

St. Peter

The Apostle

Saint of the Month

February 2008



Feast Day: June 29

Patron Saint of: *fishermen, Popes, ship builders, stone masons*

Profile: *Fisherman, led to Jesus by his brother Andrew. Named Simon, renamed "Peter" (rock) as the foundation on which the Church would be built. Peter was the first Pope.*

Noted for: *Apostle, miracles, first pope.*

Represented by: *keys, man holding keys*

Suggestion for this month:

Pray for courage and wisdom to be a good model for others.

Learn about our Popes. Which pope do you most admire, and why?

Character Trait: Responsibility

Virtue: Hope

Peter was one of the twelve Apostles of Jesus Christ, and was first amongst the Apostles. Peter was recognized as being the question asker and the Apostle spokesman. He saw Jesus heal and heard Him teach. He ate with Jesus, walked with Him, touched Him, sang with Him and saw the dust on Jesus' feet. He saw the Glory of Jesus and saw Him suffer. Then Peter saw the resurrected Jesus, and watched Him ascend to Heaven.

Peter was with Jesus every day, yet still did not understand everything Jesus taught. He needed further explanation from Jesus and the help of the Holy Spirit. We have Christ's Words available to us and can pray for help in understanding it.

Peter made mistakes sometimes, and this helps us to realize that mistakes will happen, and can be forgiven and overcome.

He is often depicted with keys to indicate his responsibility to the kingdom of Heaven, and in particular we think of him as related to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Jesus gave him and his successors the power to "bind and loose" and this power and responsibility continue today in our priests. The pope is the successor of Peter.



Prayer to Saint Peter:

Blessed Apostle Peter, to whom God has given the keys of the kingdom of Heaven, and the power to bind and loose, grant that we may be delivered through the help of your intercession from the bonds of our sins.

O, Holy Shepherd, Prince of the Apostles, pray for us that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.