

# Danger at Sea

## THE BARQUE OF PETER



### Hi, Noah here!

There is a picture on a window in our church that I really like. It's a boat with big waves around it. The boat is brown and has three white sails, and the waves are all different colors of blue. I always look at it when we go to church on Sunday.

I never thought about why it was there until after our adventure with Rebecca, when Caleb went out fishing in the boat. That next Sunday, I saw the church window and decided to ask Father Joe about it.

"Why is there a boat on that window in church, Father Joe?" I asked him after Mass.

"It's the Barque of Peter," he said, and I laughed.

"Do you mean it makes a sound like a dog's bark, or it's made of bark?" I asked. What a funny kind of boat!

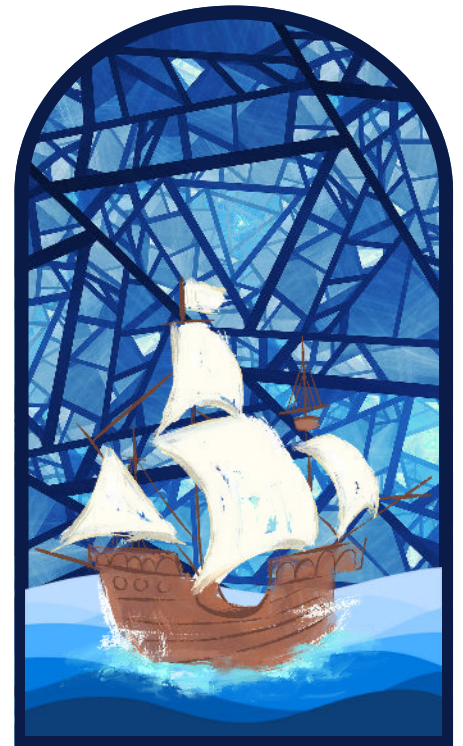
"No," said Father Joe, smiling. "Neither one. It's not b-a-r-k; it's b-a-r-q-u-e. A 'barque' is a kind of boat. Since Saint Peter was a fisherman, he would have had a boat. And Jesus chose Saint Peter to be the first pope. The pope is the one who takes care of the whole Church, so we can imagine the Church as all the people gathered in Peter's boat. We can be sure that even through the storms, Saint Peter steers the Church to Jesus."

"How many people are there in the Church?" I asked.

"Billions!" said Father Joe. "Of course they wouldn't all fit in one boat. It's just a way of picturing the Church, like in that stained glass window."

"Oh," I said. "Well, I like it."

"Good," said Father Joe. "Always stay in the boat, Noah."



**ACTIVITY:** Look up one of these stories about boats in the New Testament. Read it and draw a picture of what you imagine it was like.

**Luke 5:1-11 | Mark 4:35-41 | John 21:1-14**