

# FAITH CHAT

with James & John

## Upon Whom Did Jesus Build His Church?

*Know This...*

Simon Peter was born in the village of Bethsaida of Galilee probably around 4 B.C. His brother Andrew, also an Apostle, introduced him to Jesus. The Father in heaven gave Peter the answer to our Lord's question, "Who do you say that I am?" Jesus immediately changed Simon's name to Peter (Rock), made him the rock upon which He would build His Church, and gave him the keys to the kingdom. Peter later denied Jesus three times, wept uncontrollably

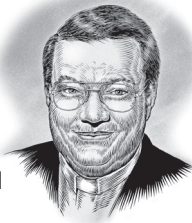
when he recognized his cowardice, but, ultimately, suffered and died for his faith in Christ.



**John:** The Gospels and Book of Acts show Peter as the leader of the twelve Apostles. He doesn't share his unique leadership and authority.

The Bible mentions his name 195 times, but the other Apostles combined only 130 times.

**James:** When the Bible lists the Twelve, Peter is always listed first. When multiple Apostles are together, Peter is always named first with one exception: Gal 2:9. There Paul mentions James first because Paul is in James' diocese.

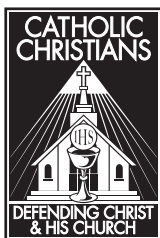


**John:** The Bible often says, "Peter and the rest of the Apostles" or "Peter and his companions." This phrasing is never used with any other Apostle. John arrived at the empty tomb first, but he let Peter enter first.

**James:** When Jesus gave Peter the keys to the kingdom, He gave him and his successors the authority to be the universal voice of God's Church on earth.

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The Lord Jesus, in the presence of all twelve Apostles, changed Simon's name to Peter and declared that He would build His Church on Peter—the Rock. "When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi He asked His disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' They replied, 'Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter said in reply, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' Jesus said to him in reply, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And so I say to you, you are Peter; and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. And whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loose in heaven.'" Mc 16:13-19

The Catechism says, "The Lord made Simon alone, whom He called Peter; the 'rock' of His Church. He gave him the keys of His Church and instituted him shepherd of the whole flock." ccc 881 In 350 A.D., Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, an Early Church Father, wrote, "In the power of the same Holy Spirit, Peter; both the chief of Apostles and the keeper of the keys of the kingdom of heaven, in the name of Christ healed Aeneas the paralytic at Lydda, which is now called Diospolis; and at Joppa he raised the beneficent Tabitha from the dead." Catechetical Lectures



In the Old Testament, the king of the House of David appointed a prime minister to speak and rule for him in his absence. "On that day I will summon my servant Eliakim, son of Hilkiah; I will cloth him with your robe, and gird him with your sash, and give over to him your authority. He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah. I will place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; when he opens, no one shall shut, when he shuts, no one shall open." Is 22:20-22 In the New Testament, Jesus makes Peter His "prime minister" and gives him the authority to speak in His absence.

Most Holy Trinity, You chose Simon Peter to lead Your infant Church. You never deserted him during his moments of doubt, weakness, and cowardice. I therefore know that You will never desert me during my moments of doubt, weakness, and cowardice. I pray that I will remain faithful to the teachings of Saint Peter and the Apostles, who have handed on Your truth through the Church. I ask this in the Name of my Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

