

Year C - Saints Peter and Paul

Matthew 16:13-19

You are Peter; to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.



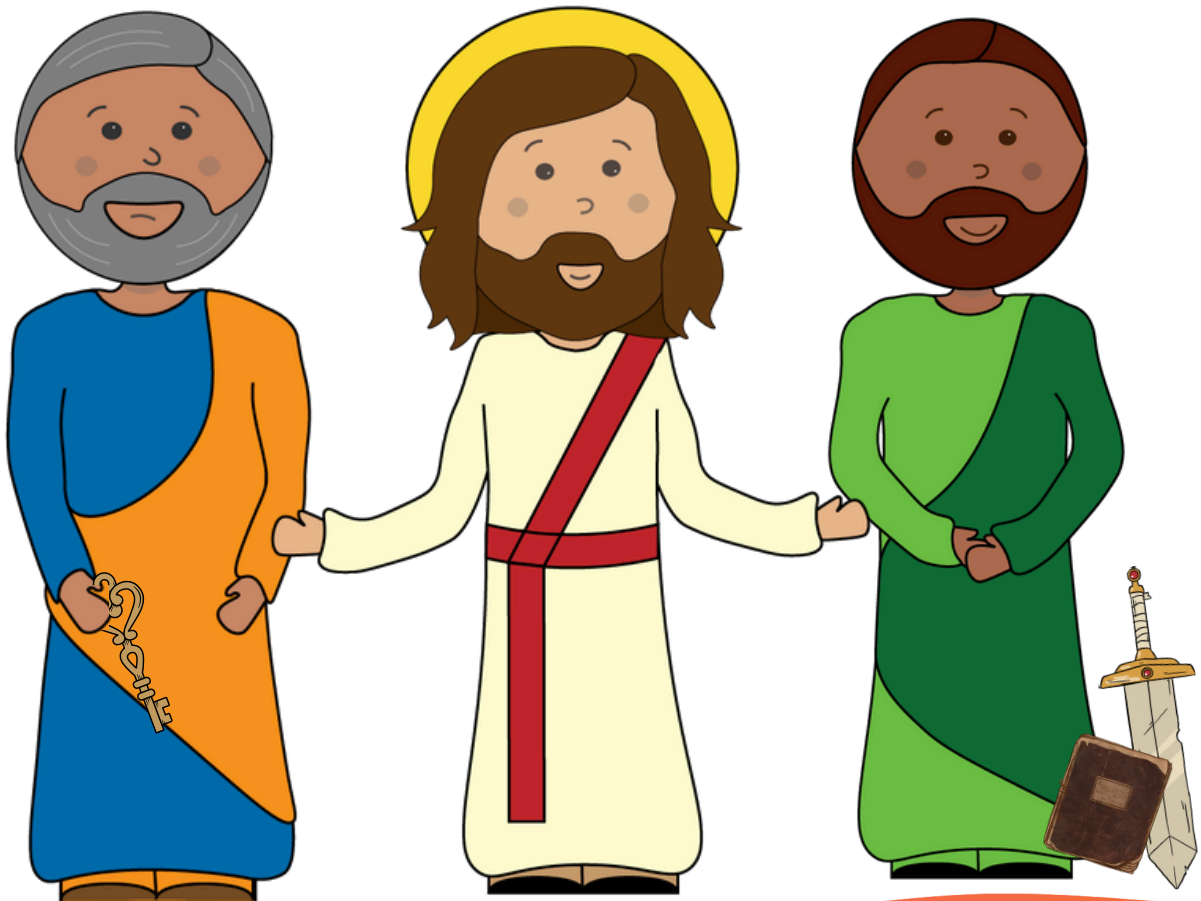
When Jesus and his disciples were near the town of Caesarea Philippi, he asked them, "What do people say about the Son of Man?"

The disciples answered, "Some people say you are John the Baptist or maybe Elijah or Jeremiah or some other prophet."

Then Jesus asked them, "But who do you say I am?"

Simon Peter spoke up, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

Jesus told him: "Simon, son of Jonah, you are blessed! You didn't discover this on your own. It was shown to you by my Father in heaven. So I will call you Peter, which means 'a rock.' On this rock I will build my Church, and death itself will not have any power over it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven, and God in heaven will allow whatever you allow on earth. But he will not allow anything that you don't allow."



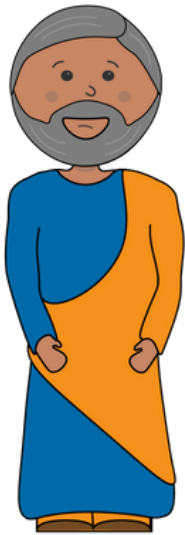
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Jesus asks a tricky question



Message



The Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul is a special day in the Church when we remember two important friends of Jesus who helped spread His message to many people. This feast is celebrated on June 29th every year.

Peter was a fisherman who became one of Jesus' closest friends. Jesus chose Peter to be the leader of His followers, and he is often seen as the first Pope. Peter loved Jesus very much and worked hard to tell others about Him.

Paul was not one of the original twelve apostles. At first, he did not believe in Jesus and even tried to stop His followers. But one day, he had a powerful experience that changed his heart. After that, he traveled far and wide to share the good news about Jesus, especially with people who were not Jewish.

We celebrate St Peter and St Paul together because, although Peter and Paul were very different, they both loved Jesus and worked together to help the Church grow. They both faced many challenges and even gave their lives for their faith. The Church honors them together because they are like two strong pillars that support the building of the Church.

Discussion questions

- Sometimes St Peter and St Paul are called 'pillar's' of the Church. What is a 'pillar' and why do you think people use this word to describe these men?
- Peter was the first pope - do you know the name of our pope today?
- Pope Francis teaches us to be like St Peter and St Paul and share the message of Jesus with others - how can we do that?
- If Jesus was here right now, and he asked us that question 'who do you say I am', what would you say?

