

Dedication of the Basilicas of Ss Peter & Paul: From the 12th century the dedications of the Vatican Basilica of St. Peter and the Basilica of St. Paul on the Via Ostiense have been celebrated on this day, as the anniversary of their dedication by Pope Saint Silvester and Pope Saint Siricius in the 4th Century. This feast honours the memory of the two princes of the Apostles.



First Reading: (1 Macc 2:15-29) The king's officers who were enforcing the apostasy came to the city of Modein to make them offer sacrifice. Many from Israel came to them; and Mattathias and his sons were assembled. Then the king's officers spoke to Mattathias as follows: "You are a leader, honoured and great in this city, and supported by sons and brothers. Now be the first to come and do what the king commands, as all the Gentiles and the men of Judah and those that are left in Jerusalem have done. Then you and your sons will be numbered among the friends of the king, and you and your sons will be honoured with silver and gold and many gifts." But Mattathias answered and said in a loud voice: "Even if all the nations that live under the rule of the king obey him, and have chosen to do his commandments, departing each one from the religion of his fathers, yet I and my sons and my brothers will live by the covenant of our fathers. Far be it from us to desert the law and the ordinances. We will not obey the king's words by turning aside from our religion to the right hand or to the left." When he had finished speaking these words, a Jew came forward in the sight of all to offer sacrifice upon the altar in Modein, according to the king's command. When Mattathias saw it, he burned with zeal and his heart was

stirred. He gave vent to righteous anger; he ran and killed him upon the altar. At the same time he killed the king's officer who was forcing them to sacrifice, and he tore down the altar. Thus he burned with zeal for the law, as Phinehas did against Zimri the son of Salu. Then Mattathias cried out in the city with a loud voice, saying: "Let every one who is zealous for the law and supports the covenant come out with me!" And he and his sons fled to the hills and left all that they had in the city. Then many who were seeking righteousness and justice went down to the wilderness to dwell there.

Ps 118:135

R./ I will show God's salvation to the upright.

Gospel: (Lk 19:41-44) When he drew near and saw the city he wept over it, saying, "Would that even today you knew the things that make for peace! But now they are hid from your eyes. For the days shall come upon you, when your enemies will cast up a bank about you and surround you, and hem you in on every side, and dash you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave one stone upon another in you; because you did not know the time of your visitation.

REFLECTION

Jesus is able to see the evil consequences that the sin of man brings. Jerusalem was chosen by God to be the dwelling place of God and as a sign of his loving presence amidst them. But because of the indifference of the people and because of their rejection of God's love the Jerusalem temple would be destroyed. He knew that it is the sin and rejection that would bring destruction upon them. **It is people's indifference towards God, church and religion that brings a lot of destruction** upon people. Jesus weeps over Jerusalem for its indifference and rejection. Does Jesus weep over me?