

# FAITH CHAT

with James & John

## Why Did Jesus Give Peter The Keys To The Kingdom?

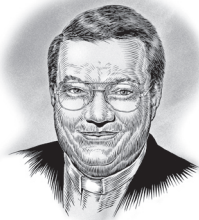
### Know This...

In Mt 16:13-19, Jesus asks the Apostles, "Who do you say that I am?" Simon answers, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus tells Simon: God the Father revealed this to him; his name is now Peter (Rock); He will build His Church on this Rock; the gates of hell will not prevail against it; **he will be given the keys to the kingdom of heaven**; and, whatever he binds or looses on earth God will hold bound or loosed in heaven. When Jesus entrusted the keys to Peter, He made Peter the chief steward of His Church on earth.



**John:** Mt 16:13-19 is a principal Bible passage because it shows God installing Peter as His Vicar with total power and authority to bind and loose.

**James:** In Mt 18:18, Jesus gives the power to bind and loose to the other Apostles; but He only entrusted Peter with the keys. Their authority rests in their communion with Peter.



**John:** In Isaiah 22:14-22, King Hezekiah of the House of David gives the royal keys to His servant Eliakim. In Biblical tradition, the servant of the household who held the keys carries "dynastic" authority and succession as the "prime minister" of the House.

**James:** The king always retains sovereignty over his kingdom. Upon his return, he reassumes total command and authority. The keys symbolize the authority of Peter (and his successors) to speak for Christ when interpreting the Word of God and establishing norms for Christian behavior.

Deacon John Beckmann and Deacon James Russell are permanent deacons in the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

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"[Simon Peter] fell at the knees of Jesus and said, 'Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man.' Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.'" Lk 5:8-10  
 "[Jesus said to Peter] '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.'" Mt 16:19  
 "[Jesus said to Peter] I have prayed that your own faith may not fail; and once you have turned back, you must strengthen your brothers.'" Lk 22:33  
 "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" Lk 24:34  
 "[Peter said to Jesus] 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' [Jesus said to Peter] 'Feed my sheep.'" Jn 21:17

"In the power of the same Holy Spirit, Peter, both the chief of the apostles and the keeper of the keys of the kingdom of heaven, in the name of Christ healed Aeneas the paralytic at Lydda." St. Cyril of Jerusalem, 350 A.D.  
 "Peter received the keys to Heaven as a sign to all the children of the Church, so that if they separate from the one faith which he teaches, they give up all hope of being acquitted of their guilt and of entering the eternal portals." St. Bede, 710 A.D.  
 "The 'power of the keys' designates authority to govern the house of God, which is the Church." CCC 553.



## PAPA SAYS

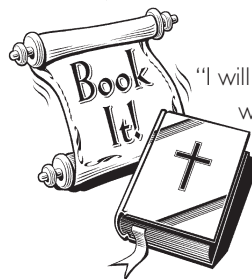
"Even among the most blessed apostles, though they were alike in honor, there was a certain distinction of power. All were equal in being chosen, but it was given to one to be preeminent over the others... the care of the universal Church would converge in the one See of Peter, and nothing should ever be at odds with this head." Pope St. Leo the Great, 445 A.D.



## BE ATTITUDES



"[Jesus] appointed Saint Peter for his successor, and head and chief shepherd to feed and govern his whole flock after his death, and so forth the successors of him ever after." St. Thomas More.



"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 22:22  
 "Then after three years I [Paul] went up to Jerusalem to confer with Cephas [Peter] and remained with him for fifteen days." Gal 1:18

Heavenly Father; Your Son built His Church on the foundation rock of Saint Peter. I pray that one day all Christians will accept this reality and faithfully live in Her outstretched arms. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

