



12 APOSTLES

Discovering the Twelve Apostles:
*Lessons in Faith for Classrooms,
Homeschooling, and Families*



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Pg#	Apostle
1.	<i>St. Matthew the Apostle</i>
2.	<i>St. Mark the Evangelist</i>
3.	<i>St. Luke the Evangelist</i>
4.	<i>St. John the Apostle</i>
5.	<i>St. James the Greater</i>
6.	<i>St. Philip the Apostle</i>
7.	<i>St. Bartholomew the Apostle</i>
8.	<i>St. Simon the Apostle</i>
9.	<i>St. Matthias the Apostle</i>
10.	<i>St. Thomas the Apostle</i>
11.	<i>St. Paul the Apostle</i>
12.	<i>St. Peter the Apostle</i>

St. Matthew the Apostle

Feast Day, September 21

The Patron Saint of Accounts, Bankers and Tax Collectors

St. Matthew was born in Galilee. He worked as a tax collector, which was a hated profession during the time of Christ.

According to the Gospel, Matthew was working at a collection booth in Capernaum when Christ came to him and asked, "Follow me." With this simple call, Matthew became a disciple of Christ.

From Matthew, we know of the many doings of Christ and the message Christ spread of salvation for all people who come to God through Him. The Gospel of Matthew is the first of the four Gospels in the New Testament.

Many years following the death of Christ, around 41 and 50 AD, Matthew wrote his Gospel account. He wrote the book in Aramaic in the hope that his account would convince his fellow people that Jesus was the Messiah and that His kingdom had been fulfilled in a spiritual way. It was an important message at a time when almost everyone was expecting the return of a militant messiah brandishing a sword.

It is believed that Matthew departed for other lands to escape persecution sometime after 42 AD. According to various accounts, he fled to Parthia and Persia, or Ethiopia. Nothing is recorded of St. Matthew's passing. We do not know how he died, if his death was natural or if he was martyred.

St. Matthew is often depicted with one of the four living creatures of Revelation 4:7, which reads, "The first living creature was like a lion, the second like a bull, the third living creature had a human face, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle."

St. Matthew is the patron saint of accountants and bankers. The Church established St. Matthew's feast day as September 21.



ST. MATTHEW VENERATED

Roman Catholic Church
Eastern Orthodox Church
Eastern Catholic Churches
Oriental Orthodoxy
Church of the East
Anglican Communion
Lutheranism

St. Mark the Evangelist

Feast Day, April 25

The Patron Saint of Notaries, Lawyers, City of Venice

St. Mark was the son of Mary of Jerusalem (Acts 12:12) whose home became a meeting place for the apostles. He is also the cousin of St. Barnabas (Colossians 4:10), a Levite and a Cypriot.

Mark joined St. Paul and St. Barnabas on their first missionary journey to Antioch in 44 A.D. When they reached Cyprus, Christian tradition holds that Mark left them and returned to Jerusalem, (Acts 13:13). This created a disagreement between Paul and Barnabas and led Paul to exclude Mark on their second journey to the churches of Cilicia and the rest of Asia Minor.

However, it can be assumed the troubles between Paul and Mark did not last long, because when Paul was first imprisoned, Mark, who was at the time in Rome with plans of visiting Asia Minor, visited him as one of his trusted companions (Col 4:10).

St. Mark also held a close relationship with St. Peter, who referred to Mark as 'his son' in his letter addressed to a number of churches in Asia Minor (1 Peter 5:13).

St. Mark lived for years in Alexandria, where he died as a martyr while being dragged through the streets.

Mark's Gospel was believed to be written between 60 and 70 A.D. and was based upon the teachings of St. Peter.

St. Mark's symbol is a winged lion. This may be from his description of St. John the Baptist, as "a voice of one crying out in the desert" (Mark 1:3). The wings come from Ezekiel's vision of four winged creatures as the evangelists.

The lion also may symbolize Jesus' Resurrection as lions were thought to sleep with their eyes open, possibly symbolizing Christ in his tomb, and Christ as king.

He is often depicted as writing or holding his Gospel. He is sometimes shown as a bishop on a throne or as a man helping Venetian sailors.



MAJOR SHRINES

Venice, Italy

Alexandria, Egypt

Belgrade, Serbia

Cairo, Egypt

New York, NY

St. Luke the Evangelist

Feast Day, October 18th

The Patron Saint of Artists, Writers, and Physicians

It is believed that St. Luke was born a Greek and a Gentile in Antioch, Syria and trained as a physician. He was a disciple of Paul, and he wrote the book of Luke as well as the Acts of the Apostles.

