounds the ethical teaching of the Gospel, and demonstrates with exactness the duties incumbent upon every rank, age, and order of man. In all these things his teaching proved to be a spiritual trumpet, and his speech was seen to be more radiant than the sun, and by these means he clearly sounded forth the word of truth and illumined the ends of the world. Having completed the work of his ministry, he likewise ended his life in martyrdom when he was beheaded in Rome during the reign of Nero, at the same time, some say, when Peter was crucified.

Q: Where is the first baseball game in the Bible?

A: In the big inning, Eve stole first, Adam stole second, Cane struck out Abel and the Giants and the Angels were rained out.



Philoptochos

This past year has been a very productive year for the Philoptochos.

At our last meeting (May 2nd), we discussed activities during the summer months.

Father's Day (June 21st) - Philoptochos will take care of the coffee hour for that Sunday. Fr. Andrew will be away on vacation for Father's Day.

On Saturday, August 1st at 11:00 am (start of St. Mary's lent), Fr. Andrew will have a Paraklesis service (prayers for the living) for the Philoptochos. After the service we will have a lenten gathering in the church hall. Everyone would be welcome.

Fr. Andrew also mentioned about Dormition of the Theotokos on Saturday, August 15th. Plans would be decided at a later date.

Coffee Hours: Thanks to those of you who always contribute food and supplies to this important function. You do not have to be a Philoptochos member to donate items for the coffee hours. Donations of paper supplies - plates (8" & 6") and napkins would also be appreciated. Coffee hour is an important time to socialize after church and welcome new members and visitors. Also, this is another one of our fundraisers. Please be generous with your monetary donations.

Our next meeting will tentatively be the first Saturday in September. Confirmation to follow. Please plan to attend this important meeting. We will be discussing our plans for this coming year. We meet once a month.

Annual dues are \$30.00.

Hope everyone is having a wonderful and happy summer.

God's blessings to all of you.

In Christ,
Helen Penkosky

Your Stewardship

Greetings Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

At the recent General Assembly Meeting, I mentioned that “Stewardship is the backbone of a church in which to meet its finances”. When this is not fulfilled, we must rely on our festival funds. We are very fortunate to have been blessed with successful festivals. A portion of funds raised, after all expenses have been paid, were initially meant for charitable needs. However, in addition to charities there is always a need for repairs and or upgrades to our Church and hall. Projects are ongoing and there will always be projects in the pipeline. The way to address these needs is by increasing our stewardship.

Improvements in the school house are ongoing as we need to be prepared for a rental, hopefully soon, as there is an interested party. The biggest need is to replace two A/Cs. We are also in the planning stage of upgrades in the hall and narthex bathrooms. Quite a few churches have begun utilizing a new avenue of fund raising called “planned giving”. The Parish Council is working on a date for a presentation to our parishioners. More information to come.

The stewardship goal for 2026 has been budgeted at \$205,000. To date, \$130,590 has been pledged - not collected – with 89 s/ship forms which does not equal the number of our parishioners. If you have been hesitant to submit a Stewardship Form, please know it is understood that there are times our finances change. It is never too late to submit your form and they are available in the narthex and church office. Will we receive \$205,000? That does depend a lot on our giving when we are not in church due to vacations – 1 week, 2 or 3 weeks? We also have parishioners who travel North for several months, some for 4 or 5. You know how when you travel, and you may be up north, your monthly bills from the south always seem to find you? There is no hiding! Would you say: I’m not there using any utilities so I don’t need to pay? Of course not! Then let’s also remember St. Nicholas when away and make that extra effort to help reach our goal of \$205,000.

Thank you for your continued generosity and love for St. Nicholas Church.

With Love in Christ,
Sharon Colonis
Stewardship Chair

***“Use me God. Show me how to take who I am,
Who I want to be, and what I can do, and
Use it for a purpose greater than myself.”***
(Martin Luther King, Jr.)

Parishioner Happenings



On May 2 we witnessed the 40 Day Blessing of mother Jennifer Franklin and baby Cole Martin.



2025-2026 Sunday School Graduation



If two vegans are arguing
is it still called a beef?



Popcorn is
explosions
frozen in time
that you can eat.

Annual St. Nicholas Church Picnic

Saturday, July 11
10:00 - 4:00

Lunch at 12:00 noon
provided by the Parish Council

Pepper Park - Pavilion # 1
North A-1-A, Fort Pierce
Next to the Seal Museum
In the back North lot

Bring your own
drinks and
something to share

June 2026

Sunday Services: 8:45 AM-Orthros 10:00 AM-Liturgy	1	2	3	4	5	6
	6:00 PM - FISHER Men					
7 All Saints	8	9	10	11	12	13 Prep for Graceway
			Father Andrew away			
14 2nd Sunday of Matthew GraceWay Cooking 12 noon Visiting Priest	15 6:00 PM - FISHER Men	16	17	18	19	20
	Father Andrew away					
21 3rd Sunday of Matthew Father's Day Visiting Priest	22	23	24 Philoptochos Luncheon @ Gator Trace 12:00 - 3:00	25	26	27
	Father Andrew away					
28 4th Sunday of Matthew	29	30				
	Clergy/Laity in OH.					

July 2026

Sunday Services: 8:45 AM-Orthros 10:00 AM-Liturgy			1	2	3	4
			Father Andrew @ Clergy/Laity			
5 5th Sunday of Matthew	6 6:00 PM - FISHER Men	7	8 10:30 AM - Bible Study	9	10	11 Annual Church Picnic @ Pepper Park 10 AM - 4 PM
12 6th Sunday of Matthew	13 6:30 PM - Discover Orthodoxy	14	15	16	17	18
19 Sunday of the Holy Fathers	20 6:00 PM - FISHER Men	21 Council Meeting 6:30pPM	22 10:30 AM - Bible Study	23	24	25
26 8th Sunday of Matthew	27 6:30 PM - Discover Orthodoxy	28	29	30	31	