



# Friday Fast

For Life, Marriage & Religious Liberty

## February 22: Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

### Intention:

For the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the selection of the next Holy Father: that the next pope may be granted wisdom and strength in leading the faithful into deeper relationship with Christ, that through our own continual conversion, we may witness to the sanctity of all human life through our words and actions.

### Did you know?

Pope Benedict XVI recently [linked respect for life with peace](#): "The path to the attainment of the common good and to peace is above all that of respect for human life in all its many aspects, beginning with its conception, through its development and up to its natural end. True peacemakers, then, are those who love, defend and promote human life in all its dimensions, personal, communitarian and transcendent. Life in its fullness is the height of peace. Anyone who loves peace cannot tolerate attacks and crimes against life."

VISIT [WWW.USCCB.ORG/FAST](http://WWW.USCCB.ORG/FAST) TO SIGN THE FASTING PLEDGE & TO SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY E-MAIL REMINDERS & INTENTIONS, OR TEXT "FAST" TO 99000 TO RECEIVE WEEKLY TEXT MESSAGES.

### Reflection:

Today is the feast of the Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle. In today's Gospel reading, Jesus names Peter the rock and foundation of his Church and declares that "the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it." As we await the transition of a new pope, the successor of St. Peter, let us pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance, trusting in the Lord's Providence, and thankful for the pastoral care of Pope Benedict XVI over the last eight years. He has consistently presented the invitation of Christ to each of us as to an ever deeper and more personal friendship with Himself, a friendship which is transformative:

"Christians are people who have been conquered by Christ's love and, accordingly, under the influence of that love... they are profoundly open to loving their neighbor in concrete ways. This attitude arises primarily from the consciousness of being loved, forgiven, and even served by the Lord, who bends down to wash the feet of the Apostles and offers himself on the Cross to draw humanity into God's love"

(Pope Benedict XVI, [Message for Lent 2013](#)).

Let us then continue our Lenten journey faithfully, responding to the Lord's tender love and allowing Him to transform us, that we may bring His light to the world, witnessing to the sanctity of each human life.