

A decorative border of various tropical plants, including Monstera leaves with characteristic holes, Bird of Paradise flowers in shades of orange, yellow, and blue, and ferns with spiral fronds, framing the central text.

Kids Bulletin

June 2021

Learn about Saints, National Donut Day,
The Summer Solstice & Father's Day

Saint Ephrem

Feast day June 9

Ephrem was born about 306 in a land that is today called Turkey. He was ordained a deacon and became a well-known teacher. Years later, his bishop suggested that Ephrem be a priest. Ephrem begged the bishop to allow him to stay a deacon because



he thought he was not good enough to be a priest.

When the Persian army conquered his homeland, Ephrem escaped to the mountains and lived as a monk alone in a cave. People came to listen to him and ask for help with their problems. At this time, Ephrem did a lot of writing. His homilies were popular, as were his religious poems. He also took the songs that heretics were teaching and changed the words to teach the truths of the Catholic faith.

Ephrem was one of the first to write songs for the liturgy of the Church.

He has been called “Harp of the Holy Spirit.” Quite a few of his homilies and hymns are devoted to Mary, the Mother of God. Ephrem died about 373. The Church later named him a Doctor of the Church.

Saints Peter and Paul

Feast day June 29

Peter and Paul are giants of the Church. Both are apostles. Peter was very likely a middle-aged man when Jesus called him. He was a fisherman from Bethsaida, a village near the Lake of Galilee. Perhaps he was part of a fisherman's co-op with his brother Andrew and friends James and John. At any rate, Andrew introduced Peter to Jesus. Jesus said, "You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas, meaning Rock."

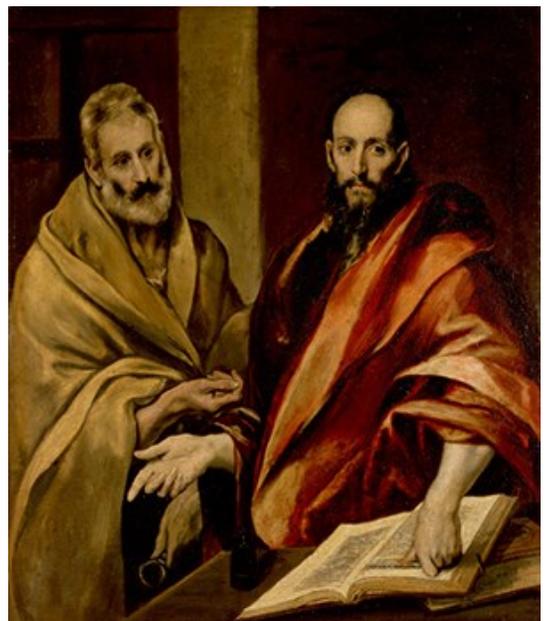
During the three years the apostles lived with Jesus, Peter showed definite signs of leadership. He was often the spokesman for the group. When Jesus asked, "Who do you say I am?" Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." It was Peter who objected to Jesus' stating that he was on his way to Jerusalem to suffer and die. Peter is mentioned 195 times in the New Testament. He appears lovable, impetuous, practical, and sometimes weak under pressure. Jesus loved him dearly, even after Peter denied knowing him during the passion

Peter became the leader in the early Church. According to the Acts of the Apostles, he was the first to preach on Pentecost. He arranged for the selection of Matthias to replace Judas. He worked the first public miracle: curing the lame man at the temple gate. He welcomed the first person who was not Jewish into the Church. People thought just his shadow passing by would cure them.

Peter was imprisoned three or four times. Finally, in Rome, he was sentenced to death by crucifixion. Out of respect for his Master, Jesus, he asked the guard to fasten him to the cross upside down. He was buried in an old Roman cemetery, probably where the basilica of St. Peter is today. He is called the "Prince of the Apostles." Two letters in the Bible are said to be his.

Paul received the best education. Being a strict Jew, he persecuted the Christians who were teaching strange new things. One day on the way to Damascus to hunt for Christians, Paul met Jesus. Paul became the greatest Christian missionary, preaching and founding churches. In the beginning Paul had difficulty convincing the Jewish Christians that non-Jews could be baptized and did not have to follow Jewish rules. He finally won.

For about thirty years Paul traveled around the Roman Empire preaching about Christ and suffering. From his many letters that are in the Bible and from the Acts of the Apostles, he seems to have been affectionate, loyal, courageous, and dedicated. He was the right man to build the bridge between Jewish religion of the Old Testament and the Christianity of the New Testament. Paul was imprisoned and finally beheaded outside of the walls of Rome.



National Donut Day – June 4, 2021

National Donut Day falls each year on the first Friday of June and we are getting geared up to savor our best-loved fried dough confections. Have you ever resisted eating one? It's certainly an uphill battle. Fortunately, National Donut Day falls this year on June 4. Be sure to visit your favorite donut shop, choose a variety of chewy deep-fried goodness, and enjoy.



WHAT IS THE SUMMER SOLSTICE?

June 20, 2021

The summer solstice is the longest day of the year when the Earth's North Pole is tilted closest to the sun. There are two solstices each year. One in June and one in December. The time of the solstice is the same all over the planet, but the season depends on where on Earth you are (Northern or Southern Hemisphere).

The term solstice is made up of the Latin *sol* meaning *the sun*, and *sistere* which means *make stand still*.

In the Northern Hemisphere the June solstice is the first day of summer and the December solstice the first day of winter. In the Southern Hemisphere it's the other way round.





