

Getting Ready for Chapter 17

Take Home



Jesus Establishes His Church

Some families can trace their ancestry back several generations or more. Knowing our family history provides us with a sense of our heritage. Our faith family traces its origins all the way back to Jesus Christ, who chose Saint Peter and the Apostles to be the first leaders of the Church. Each Pope is a successor to Saint Peter and the representative of Christ on earth.

ACTIVITY

Family Unity To promote family unity, family members could participate in a group activity. Some suggestions include singing together, playing a board game, or enjoying an outdoor activity.

WEEKLY PLANNER

On Sunday

Pray a special prayer for the Holy Father and all the bishops of the Church.

On the Web

www.blestarewe.com



Visit our Web site for the saint of the day and the reflection question of the week.

Saint of the Week



Saint Peter
(d. 1st century)

Saint Peter was a fisherman. He was called by Jesus to be one of the Twelve Apostles. Jesus founded the Church on Peter. He is the first pope of the Catholic Church. Saint Peter died a martyr. He was crucified upside down in Rome.

Patron Saint of: the Church, the papacy

Feast Day: June 29



A Prayer for the Week

Lord, watch over and protect the Holy Father and all the bishops of the Church. Help them as they lead us to your heavenly Kingdom.
Amen.

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Scripture Background

In the Time of Jesus

The Apostle Peter In the Gospels, Peter is consistently portrayed as one willing to take the lead—sometimes impulsively. He asks Jesus questions, offers unsolicited advice, rushes into the sea to reach Jesus, and with great conviction expresses his willingness to die with Jesus, only to deny him in fear when the possibility becomes real. Clearly Peter was not without fault. More important than his weaknesses, however, is his deep love for and faith in Jesus. For this reason, Jesus chose Peter to be the new shepherd for Jesus' flock, the Church.

Read about Jesus choosing Peter in Matthew 16:13–20.

OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in Architecture

Vatican City The spiritual and governmental center of the Roman Catholic Church is Vatican City. It is not part of Rome, Italy, even though it is located entirely within the city of Rome. The Pope lives in an apartment in Vatican Palace, a group of connected buildings with more than 1,000 rooms. These buildings include the Vatican Museums and the Vatican Library. The Vatican Museums house a priceless collection of statues and religious art. The Vatican Library has one of the world's largest collections of books. One of the most famous buildings in the world is St. Peter's Basilica. It is the dominant architectural feature of Vatican City.