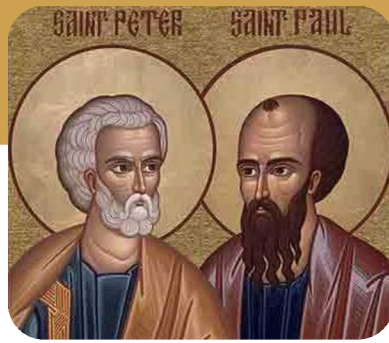


Saints Peter & Paul

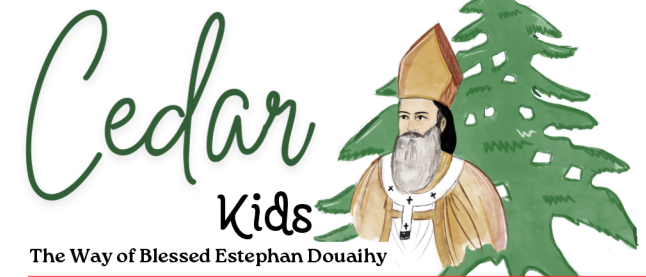


Two very important leaders of the Catholic Church are Saint Peter and Saint Paul. The two saints are celebrated together because they are considered foundational figures of the Christian Church and they are both patrons of the city of Rome. They are seen as pillars of the early Church, with Saint Peter as the leader of the original apostles and Saint Paul as the great missionary to the Gentiles.

From the Bible we know how Peter was one of Jesus's first followers. Jesus changed Peter's name from Simon to Peter saying how He would build His Church upon Saint Peter. Then, at another point, Jesus told Peter He would give him the keys to the kingdom of heaven. After the death and resurrection of Jesus, Saint Peter became the head of the Apostles and the Pope as leader of the Catholic Church.

Saint Paul's original name was Saul. Unlike Peter, Saul did not follow Jesus when Jesus was alive. In fact, Saul persecuted some of the early Christians. But one day, while Saul was traveling to the city of Damascus in order to put Christians in prison, the Lord knocked Saul off of his horse and spoke to him. Jesus asked Saul why he was persecuting Him! Saul was blind for three days, and when he regained his sight he became one of the greatest followers of Jesus. Just like Peter, Jesus changed his name from Saul to Paul. Saint Paul then went out to spread the Good News of Jesus to numerous places. Saint Paul was especially known for bringing the Good News to people who did not believe in the Lord God at all.

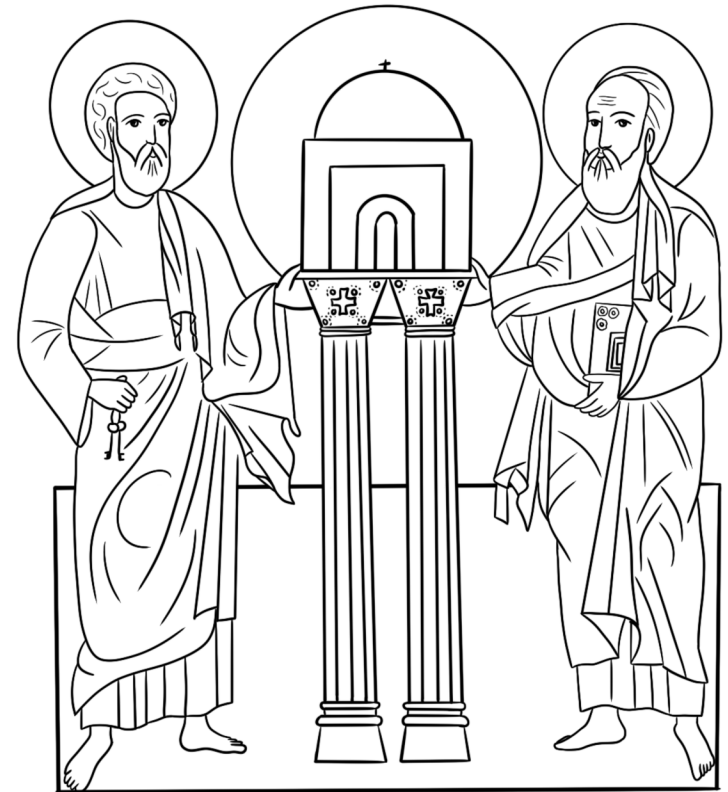
Both Saint Peter and Saint Paul were eventually martyred for their faith - meaning they were killed for believing in Jesus. They both died and were buried in the city of Rome. Today, there are two great Basilicas built over the graves of the saints.



The Way of Blessed Estephan Douaihy

Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, Vol 1, No. 42

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On the rock of Saint Peter,
Jesus built his holy Church.
He completed her structure
through the labors of Saint Paul.





Gospel Corner

Matthew
16:13-20

An authority is someone who is in charge and able to make decisions and give orders. In schools, teachers have authority in their classrooms. At home, your parents or guardians are in authority over you and your siblings. In your country, there are political leaders who help make decisions and laws for everyone in the country. And finally, in our Catholic Church, there is the Pope, who is the earthly authority that Jesus established.

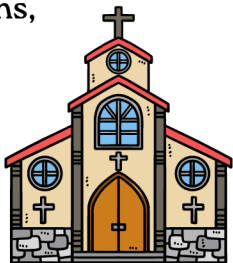


Jesus knew that authority is important. We need leaders to guide us, to teach us, and to keep us safe. Without good leaders, we would be living in chaos.



In today's Gospel, Jesus gave the job of the Papacy (being Pope) to His disciple Simon. When Jesus appointed Simon as the first Pope, He also gave Simon a new name: Peter. Peter is a Greek name which means "rock." Rocks are strong and hard to break. They are good for building on and for building with. Jesus wanted to build His Church on a strong foundation, so Peter was to be the "rock" of the Catholic Church. He was to lead the Church and be the authority figure who Catholics could turn to for clear guidance.

It is important to follow the teachings, traditions, and order of the Church because without the authority that Jesus established, we end up in chaos and confusion. God knew that humans need leadership, which is why He, in His Divine wisdom, left us with the Papacy through our first pope, Saint Peter.



Did you know?

ACTS of the APOSTLES

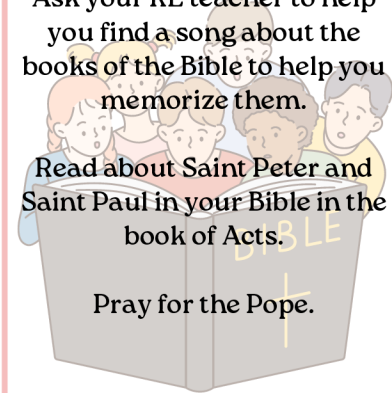
In the New Testament of the Bible, right after the four Gospels, is the Book of the Acts of the Apostles. The Evangelist Luke wrote the book and it gives us details about the early Church. From the Resurrection of Jesus to Saint Paul's imprisonment, we hear many stories about the Apostles going out into the world and spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.

What you can do

Continue to memorize the titles of the books of the Bible. Ask your RE teacher to help you find a song about the books of the Bible to help you memorize them.

Read about Saint Peter and Saint Paul in your Bible in the book of Acts.

Pray for the Pope.



Complete the Pictures

Saint Peter is usually represented holding keys which are a symbol of his authority. Saint Paul is usually represented with a book because he wrote a large portion of the New Testament and a sword because he was martyred for his faith.

