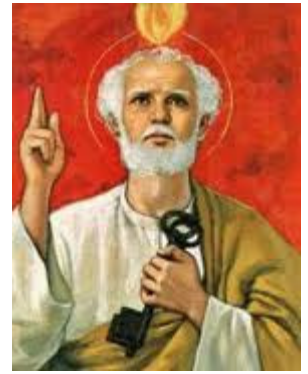


## St. Peter: Prince of the Apostles (m)

- 1<sup>st</sup> century: Apostle of Christ, first Pope
- Feast Days: June 29<sup>th</sup> (with St. Paul), Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> (Chair of St. Peter)
- He was born a fisherman and was the first apostle called by Jesus, which is significant because he is recognized as the first Pope.
- Considered the author of 1 Peter in the New Testament
- Jesus called Peter “rock” and “[...] upon this rock I will build my church [...]” (*Matthew 16:18*).
- Despite his denial of Christ three times, because of his repentance he was still able to lead the Church.
- He is often pictured (as his is here) with keys in his hand and a tongue of fire above his head.
- He is pictured with keys because it is written in the Bible that Jesus Christ gave him the “keys to the kingdom,” which is one of the bases for our Doctrine of the Pope (*Matthew 16:19*).
- The tongue of fire is placed above his head to depict his presence at Pentecost where the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles at tongues of fire (*Acts of the Apostles 2:1-13*).
- St. Peter was martyred for the Faith by the Roman Empire. When he was sentenced to death by crucifixion, he pleaded with his executioners that he be crucified upside-down. He did this because he considered himself so unworthy that he could not even be killed in the same manner of Jesus Christ.



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