



St. Peter

The window on the right side closest to the altar shows St. Peter holding the Keys of Heaven, which were given to Peter and his successors by Christ in Matthew 16:19. The keys are traditionally viewed as a symbol of papal authority. Unlike the rest of the apostles in these windows, St. Peter is not merely standing on the ground, but on a snake. It is believed that this comes from Luke 10:19, in which Christ says to the Seventy-Two, “Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.” In this window, Peter, representing all of the apostles, demonstrates this authority. Near the bottom of the window is St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome, and at the top is a ship, which symbolizes both Peter and many of the disciples’ occupations as fisherman, and also the Church’s journey through the sea of this world.