

# Family Page

In today's gospel reading, we see the beginnings of the Church as we know it today. Jesus told Peter and the apostles that he was giving them the "keys of the kingdom." Today's "keys" are ways in which the Church guides us and opens the door to our salvation. As a family project, you can make "Kingdom Key Rings" to increase your awareness of the guidance and help of the Church.



**1** Trace the key pattern on this page several times on heavy paper or cardboard. Make at least four or five keys for each member of the family.

**2** Cut out your keys and punch a small hole in each one.

**3** Discuss the ways in which the Church helps you get to heaven (sacraments, religious teaching, Bible studies, and so forth). Have the family members write on their keys which ways have helped them most.

**4** Make a key ring for each set of keys out of a bread twister or a small piece of wire or yarn. Tie your keys together.

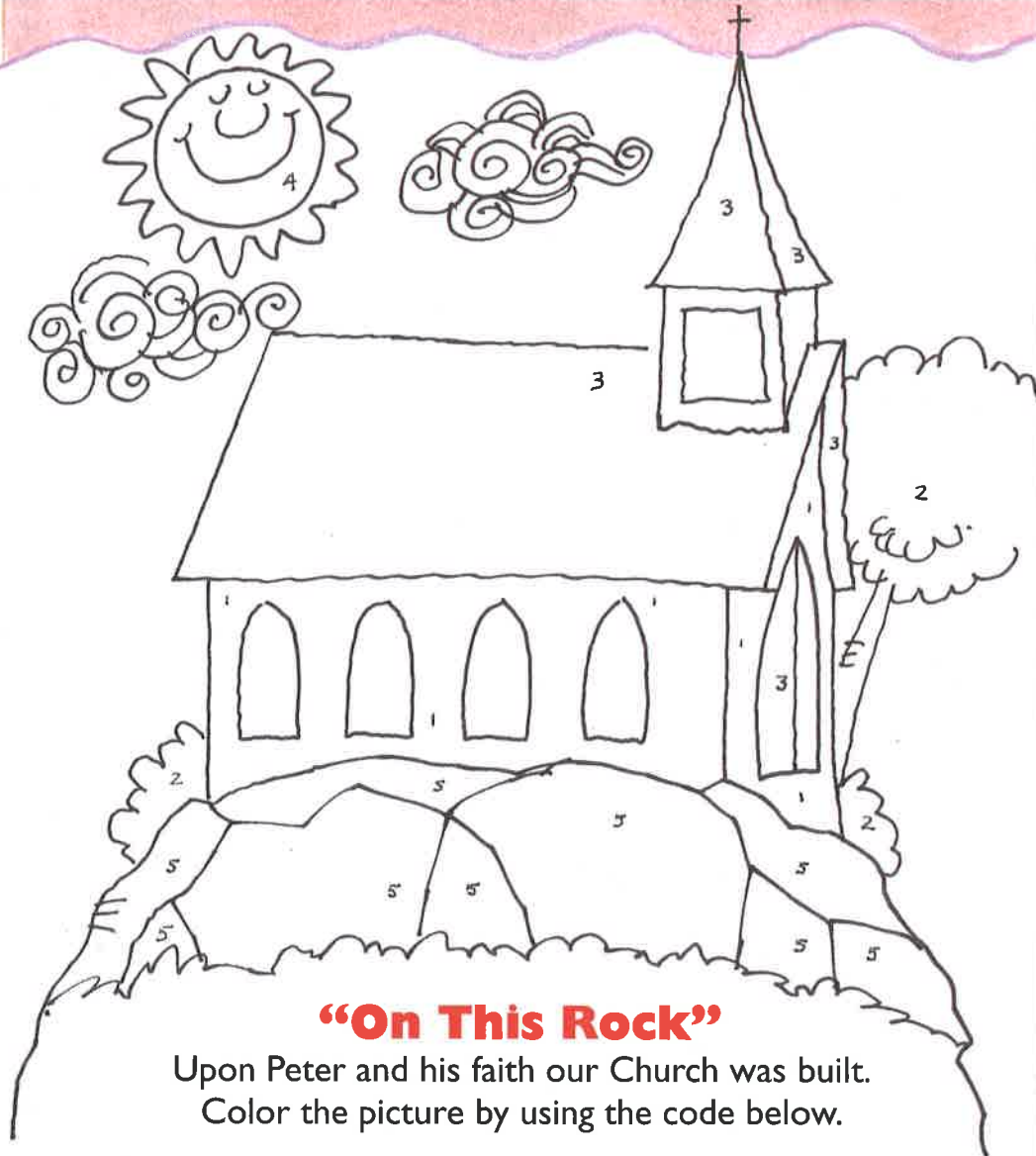
**5** Have several blank keys on hand so that whenever someone thinks of another way the Church helps you to reach salvation, you can add another key to your rings.