Summer Solstice Activities

- sunrise / sunset yoga
- brew sun tea
- make a sundial
- make shadow art
- make bird feeders out of orange peels
- make energy bags with herbs & crystals
- make cupcakes / cake pops decorated like suns
- make wildflower suncatchers
- create "time capsule" envelopes. (Write down things that are going on, hopes, dreams, resolutions, etc. and put them in envelopes to open next year.)
- build a fire and roast marshmallows
- cookout/grill or make a summer meal together



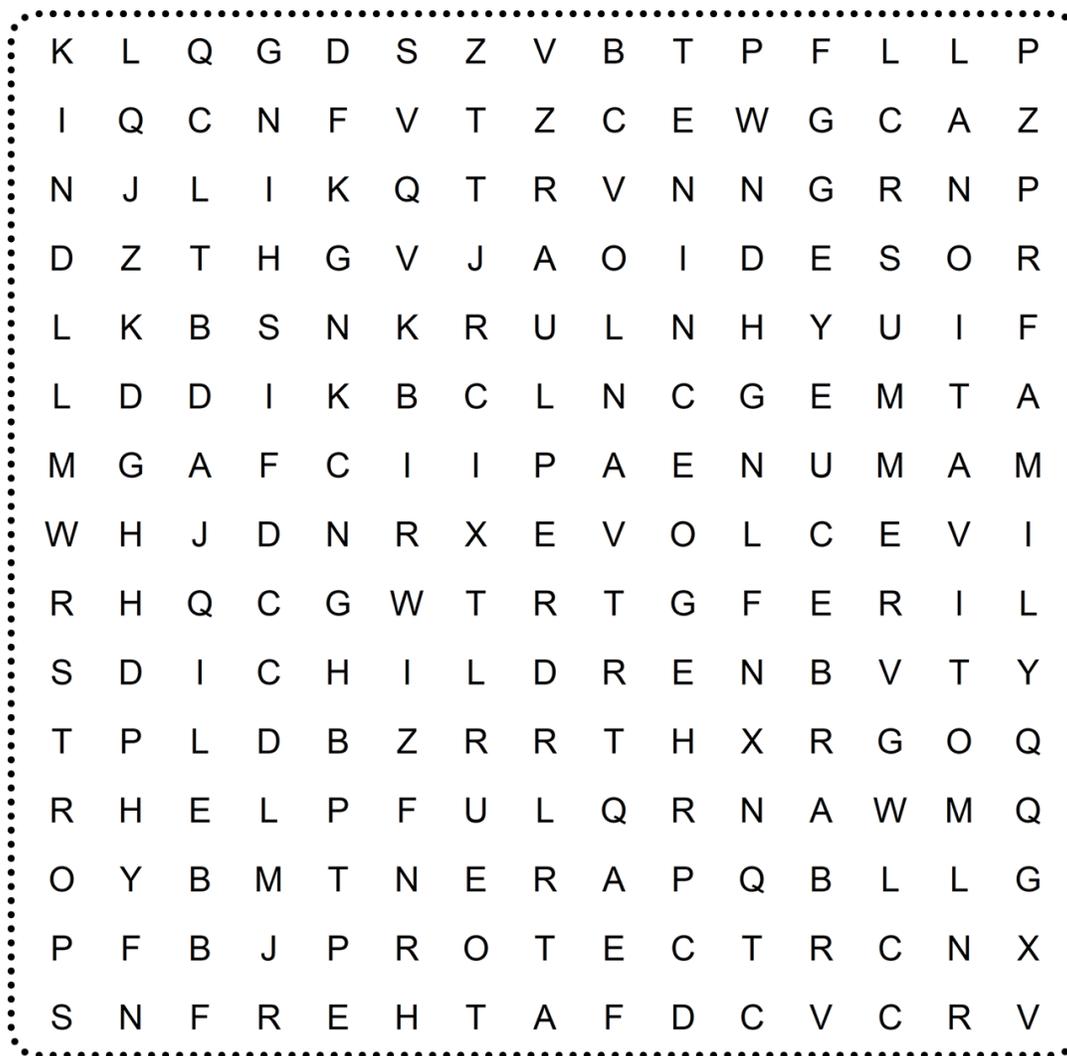
Father's Day June 20, 2021

The original Father's Day is thought to have been founded by Sonora Dodd in Spokane, Washington on June 19, 1910. Sonora and her five siblings were raised by their single-parent dad. She thought that since there was a Mother's Day, there should be a day to honor fathers as well. In 1916 President Woodrow Wilson visited Spokane and spoke at the Father's Day celebration. He wanted to make the day an official US holiday, but Congress didn't agree. President Calvin Coolidge tried again in 1924, but the day still didn't become a holiday. The main reason was because many people felt that the day was too commercial. That the only reason to have the holiday was so that companies who sold ties and men's clothing could make money. In 1966 President Lyndon Johnson proclaimed the third Sunday of June as Father's Day. The national holiday was finally signed into law in 1972 by President Richard Nixon. Since then the day has become a major holiday in the United States.

Fun Facts About Father's Day

- ◆ There are around 70 million fathers in the United States.
- ◆ Sonora initially wanted the day to be on her dad's birthday which was June 5th, but the preachers needed more time after Mother's Day to write their sermons, so the day was moved back to the third Sunday in June.
- ◆ There was a movement in the 1930s to combine Mother's Day and Father's Day in to Parent's Day.
- ◆ Around \$1 billion is spent each year on Father's Day gifts.
- ◆ For many dads, they consider being a father the most important job they have.

FATHER'S DAY WORD SEARCH



BARBECUE
BRAVE
CHILDREN
DAD
FAMILY

FATHER
FISHING
GRILLING
HELPFUL
JUNE

KIND
LOVE
MOTIVATIONAL
PARENT
PICNIC

PROTECT
SPORTS
STRONG
SUMMER
TEACHER