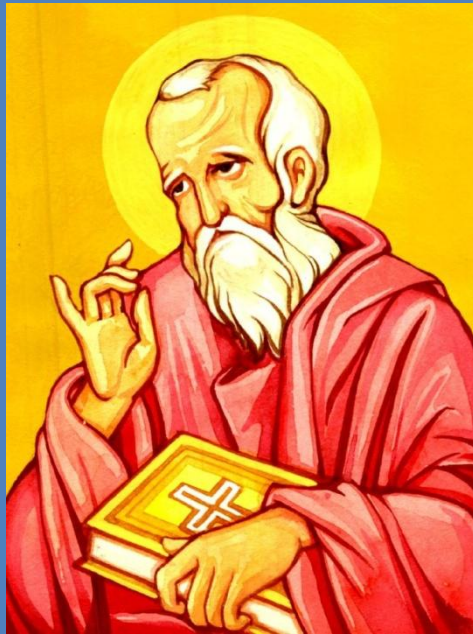


St Peter



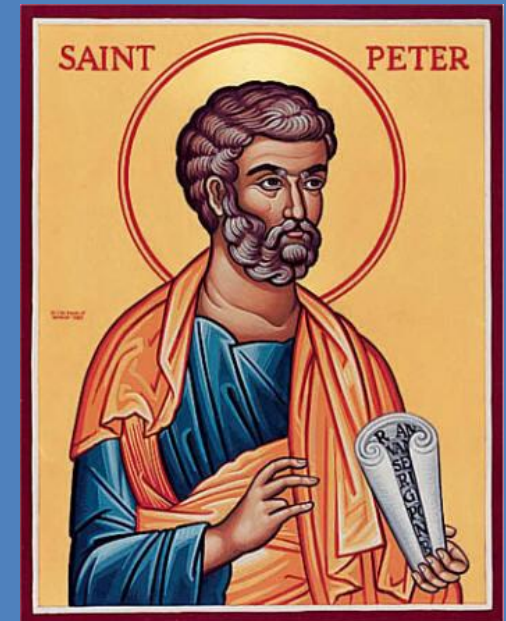
Who is Peter

- His name was Simeon in Hebrew and was St. John the Baptist' disciple.
- Jesus gave him the aramic name Kepha (Cephas) meaning “the rock”.
- He was from Bethsaida but he lived in Capernaum in Galilee.
- His original job was a fisherman but Jesus invited him to Catch men “preach”.



St. Peter's Characteristics

- He was so close to Jesus that he witnessed miracles (e.g. Raising Jairus' daughter from death, Transfiguration on Mountain of Tabor) attended Jesus arrest, trial and persecution.
- He heard Christ's prophecy about the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple, was at Gethsemane and was the first disciple to acknowledge that Jesus was the son of God.



Was he destined to be a saint ?

- Saints do not have a special genetic make up.
- They are not reared in certain manner or put in a special environment to become saints.
- They come from different backgrounds, educational levels and different careers.



- St. Peter was a normal human being, has some weaknesses and strengths. He did not follow Jesus when first introduced to him by his brother Andrew (waited until invited by Jesus) (many of us see the Lord's way but not follow him waiting for a clear call).



- Peter got angry at the arrest of Jesus and relied on his sword for power (we rely on human power to try to get out of difficult situations rather than relying on prayers and the power of the Lord)



- He denied Jesus despite being his closest disciple. (we sometimes avoid showing what we believe in “religion or moral values” because we think we will be made fun of/not accepted).



- It was after he saw his weakness clearly and repented and received the power of the Holy Spirit that he became sure of himself and what he believes in, He converted 3000 on the day of Pentecost, he preached in many countries,

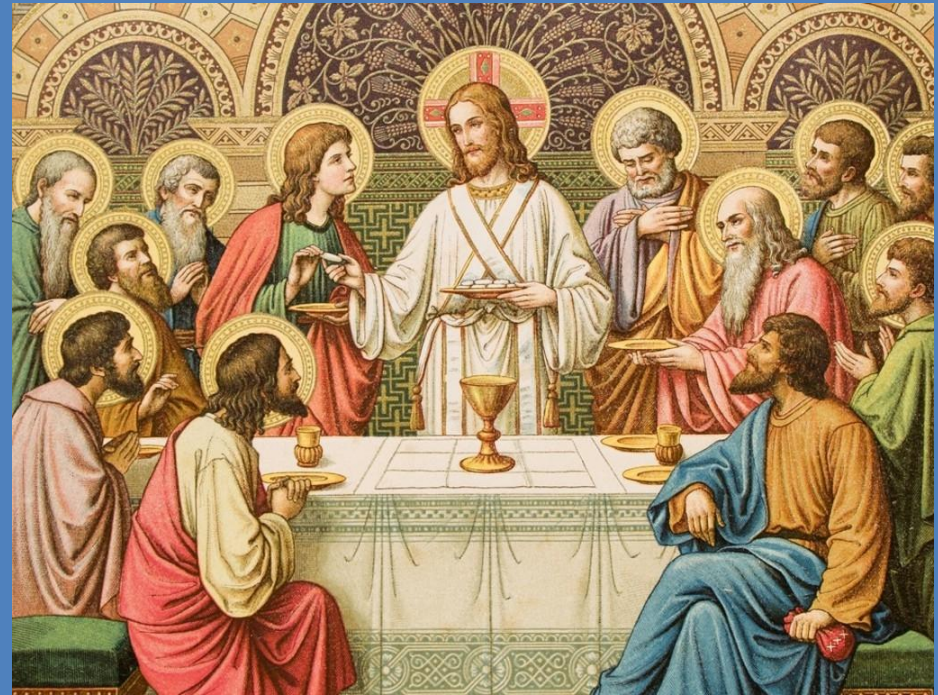


His strengths

- Peter followed Jesus without hesitation when called, he left everything, his job, family and followed his master.
- He was a witness to Jesus death and resurrection.
- He provided us with an example of growing through difficulties and confusion.



- Peter heard Jesus prayers, saw his kind deeds and miracles.
- He felt his holiness, righteousness and mercy.
- He accompanied Jesus to Gethsemane, saw his Resurrection and Ascension to heaven.
- He was the first to admit to Jesus Divinity and the first to start preaching after the day of Pentecost despite all the fear the disciples had of the Roman Government.



- He Shows us that staying close to the Lord (even though we have doubts, fears or confusion) will help us to grow in faith and experience the presence of the Lord.



- The Pouring of The Holy Spirit on the day on Pentecost , changed St. Peter from a scared disciple denying Jesus repeatedly to a brave preacher speaking with great power in front of thousands of people and convincing them of truth about Christ.



St. Peter's heart was touched by Jesus

- The Miracle of catching fish. “Depart from me for I am a sinful man” (Luke 5: 1-8)
- St. Peter walking on the sea. Matthew (22-33).
- Jesus attitude towards Peter after resurrection “do you love me?”



His service

- St Peter preached to the Jews in Judea, Galilee and Samaria.
- He also preached to the gentiles through Cornelius the centurion.
- He endured his responsibilities and accepted prison and death.



His writings

- He wrote 2 epistles that were sent to Christians in Asia Minor.
- He is the apostle of hope as he represents our weakness that through The Holy Spirit can bare witness to the whole world.

Martyrdom

- His life ended in Rome in the hands of Nero the tyrant after July 64.
- He was condemned to death. Initially refused crucifixions but later requested to be crucified upside down.

