**Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles**

**Reading 1, *Acts 12:1-11***

1 It was about this [time](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=11571) that King [Herod](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5721) started persecuting certain members of the church. 2 He had [James](https://www.catholic.org/bible/book.php?id=66) the brother of [John](https://www.catholic.org/bible/book.php?id=50) beheaded, 3 and when he saw that this pleased the [Jews](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=6511) he went on to arrest Peter as well. 4 As it was during the days of Unleavened Bread that he had arrested him, he put him in prison, assigning four sections of four soldiers each to guard him, meaning to try him in public after the Passover. 5 All the [time](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=11571) Peter was under guard the church prayed to [God](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5217) for him unremittingly. 6 On the night before [Herod](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5721) was to try him, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, fastened with two chains, while guards kept watch at the main entrance to the prison. 7 Then suddenly an [angel](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=774) of the [Lord](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5217) stood there, and the cell was filled with light. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him. 'Get up!' he said, 'Hurry!' -- and the chains fell from his hands. 8 The [angel](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=774) then said, 'Put on your belt and sandals.' After he had done this, the [angel](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=774) next said, 'Wrap your cloak round you and follow me.' 9 He followed him out, but had no [idea](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=6024) that what the [angel](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=774) did was all happening in reality; he thought he was seeing a vision. 10 They passed through the first guard post and then the second and reached the iron gate leading to the city. This opened of its own accord; they went through it and had walked the whole length of one street when suddenly the [angel](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=774) left him. 11 It was only then that Peter came to himself. And he said, 'Now I know it is all true. The [Lord](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5217) really did send his [angel](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=774) and save me from [Herod](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5721) and from all that the [Jewish](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=6511) people were expecting.'

**Responsorial Psalm, *Psalms 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9***

R**.        (5) The angel of the Lord will rescue those who fear him.**

I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall be ever in my mouth.
Let my soul glory in the LORD; the lowly will hear me and be glad.
R.        **The angel of the Lord will rescue those who fear him.**
Glorify the LORD with me, let us together extol his name.
I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.
**R**.        **The angel of the Lord will rescue those who fear him.**
Look to him that you may be radiant with joy, and your faces may not blush with shame.
When the poor one called out, the LORD heard, and from all his distress he saved him.
**R.        The angel of the Lord will rescue those who fear him.**
The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.
Taste and see how good the LORD is; blessed the man who takes refuge in him.
R.        **The angel of the Lord will rescue those who fear him.**

**Reading 2, *Second Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18***

6 As for me, my [life](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=7101) is already being poured away as a libation, and the [time](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=11571) has come for me to depart. 7 I have fought the [good](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5257) fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; 8 all there is to come for me now is the crown of uprightness which the Lord, the upright judge, [will](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=12332) give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his appearing. 17 But the [Lord](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5217) stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed for all the [gentiles](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5057) to hear; and so I was saved from the lion's mouth. 18 The [Lord](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5217) [will](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=12332) rescue me from all [evil](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=4469) attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be [glory](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5201) for ever and ever. Amen.

**Alleluia** [**Mt 16:18**](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/matthew/16?18)

R. Alleluia, alleluia. You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church,
and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. R. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Gospel, *Matthew 16:13-19***

13 When [Jesus](https://www.catholic.org/clife/jesus) came to the region of Caesarea [Philippi](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=9300) he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of [man](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=7463) is?' 14 And they said, 'Some say [John](https://www.catholic.org/bible/book.php?id=50) the Baptist, some Elijah, and others [Jeremiah](https://www.catholic.org/bible/book.php?id=30) or one of the prophets.' 15 'But you,' he said, 'who do you say I am?' 16 Then [Simon Peter](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=10842) spoke up and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' 17 Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a blessed man! Because it was no human agency that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. 18 So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I [will](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=12332) build my community. And the gates of the underworld can never overpower it. 19 I [will](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=12332) give you the keys of the kingdom of Heaven: whatever you bind on earth [will](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=12332) be bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth [will](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=12332) be loosed in heaven.'