

St. Peter Claver Chapel

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Rev. Fr. Christopher Spray – Pastor

4th Sunday after Pentecost

Monday, June 22 | 7:30am | **St. Paulinus**
Donor Intention - JF

Tuesday, June 23 | 7:30am | **Vigil of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist**
Donor Intention - EG

Wednesday, June 24 | 7:30am | **THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**
Pro Populo

Thursday, June 25 | 7:30am | **St. William, Within the Octave**
Donor Intention - TG

Friday, June 26 | 7:30am | **Sts. John & Paul, Within the Octave**
Donor Intention - GG

Saturday, June 27 | 7:30am | **Within the Octave, Vigil of Sts. Peter and Paul**
Donor Intention - EG

• Sunday, June 28 | 9:00am | **5th Sunday after Pentecost, St. Iranaeus, Within the Octave**
Pro Populo

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Collection

6/14 - \$795

- The sanctuary lamp burns this week for an expectant mother and her baby by the Rusich Family

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost presents us with a profound meditation on the intersection of human insufficiency and divine superabundance. In the traditional Gospel from St. Luke, we find the Apostles exhausted after a night of fruitless labor on the Sea of Galilee. They have relied on their own skill, strength, and experience, yet their nets remain empty. It is only when they act at the word of Christ that they experience a harvest so overwhelming that their nets begin to break and their boats threaten to sink. This miraculous draught of fishes is not merely a display of divine power over creation; it is the definitive moment where Simon Peter is brought face-to-face with his own radical unworthiness. Falling at the knees of Jesus, he cries out, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord."

This cry of holy fear and profound humility is the necessary starting point for any true supernatural fruitfulness. Peter recognizes that before the all-holy God, human striving is completely unavailing on its own. Yet, our Lord does not depart; instead, He calms Peter's terror with the words, "Fear not: from henceforth thou shalt catch men." Christ transforms Peter's empty nets into instruments of the Gospel, demonstrating that the Holy Ghost works most powerfully precisely where human weakness acknowledges its limitations. This theme resonates deeply with the Sunday Epistle from St. Paul to the Romans, which reminds us that the present sufferings of this life are not worthy to be compared with the glory to come. St. Paul describes a visible creation that "groaneth and travaileth in pain," eagerly awaiting the revelation of the sons of God and the redemption of our bodies. Like the empty nets of the fishermen, the world itself longs to be filled and restored by the renewing power of divine grace.

As we navigate this portion of the liturgical year, this Sunday also turns our eyes toward the great Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist on June 24. As the Precursor of Christ, St. John stands as the ultimate embodiment of the humility displayed by St. Peter in the fishing boat. John's entire mission was defined by a deliberate stepping back so that Christ might be brought forward, famously declaring that "He must increase, but I must decrease." His miraculous birth to the elderly and barren Elizabeth broke centuries of prophetic silence, mirroring the sudden, unexpected bursting of Peter's nets. Just as the miraculous catch signaled the beginning of the Apostles' public mission to gather souls into the barque of the Church, the birth of the Baptist signaled the dawning of the New Covenant.

Living out the spirit of this liturgical intersection requires us to examine where we are still relying on our own strength rather than the word of God. When our daily efforts feel empty, or when we look out at a world that seems to groan under the weight of spiritual poverty, we are invited to cast our nets anew at Christ's command. We must cultivate the wilderness-minds of St. John the Baptist and the repentant heart of St. Peter, stripping away the illusion of our own self-sufficiency. By entering into this state of holy humility, we allow the Holy Ghost to fill our emptiness, transform our labors, and make us effective instruments of Christ's truth in a world deeply longing for His redemption.