Luke's gospel shows special sensitivity to evangelizing Gentiles as with the parable of the Good Samaritan (LK. 10:30-37).

Luke's unique perspective on Jesus can be seen in the six miracles and eighteen parables not found in the other gospels. Luke's is the gospel of the poor and of social justice. Luke is the one who uses "Blessed are the poor" instead of "Blessed are the poor in spirit" in the beatitudes.

Luke also recorded much of what was known about Mary, including the Annunciation and the words that Mary spoke and became part of the Hail Mary prayer we lovingly recite today.

Luke is widely regarded as an excellent historian. Many of the places and events he mentions in his gospel have been verified by modern historians, so it is widely agreed that his descriptions are accurate.

Luke is also known to have traveled with Paul, and on his own to spread the Gospel. When Paul was imprisoned in Rome, Luke stayed with him. Due to Roman persecution, all of Paul's disciples abandoned him at the end of his life, except Luke, who remained with Paul to the end (2 TM 4:11).

Luke had a special ministry to the poor and wrote about the special place of women in the Church.

Luke's fate is unknown, but it is believed he may have been martyred by the Romans near the end of his impactful life. He is often depicted in icons with an ox or a calf, which are symbols of sacrifice.

Today, Saint Luke's apostolic works are widely read and studied, and he is known as a saint, in full communion with Christ in heaven.



ST. LUKE PARABLES

- Two debtors (7:40-43)
- Friend at midnight (11:5-8)
- Rich fool (12:13-21)
- Punishment (12:47-48)
- Barren tree (13:1-9)
- Lost coin (15:8-10)
- Shrewd manager (16:1-12)
- Rich man and Lazarus (16:19-31)
- Persistent widow (18:1-8)
- Pharisee and the tax collector (18:9-14)

St. John the Apostle

Feast Day, December 27

The Patron Saint of Love, Loyalty, Friendships and Authors

St. John the Apostle was one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus. He is considered the same person as John the Evangelist, John of Patmos and the Beloved Disciple. St. John is believed to be the longest living apostle and the only not to die a martyr's death.

John, along with Peter and James, were the only witnesses of the raising of Daughter of Jairus and the closest witnesses to the Agony in Gethsemane.

John and Peter were the only two apostles sent by Jesus to prepare for the final Passover meal, the Last Supper. During the meal, St. John sat next to Jesus, leaning on him rather than lying along the couches.

St. John was the only one of the Twelve Apostles who did not forsake the Savior in the hour of His Passion. He stood faithfully at the cross when the Savior made him the guardian of His Mother.

After the Assumption of Mary, John went to Ephesus, according to Church tradition. Later, in the 1st century, Roman authorities banished John to the Greek Island of Patmos after he was plunged into boiling oil in Rome and suffered no injuries.

John is known as the author of the Gospel of John, the three Epistles of John and the Book of Revelation.

St. John is called the Apostle of Charity, a virtue he learned from his Divine Master and constantly inculcated by word and example. The "beloved disciple" died in Ephesus after AD 98.

St. John is often depicted as the author of the Gospel with an eagle, symbolizing "the height he rose to in his Gospel." In other icons, John is shown looking up into heaven and dictating his Gospel to his disciple.

St. John the Apostle's feast day is celebrated on December 27, and he is the patron saint of love, loyalty, friendships, and authors.



*"DISCIPLE
WHOM JESUS
LOVED"*

Author of:

- Gospel of John
- The 3 Epistles of John
- Book of Revelation

St. James the Greater

Feast Day: July 25

The Patron Saint of Pilgrims, Laborers and Spain

Nothing is known of St. James the Greater's early life, though it has been established that he is the son of Zebedee and Salome and brother of St. John the Apostle.

The title "the Greater" was added to St. James' name to help distinguish him from the Apostle James "the Less," who is believed to have been shorter than James "the Greater."

Saint James the Greater was one of Jesus' first disciples. James was fishing with his father and John the Apostle when Jesus came to the shores of the Sea of Galilee and called for the fisherman, who were unable to catch any fish that day, to dip their nets in the water once again.

When the fishermen followed Jesus' instructions, they found their nets full, and after emptying the fish on board, the boats nearly sank from their weight.

