

MATTHEW 10:1-42, MATTHEW  
 16:13-20, JOHN 21:1-19, ACTS  
 2:1-36, 10:1-49

★ SEE ALSO FIRST MEETING OF  
 JESUS AND THE APOSTLES  
 (CARD 42), CALL OF THE FIRST  
 APOSTLES (CARD 43), SENDING  
 OUT OF THE TWELVE (CARD 48),  
 PETER'S CONFESSION OF FAITH  
 (CARD 56), JESUS AND PETER  
 (CARD 75), LARGE CATCH OF  
 FISH (CARD 84), SECOND LARGE  
 CATCH OF FISH (CARD 110)

★ CATECHISM 551-554, 611,  
 858-862



*Catechist  
Background  
Information*

**P**eter was very likely middle-aged when Jesus called him. He was married, for the Gospels report that Jesus cured his mother-in-law of a fever. Originally from Bethsaida, Peter was a fisherman on the Sea of Galilee. Perhaps he was part of a fisherman's co-op with his brother Andrew and friends James and John. According to the Gospel of John, Andrew introduced Peter, then called Simon, to Jesus. Jesus said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Kephas," translated as "Peter" and meaning "rock" (1:42). Jesus was to build his Church on that rock.

During the time the 12 apostles lived with Jesus, Peter showed signs of leadership. He was often the spokesman. When Jesus asked, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter replied, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). It was Peter who objected to Jesus' stating that he was on his way to Jerusalem to suffer and die and who was then called Satan by Jesus. It was Peter who walked on water toward Jesus but then sank. Peter appears lovable, impetuous, practical, and sometimes weak under pressure. Jesus loved him dearly.

At the Last Supper, Jesus predicted that Peter would deny him three times before the cock crowed. He said he would pray for him and that he was to strengthen his brothers. After Jesus' arrest Peter did deny knowing him. When the cock crowed, Jesus looked at Peter, who then wept bitterly.

After the Resurrection when the apostles were fishing, Jesus appeared on the shore and cooked fish for them. Recognizing Jesus, Peter dove into the sea and swam ashore. There Jesus asked him three times, "Do you love me?" Peter responded, "You know that I love you." Then Jesus told him to feed and tend his lambs and sheep (John 21:7-17). This episode reflects Peter's leadership position among the disciples. He became the leader of the early Church. The popes continue his ministry.

In the Acts of the Apostles, Peter arranged for the selection of Matthias to replace Judas (1:15-26). He was the first to preach on Pentecost (2:1-36). He worked the first public miracle: curing the lame man at the Temple gate (3:1-10). He welcomed the first person who was not Jewish into the Church (10:1-49). People thought just his shadow passing by would cure them (5:15).

Peter was imprisoned three or four times. In Rome, he was sentenced to death by crucifixion. According to tradition, out of respect for Jesus, Peter asked to be fastened to the cross upside down. He was buried in an old Roman cemetery, probably where the basilica of St. Peter is today. Two New Testament letters are credited to him.

St. Peter is the patron of fishermen. In his honor the Church celebrates the Feast of the Chair of Peter, Apostle, on February 22 and the Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul on June 29. Pictures of Peter show him with keys—the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

† ST. PETER, PRAY FOR US! †

DETERMINE what name Jesus would give you.

USE puppets or a flannel board to tell a story about Peter.

DECIDE how you would have consoled Peter after he denied Jesus.



# Jesus and Peter

JOHN 21:15-25

LECTIONARY: THIRD

SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR C

★ SEE ALSO ST. PETER (CARD 159), PETER'S CONFESSION OF FAITH (CARD 56), TRIALS OF JESUS (CARD 69), SECOND LARGE CATCH OF FISH (CARD 110)

★ CATECHISM 552, 553, 881



*Catechist  
Background  
Information*

If you were to visit the Sea of Galilee, on one shore you would find a small church called the Church of the

macy. It is built on top of several old churches believed to have preserved the site where, after the Resurrection, Jesus commanded Peter to lead his Church.

As John tells the story, seven of the apostles had spent the night fishing but without success. Someone standing on the shore advised them to throw their nets on the right side of the boat. When they followed this suggestion, their nets became so full they almost broke. John was first to recognize the Lord, but it was Peter who threw off his cloak, jumped into the sea, and swam ashore. A charcoal fire with fish and bread roasting over it had already been prepared for them. The other fishermen joined Jesus and Peter for breakfast.

After breakfast Jesus called Peter apart from the others and offered him the chance to make up for his three-fold denial the night of Jesus'

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arrest. Addressing him as Simon, son of John, Jesus asked, "Do you love me more than these?" Peter answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Then Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." A second time Jesus asked Peter if he loved him. This time was even more personal because he didn't say, "more than these." Again Peter repeated his answer. Jesus commanded, "Tend my sheep." When Jesus asked the question for the third time, Peter became quite uncomfortable. Did he remember a similar pattern of questions that led to his betrayal of his Lord? Puzzled and somewhat exasperated, Peter blurted out, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Again Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

Through this interview, Jesus appointed Peter chief shepherd of his Church. Down through the centuries Jesus would guide and care for his flock in the person of Peter and the popes who would be his successors.

After Peter's triple declaration of love, Jesus told him, "When you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." This statement is said to be a prophecy of Peter's death. After serving Jesus as the first leader of the Church, Peter, like his Master, was crucified.

### LORD, YOU KNOW THAT I LOVE YOU!

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| THINK of a time in your life when you did something wrong and the person you offended thought of a meaningful way for you to redeem yourself. | DISCUSS Peter's role in the early Church after reading one or more of these stories: Acts 2:14-41 (Peter's Pentecost sermon), Acts 3:1-10 (cure of the beggar), Acts | 9:36-43 (raising Dorcas to life), and Acts 10:1-48 (baptism of Cornelius).<br><br>ACT OUT a scene from Peter's life. |
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