**6** Together write a prayer of thanksgiving for God's gifts of faith.



# explaining GOD'S WORD

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) • Matthew 16:13–20 • August 23, 2020



## "On This Rock"

Upon Peter and his faith our Church was built.  
Color the picture by using the code below.

**1 = Red; 2 = Green; 3 = Blue; 4 = Yellow; 5 = Brown.**

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Answers to "Keys of the Kingdom": LOVE, PRAYER, GOOD DEEDS, FAITH

# Jesus Makes a Promise

When John Patrick was a little boy, there was a big rock behind his house. John Patrick liked to play on that rock. Today, John's grandchildren play on that very same rock. People grow up, get old, die — but rocks go on and on and on.

In today's gospel story, Jesus calls Peter "Rock," for Peter's faith was strong as a rock. Then, after Jesus went to heaven, Peter and the disciples had to carry on, to teach as Jesus taught and baptize others in his name.

Jesus said nothing could stop his Church or the people who helped it grow.

It wasn't easy for Peter and the apostles. They were beaten and stoned and put in prison, all because they told people about Jesus. But they remembered Jesus' promise, and their faith was strong as a rock.

In the next few hundred years, other people helped the Church grow. They too were mistreated, and they had to pray in hiding. Their faith in Jesus just got stronger. Later some rulers tried to destroy the Church, telling people not to follow Jesus. Still more people came to believe in God; the Church and faith kept growing.

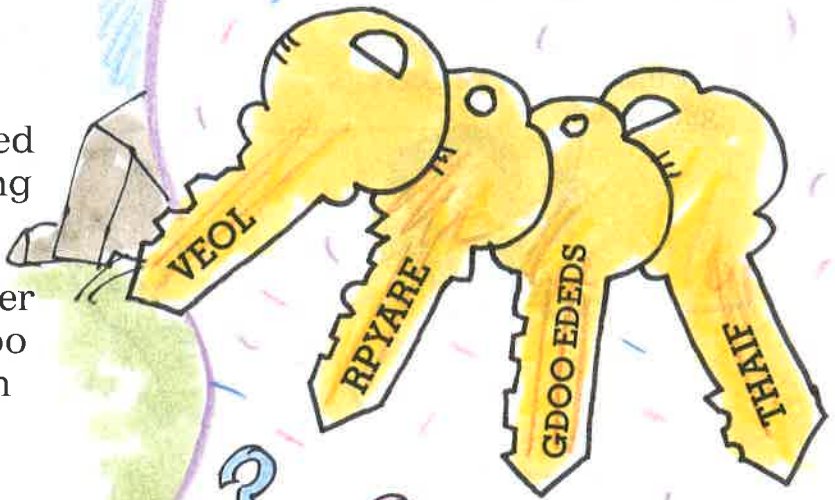


Upon Peter's faith, Jesus built his Church. On the faith of God's people today, our Church keeps getting stronger. Like a rock, our Church goes on and on.

That's the promise Jesus made to Peter — a promise he will always keep.

## "Keys of the Kingdom"

"I will entrust to you the keys of the kingdom of heaven," Jesus told Peter. Do you know what some of these keys are? Unscramble the letters to find out.



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