Later, James was one of only three called by Jesus to witness his Transfiguration, and when he and his brother wanted to call fire upon a Samaritan town, both were rebuked by Jesus.

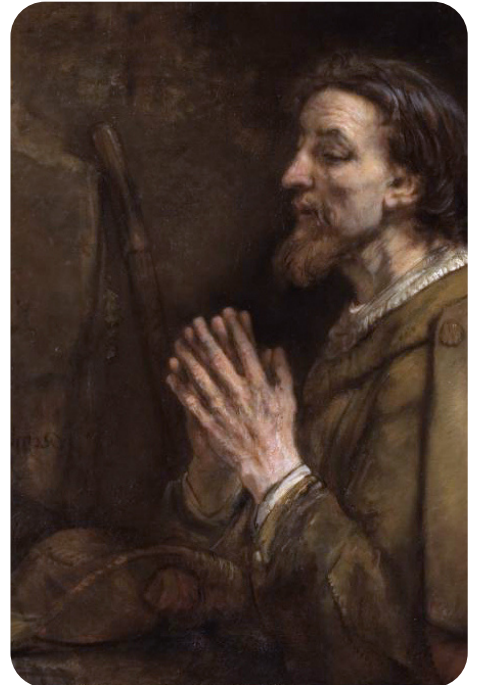
Following Christ's Ascension, James spread the Gospel across Israel and the Roman kingdom. And he traveled and spread the Word for nearly forty years in Spain.

It is said that one day, as James prayed, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to him and asked him to build her a church, which he did.

Later, James returned to Jerusalem but was martyred for his faith by King Herod, who decapitated him. Saint James the Greater is known as the first apostle to die.

As he was not allowed to be buried following his martyrdom, his remains were taken to Compostela, Spain, by some of his followers, who buried him.

St. James the Greater's feast day is celebrated on July 25, and he is the patron saint of pilgrims and Spain.



ST. JAMES THE GREATER PRAYER

O glorious Apostle,
St. James, who by reason of thy fervent
and generous heart
wast chosen by Jesus to be a witness of
His glory on Mount Tabor,
and of His agony in Gethsemane;
thou, whose very name is a symbol of
warfare and victory:
obtain for us strength and consolation in
the unending warfare of this life,
that, having constantly and generously
followed Jesus,
we may be victors in the strife and
deserve to receive the victor's crown
in heaven. Amen.

St. Philip the Apostle

Feast Day, May 3

The Patron Saint of Hatters and Pastry Chefs

St. Philip is mentioned in all the Gospels and in Acts of the Apostles. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke mention St. Philip as one of the original 12 Apostles.

Philip was a disciple of Jesus from the city of Bethsaida. He shares this hometown with the Apostles Andrew and Peter. Philip likely knew Jesus from the first days of His public ministry. He was present when John the Baptist proclaimed Jesus to be the Lamb of God.

Jesus called Philip the day after He called Peter, inviting him with the words, "Follow me." Philip was also present at the Wedding Feast at Cana, where Jesus worked His first recorded public miracle.

St. Philip is listed multiple times in the Gospels as one of the original 12 Apostles. He is involved in several stories. Notably, when Jesus asked how they might feed the multitude, it was Philip who allegedly explained that spending a large sum of money would still be insufficient to feed everyone even a small meal.

On another occasion, it was Philip who, along with Andrew, informed Jesus that a group of Greek pilgrims wanted to speak with him. And it was Philip who asked to see God the Father, to which Jesus explained "Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father." (John 12:8)

It is believed that St. Philip was born in 3 AD in Bethesda, Israel and was martyred in 80 AD at Hierapolis in Asia Minor, which is now the nation of Turkey. It is also believed that St. Philip was crucified sideways. For this reason, he is often depicted with a cross, which is sometimes on its side.

St. Philip the Apostle's feast day is on May 3. He is the patron saint of hatters and pastry chefs.



ST. PHILIP IN THE BIBLE

Matthew 10:1-4

Mark 3:13-19

Luke 6:12-16

John 1:43-46

John 6:5-7

John 12:21-22

John 14:8-11

John 20:19-23

Acts 1:13

St. Bartholomew the Apostle

Feast Day, August 24

The Patron Saint of Tanners, Tailors, Plasterers and Leatherworkers

Bartholomew is only mentioned in lists of the Apostles. There are no stories in the Gospels that relate to him as Bartholomew specifically. However, we do know of him by the alternative name of Nathanael.

