



The Apostles, St. Peter (2)

Simon (Peter's name before being called by Christ) became a fisherman like his father before him. It is believed that he and his brother were successful in this profession. But St. Andrew, as well as many other religious Jews, sensed that it was nearing the time when the prophecies regarding the arrival of the Messiah were to be fulfilled. He and St. John (the Apostle) became disciples of St. John the Baptist who was urging the people to *make straight the way of the Lord* (John 1:23), to repent. The Baptizer carried out his mission in the region of the Jordan River; one day Jesus appeared and requested baptism of John. John objected, but Jesus insisted. At His baptism, a voice came from the heavens: *This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased* (Matthew 3:17). St. Andrew and John henceforth left St. John the Baptist and became disciples of Jesus. They reported to Simon what they had seen and heard. Simon, "good, strong, honest ... loyal, warm-hearted and dependable," was willing to meet this Rabbi, Jesus, at his brother's suggestion. Grace worked immediately in Simon; Jesus looked on him saying, *Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is interpreted Peter* (John 1:42). Not long after this incident, *Peter labored all the night and [had] taken nothing*. Jesus bade him *launch out into the deep, and let down the net* (Luke 5:5). So numerous were the fish that were caught, that the net broke. And the boats were in danger of sinking. St. Peter, realizing the power of Jesus, *fell down at Jesus' knees saying: Depart from me for I am a sinful man, O Lord*. But Jesus assured him, *Fear not: from henceforth thou shalt catch men. And having brought their ships to land, leaving all things, they followed him* (Luke 5: 6-11).

(St. Peter the Apostle, [Encyclopedia of Saints](#))