

KEEPING FAITH FIRST- WORD SEARCH

H S E L F D P A E W
 W L T S J L E K S B
 P J V O R R T G O H
 B P N L A O E V O B
 D A R S E W R W L K
 H O E O I R I O C T
 A A O K P E C O B P
 C P Y L F H R G P G
 B I N D B T E Q F A
 E P M I I E A T P A
 J Y B Z Q N Z R S D
 P H I L I P P I R H
 T S I T P A B L E N
 L B C H I E I A V O
 K I Q H L M V L E I
 O W A P R E A S A G
 X E O V N I L N L E
 E E E L E S S Y E R
 P R Y Y I R H T D A
 E L I J A H P C J X

BAPTIST
 BIND
 BLOOD
 CAESAREA
 CHRIST
 ELIJAH
 FLESH
 HEAVENLY

JONAH
 LOOSE
 MAN
 NETHERWORLD
 PEOPLE
 PETER
 PHILIPPI

PREVAIL
 PROPHETS
 REGION
 REVEALED
 ROCK

Catechizing Corner!

Three things emerge in this text as primary: the church is built on solid rock—a sure foundation, its strength will stand against the powers of evil, and Peter is given authority for the church. Peter’s position in the church cannot be questioned.

“The keys are an image for God’s stewardship of God’s affairs on earth.” The keys afford Peter the authority to interpret and teach the pearls of God’s reign so others may be drawn in. Jesus legitimated the teaching authority of the new covenant. Peter was given the authority to establish rules, and to make decisions based on the gospel of Jesus.

The foundation of this church will not be toppled by the power of evil or the power of death. Trouble will come, the boat will be tossed about by the torrents of life, but nothing will permanently destroy the church. Jesus’ resurrection protects the church from destruction.

Mary Birmingham, *Word and Worship Workbook*.

Cycle A Paulist Press



Holy Family Catholic Church
 South Pasadena, CA
www.holyfamily.org

Disciple's Reflection

for the

Question of the Week

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

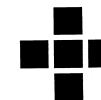
8/27/2023

A Call to Prayer

The Word of God
Matthew 16:13-20

Faith Sharing
Questions of the week

Closing Prayer



HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

Holy Family is a welcoming Catholic Eucharistic community of disciples of Jesus Christ connecting faith with life and reaching out to those in need!

Call to Prayer

Begin by calling upon God: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Let us pause for a moment and listen attentively to this week's passage.

The Word of God Matthew 16:13-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi and 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 heavenly Father.

Gospel Glossary

*Jesus is referred to as the **Son of Man**, another name for him, the Messiah and Son of God.*

***Simon** is another name for Saint Peter.*

***Keys to the kingdom of heaven** means that Jesus gave power to Saint Peter, to carry out the future of the church.*

*To **bind** means to put something under obligation by law.*

And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the **keys to the kingdom of heaven**. Whatever you **bind** on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord



Faith Sharing

Questions of the Week:

Adults: What would it feel like to be trusted by God to be in charge of his Church?

Teens: Imagine you are Peter and Jesus has given you "the keys to the kingdom of heaven." What might those keys open (or lock) in today's world?

Children: Was Jesus afraid of being recognized by strangers while he was protected by his many friends, and why?

Families: In today's Gospel, Peter states that Christ is the son of the "living" God. In what ways can we allow God to be alive—to live—in our daily lives?

Closing Prayer

Lord, You have called us to be your disciples, to live in faith, walking always in your footsteps. By your suffering, death, and resurrection, you have made us children of God. As you have loved us and asked us to love one another, help us to love and embrace everyone in our lives. Fill us with love, compassion, forgiveness, patience, understanding, and tolerance, even when we face the pain of hatred, rejection, and failure.

Guide us to be good disciples. May we seek always the praise and glory of God and the good of all people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time