Jesus spoke highly of Bartholomew recognizing him for integrity and faith. While this distinction alone is enough to make Bartholomew stand out among the Twelve, his subsequent labors also make him remarkable.

There are two records that indicate Bartholomew traveled to India and evangelized there. However, modern scholars contend with this conclusion and claim that he actually served in Ethiopia or Arabia. Nonetheless, all agree that St. Bartholomew had an Apostolate, and he labored hard to baptize and evangelize.

St. Bartholomew is also said to be one of two Apostles who evangelized Armenia, introducing Christianity there along with St. Jude. He also introduced Christianity to Azerbaijan. It was in this region that he died.

The circumstances of St. Bartholomew's death are unclear, but the most common date for his death is 71 AD and there is agreement that his death was extremely brutal.

According to one tradition, St. Bartholomew healed the daughter of King Polimius of Armenia from madness. After this, the king converted to Christianity. Fearing Roman reprisal, Bartholomew was flayed alive. He was then crucified upside down, like St. Peter.

St. Bartholomew's feast day is August 24. He is the patron saint of tanners, tailors, plasterers, and leatherworkers.



MAJOR SHRINES

Rome, Italy
Başkale, Armenia
Benevento, Italy
Baku, Azerbaijan
Canterbury, England
Frankfurt, Germany
Plzeň, Czech Republic

St. Simon the Apostle

Feast Day, October 28

The Patron Saint of Curriers, Sawyers, and Tanners

Saint Simon the Apostle, often called “the Zealot,” was one of the 12 canonical apostles, but little is known about him. He may be one of the most obscure of the group, mentioned only in lists of the apostles.

St. Simon the Apostle is often called “the Zealot.” Zealots were militant Jews who agitated for the violent overthrow of Roman occupation in Israel. However, this movement did not actually exist until decades after the events of the Gospels, so Simon likely wasn’t militant by any measure.

To rectify this misunderstanding, Simon’s name is often also translated as “the Canaanite.” Alternatively, he may be called, “Simon of Jerusalem.” However, he is still better known as “the Zealot.”

What we know of St. Simon is the product of tradition. One story claims he was the second bishop of Jerusalem. He is commonly associated with St. Jude and is believed to have traveled with him to evangelize Persia, Armenia, and Lebanon. Some Catholic scholars believe Simon was Jesus’ half-brother (Mark 6:3), but more conclude he was more likely the brother of James, another disciple.

The location of St. Simon’s death is also uncertain, although there are several claims. One theory is that Simon was crucified in Roman Britain. Another says he was martyred in Iberia or died peacefully at Edessa, which is now in southern Turkey, near Syria. The most common claim is that he was sawed in half in Persia. Whatever his fate was, it is likely St. Simon was martyred since this was the typical fate of most evangelizers in the first two centuries.

St. Simon shares a feast day with St. Jude, on October 28. He is commonly depicted with a saw, the instrument of his martyrdom. He is the patron saint of curriers, sawyers and tanners.



ST. SIMON THE APOSTLE IN THE BIBLE

Matthew 10:2-

4 Mark 3:16-19

Luke 6:14-16

Acts 1:1-13

Mark 6:3

St. Matthias the Apostle

Feast Day, May 14

The Patron Saint of Alcoholics, Carpenters and Tailors

Saint Matthias was not one of the original 12 Apostles, even though he was known to Jesus personally. Matthias was present with Jesus as a disciple, from his baptism to His Ascension.

In Acts of the Apostles (1:24-25) St. Peter, now as the head of the Apostles and Church, recommends that Judas be replaced from among the approximately 120 disciples of Jesus.

They cast lots in order to discover God's will and Matthias was chosen. He became the twelfth apostle, and the group was whole again as they waited for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

One remarkable note about Matthias' appointment is that he was chosen after the Ascension of the Lord, but before the descent of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost). He is the only Apostle to be chosen during this time.

It should be noted that Matthias is not mentioned further in the bible. Like the other apostles, he may be known by other names; Zacchaeus, Tolmai, and Barnabas, or even Nathaniel. This is because people spoke different languages and translated names differently, and they also had nicknames, by which people also called them.

According to the Greeks, St. Matthias preached the faith in Judea, then in Cappadocia, and around the Caspian Sea, living most of his time near the port of Issus. He may have also preached in Ethiopia.

