

**St. Peter**

**Lived:** First century

**Died:** (likely) around A.D. 64

**Feast Day:** June 29

**Patron** of fishermen, net makers, and ship builders

**Background**

Originally known as Simon, Jesus called the fisherman on the shores of the Sea of Galilee to abandon his fishing nets (and way of life) and follow Him on a new mission. As Jesus' ministry unfolded over the next three years, Simon's passion and zeal would be seen in a variety of ways. Jesus recognized something in Simon, though, that elevated him above the other eleven disciples.

One day, Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter (which means "rock"), signifying a change in his essence and mission. Peter became the first pope and the rock upon which Jesus would "build His Church."

Peter was one of Jesus' closest followers (along with James and John) and was present at many private, yet historic moments like the raising of Jairus' daughter, the Transfiguration, the Last Supper, the agony in the garden, and the Resurrection appearances.

Peter was one of the Lord's closest friends. Even though he sometimes spoke and acted without thinking, Jesus loved his humility and self-awareness. Peter did not pretend to be someone he was not. He was a sinner who wanted and needed God's mercy and forgiveness, and he was also a disciple who got back up after he fell. His life was filled with ups and downs, but he remained humble and kept learning lessons as he went along.

Saint Peter is a great patron for anyone who realizes their sinfulness, is quick-tempered, or has been called (or feels called) to lead but is a little insecure in their abilities. Like St. Peter, Jesus sees more in us than we see in ourselves. When we look at St. Peter,

we see someone who probably never thought he would be worthy of the role of the first pope, much less a recognized saint, which goes to show what can happen if we have the humility to follow the Holy Spirit one day at a time.

### **Notable Moments/Achievements**

- Listed first among the Twelve Apostles
- Walked on water
- Witnessed the empty tomb on Easter Sunday, along with another apostle
- Was given "the keys" to the Kingdom and named the first pope
- Was present at Pentecost and, through the Holy Spirit, became a powerful leader
- Credited with writing first and second Peter in the New Testament

### **Quotes**

"Lord, save me." (Matthew 14:30)

"Depart from me, for I am a sinful man." (Luke 5:8)

"We must obey God rather than men." (Acts 5:29)