YOU ARE Peter
AND UPON THIS Rock
I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH
Matthew 16:18
**Weekly Scripture**

**Sunday, August 23**

*Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time*

- Is 22:19-23
- Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8
- Rom 11:33-36
- Mt 16:13-20

**Monday, August 24**

*Feast of Saint Bartholomew, Apostle*

- Rv 21:9b-14
- Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18
- Jn 1:45-51

**Tuesday, August 25**

*Weekday*

- 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17
- Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13
- Mt 23:23-26

**Wednesday, August 26**

*Weekday*

- 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18
- Ps 128:1-2, 4-5
- Mt 23:27-32

**Thursday, August 27**

*Memorial of Saint Monica*

- 1 Cor 1:1-9
- Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7
- Mt 24:42-51

**Friday, August 28**

*Memorial of Saint Augustine, Bishop & Doctor of the Church*

- 1 Cor 1:17-25
- Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11
- Mt 25:1-13

**Saturday, August 29**

*Memorial of the Passion of Saint John the Baptist*

- 1 Cor 1:26-31
- Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20-21
- Mk 6:17-29

---

**“Blessed are You, Simon Bar-Jona!”**

**Pope John Paul II Reflection on Matthew 16:13-20**

“Who do you say that I am?” (Mt 16:15). Jesus asks the disciples this question about his identity while he is with them in upper Galilee. It often happened that they would ask Jesus questions; now it is he who questions them. His is a precise question that awaits an answer. Simon Peter speaks for them all: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Mt 16:16). The answer is extraordinarily clear. The Church’s faith is perfectly reflected in it. We are reflected in it too. The Bishop of Rome, his unworthy successor by divine will, is particularly reflected in Peter’s words.

“You are the Christ!” Jesus replies to Peter’s confession: “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jona! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven” (Mt 16:17). Blessed are you, Peter! Blessed because you could not have humanly recognized this truth, which is central to the Church’s faith, except by God’s action. “No one”, Jesus said, “knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and any one to whom the Son chooses to reveal him” (Mt 11:27).

We are reflecting on this extraordinarily rich Gospel passage: the incarnate Word had revealed the Father to his disciples; now is the moment when the Father himself reveals his only Only-begotten Son to them. Peter receives inner enlightenment and courageously proclaims: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!”.

These words on Peter’s lips come from the depths of God’s mystery. They reveal the intimate truth, the very life of God. And Peter, under the action of the divine Spirit, becomes a witness and confessor of this superhuman truth. His profession of faith is seriously inscribed in the heart of the Lord himself and is a foretaste of the Church’s future. These words become a witness and confessor of this superhuman truth. His profession of faith is seriously inscribed in the heart of the Lord himself and is a foretaste of the Church’s future. These words become a witness and confessor of this superhuman truth. His profession of faith is seriously inscribed in the heart of the Lord himself and is a foretaste of the Church’s future. These words become a witness and confessor of this superhuman truth. His profession of faith is seriously inscribed in the heart of the Lord himself and is a foretaste of the Church’s future.

*Excerpted from Homily of His Holiness John Paul II, Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, 29 June 2000*


---

**St. Bartholomew the Apostle**

**August 24 • Patron Saint of Nervous Diseases**

One of the Twelve Apostles, it is believed Bartholomew was introduced to Jesus by his very close friend Philip. He is mentioned along with Philip in the Gospels, and it is also thought that he penned one of the Gospels that were ultimately lost. He became one of Jesus’ disciples and traveled throughout Asia Minor, Ethiopia, Armenia and India spreading the Lord’s Word. He endured a horrible death at Albanopolis in Armenia, where he was skinned alive. A patron saint of leather workers, tanners, and cobblers, he is also considered the patron saint who is most helpful in praying for those with nervous disorders.

**Prayer to St. Bartholomew**

*In his glorious and loving name, I ask God for healing, a blessing, and another day of strength. St. Bartholomew, please pray for this poor soul who needs God’s attention. Ask that the suffering be lessened and the volatile situations be abolished. Pray for the family and friends of the afflicted that they may continue to help, love and survive this ordeal. Amen.*


Capodanno, J. (Ed.). Kansas City, MO: Barnes and Noble