We are unsure of the location of his martyrdom. There are several competing claims. One is that he was martyred in Georgia and may be buried in Adjara. Another says he was martyred in Sebastopolis, which is today a town in central Turkey. St. Matthias may also have been stoned and beheaded in Jerusalem.

St. Matthias' feast day is celebrated on May 14. He is the patron saint of alcoholics, carpenters and tailors.



ST. MATTHIAS IN ART

St. Matthias is often depicted with an axe or a spear.

Sometimes he is holding a book or a scroll.

St. Thomas the Apostle

Feast Day, July 3

The Patron Saint of Architects

St. Thomas the Apostle was a dedicated but impetuous follower of Christ. When Jesus said He was returning to Judea to visit His sick friend Lazarus, Thomas immediately exhorted the other Apostles to accompany Him on the trip.

St. Thomas the Apostle is best known for his role in verifying the Resurrection of his Master. Thomas' unwillingness to believe that the other Apostles had seen their risen Lord on the first Easter Sunday earned him the title of "doubting Thomas."

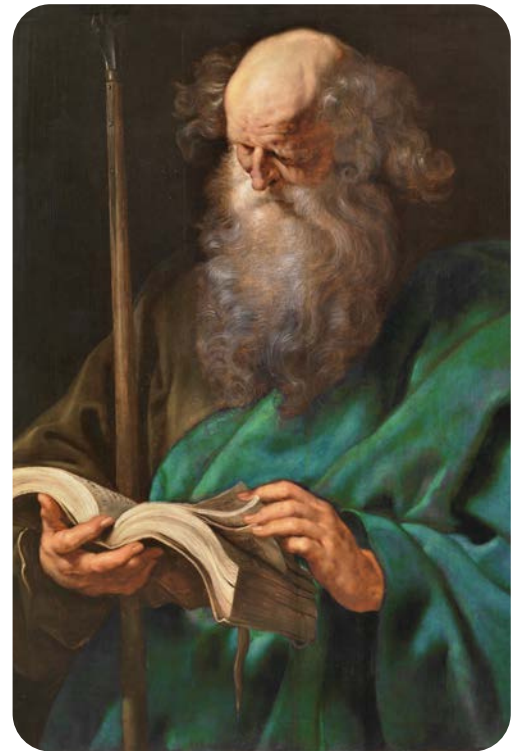
Eight days later, on Christ's second apparition, Thomas was gently rebuked for his skepticism and furnished with the evidence he had demanded - seeing in Christ's hands the point of the nails. Thomas even put his fingers in the nail holes and his hand into Christ's side. After verifying the wounds were true, St. Thomas became convinced of the reality of the Resurrection and exclaimed, "My Lord and My God," thus making a public Profession of Faith in the Divinity of Jesus.

At the dispersal of the Apostles after Pentecost, Thomas was sent to evangelize to the Parthians, Medes, and Persians. Thomas ultimately reached India, carrying the Faith to the Malabar coast, which still boasts a large native population calling themselves "Christians of St. Thomas."

In art, Saint Thomas is commonly depicted as a young man holding a scroll, or as a young adult touching the resurrected Christ's wounds.

Saint Thomas was mentioned in several texts, including one document called The Passing of Mary, which claims then-apostle Thomas was the only one to witness the Assumption of Mary into heaven, while the other apostles were transported to Jerusalem to witness her death.

St. Thomas the Apostle is the patron saint of architects, and his feast day is celebrated on July 3.



ST. THOMAS MAJOR SHRINES

St. Thomas Cathedral
Basilica in Mylapore,

Chennai, India
Basilica of St. Thomas
the Apostle in Ortona,
Italy

St. Paul the Apostle

Feast Day, June 29

The Patron Saint of Missions, Theologians and Gentile Christians

Saint Paul, originally known as Saul, is one of the most important and influential of all the saints. Many of his writings are contained in the Canon of the Bible and have influenced the growth and development of the Church since the first century.

Paul traveled the world, first to Arabia then back to Damascus. During these travels, he preached ceaselessly, often drawing criticism and ire from those who rebuffed his message.

Eventually, Paul returned to Tarsus, the place where he was born. He preached there until he was called by Barnabas to come to Antioch.

Paul and Barnabas then went forth on a mission to Cyprus and throughout Asia Minor. They established several churches in their travels. After establishing his churches, Paul remained in communication with the faithful, often writing letters to answer questions and resolve disputes.

The letters that have survived have become part of the Bible. Paul traveled throughout much of Europe, particularly in Macedonia, Greece, and Italy. While preparing for a missionary trip to Spain, he was imprisoned in Caesarea for two years. He traveled again, was shipwrecked in Malta, and was imprisoned for another two years for preaching in Rome. Despite these imprisonments, Paul continued to preach.

Paul eventually made his way to Spain, then returned to the East, and finally returned to Rome once again. In 67 AD, Paul was arrested in Rome for a second time and this time he was beheaded under Emperor Nero.

St. Paul is the patron saint of missionaries, evangelists, writers, journalists, authors, public workers, rope and saddle makers, and tent makers. His feast day is on June 29.



ST. PAUL'S DAYS OF HONOR

Jan. 25th - Conversion

Feb. 16th - Shipwreck

June 29th - Feast Day
with St. Peter

Nov. 18th - Dedication of
his Basilica

St. Peter the Apostle

Feast Day, June 29

The Patron Saint of Popes, Fishermen, Net Makers, and Ship Builders

Peter, also known as Simon Peter or Cephas, is recognized as the first Pope. Peter's origins were modest; he was one of Jesus's Twelve Apostles

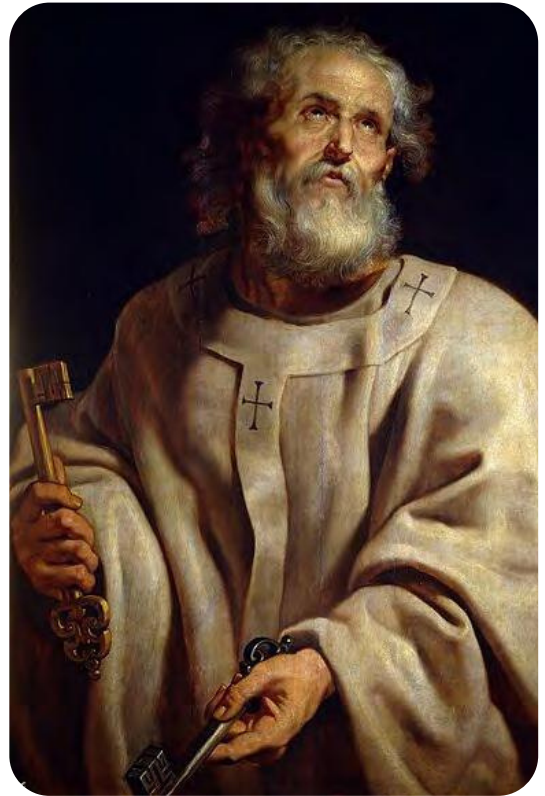
Jesus ordained him, referring to him as the "Rock" in Matthew 16:17-18, saying, "You are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my community, and the gates of the underworld can never overpower it."

Peter hailed from Bethsaida near Lake Tiberias and was the son of Jonah. He and his brother Andrew were fishermen on Lake Genesareth. In Luke 5, it's recounted how they encountered Jesus, who performed a miraculous catch of fish. Witnessing this, Peter fell before Jesus, declaring his sinfulness.

Peter's life took a profound turn when he followed Jesus, and became the leader of the apostles. He travelled through Palestine and Asia Minor where he worked multiple miracles and converted many followers.

In Matthew 14, Jesus fed a large crowd with minimal provisions, and afterward, he instructed his disciples to sail to the other side of a nearby river while he prayed. As they battled rough waves, Jesus approached them by walking on water. Initially, they feared, but Jesus reassured them. Peter, expressing doubt, asked to walk on water too. Jesus agreed, but when Peter noticed the wind, fear overcame him, and he cried for help. Jesus chided him for his little faith.

For Catholics, Peter's life journey symbolizes the transformative power of faith and the enduring importance of the papal office within the Church. He is remembered as the "Rock" upon which the Catholic Church was built, a testament to the unshakeable faith that guides the Church through the ages.



ST. PETER IN THE BIBLE

1. Call of Peter: Matthew 4:18-20,
2. Peter's Confession: Matthew 16:13-20,
3. Peter's Denial: Matthew 26:69-75,
4. Christian community. Acts 2:14-41
5. Peter's Miracles: Acts 3:1-10
6. Peter's Vision: Acts 10:9-23
7. Peter's Imprisonment and Release: Acts 12
8. Peter's Letters (Epistles): 1 Peter and 2 Peter.