

Apostolic Chain of Succession Craft

What is Apostolic Succession?

Apostolic succession is the **unbroken line of popes beginning with St. Peter**, chosen by Christ as the first Pope, continuing through to Pope Leo XIV, elected in 2025. Each pope serves as the Vicar of Christ, guiding the Church and preserving her teachings. This chain is a powerful sign of Christ's promise to be with His Church always.



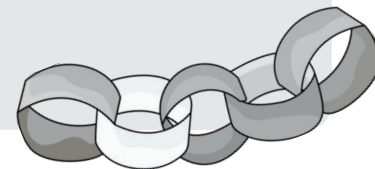
Why this activity is meaningful:

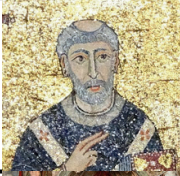
By constructing a paper chain that includes the name and dates of every pope—from St. Peter to Pope Leo XIV—children gain:

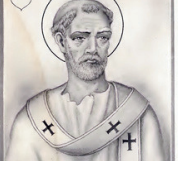
- A deeper appreciation for the Church's long and divinely guided history.
- Familiarity with key figures in the Church's leadership.
- A visual understanding of the papacy and ecclesiastical hierarchy.
- A meaningful opportunity to reflect on the continuity and unity of the Catholic faith.

This craft also encourages fine motor skills, sequential learning, and reverence for the Church's tradition—all within an engaging and accessible format.

1. Print the pages on paper or card stock.
2. Cut along the solid lines.
3. Starting with St. Peter: make a circle with the strip, name facing out, and glue/tape ends.
4. Thread the next strip through the circle and glue ends. Repeat.
5. Continue until you reach Pope Leo XIV—266 links total!



	1 - St. Peter (32-67)		10 - St. Pius I (140-155)
	2 - St. Linus (67-76)		11 - St. Anicetus (155-166)
	3 - St. Anacletus (76-88)		12 - St. Soter (166-175)
	4 - St. Clement I (88-97)		13 - St. Eleutherius (175-189)
	5 - St. Evaristus (97-105)		14 - St. Victor I (189-199)
	6 - St. Alexander I (105-115)		15 - St. Zephyrinus (199-217)
	7 - St. Sixtus I (115-125)		16 - St. Callistus I (217-222)
	8 - St. Telesphorus (125-136)		17 - St. Urban I (222-230)
	9 - St. Hyginus (136-140)		18 - St. Pontian (230-235)

	19 - St. Anterus (235-236)		28 - St. Caius (283-296)
	20 - St. Fabian (236-250)		29 - St. Marcellinus (296-304)
	21 - St. Cornelius (251-253)		30 - St. Marcellus I (308-309)
	22 - St. Lucius I (253-254)		31 - St. Eusebius (309-310)
	23 - St. Stephen I (254-257)		32 - St. Miltiades (311-314)
	24 - St. Sixtus II (257-258)		33 - St. Sylvester I (314-335)
	25 - St. Dionysius (259-268)		34 - St. Mark (336-336)
	26 - St. Felix I (269-274)		35 - St. Julius I (337-352)
	27 - St. Eutychian (275-283)		36 - Liberius (352-366)

	37 - St. Damasus I (366-384)		46 - St. Hilarius (461-468)
	38 - St. Sirisius (384-399)		47 - St. Simplicius (468-483)
	39 - St. Anastasius I (399-401)		48 - St. Felix III (483-492)
	40 - St. Innocent I (401-417)		49 - St. Gelasius I (492-496)
	41 - St. Zosimus (417-418)		50 - Anastasius II (496-498)
	42 - St. Boniface I (418-422)		51 - St. Symmachus (498-514)
	43 - St. Celestine I (422-432)		52 - St. Hormisdas (514-523)
	44 - St. Sixtus III (432-440)		53 - St. John I (523-526)
	45 - St. Leo I (440-461)		54 - St. Felix IV (526-530)



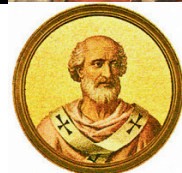
55 - Boniface II (530-532)



64 - St. Gregory I (590-604)



56 - John II (533-535)



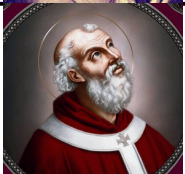
65 - Sabinian (604-606)



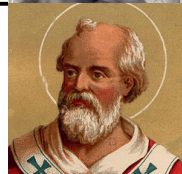
57 - St. Agapetus I (535-536)



66 - Boniface III (607-607)



58 - St. Silverius (536-537)



67 - St. Boniface IV (608-615)



59 - Vigilius (537-555)



68 - St. Adeodatus I (615-618)



60 - Pelagius I (556-561)



69 - Boniface V (619-625)



61 - John III (561-574)



70 - Honorius I (625-638)



62 - Benedict I (575-579)



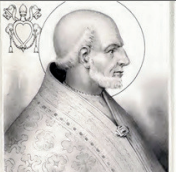
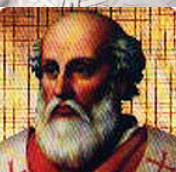
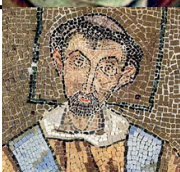
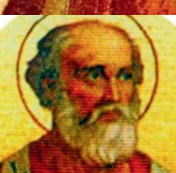
71 - Severinus (640-640)

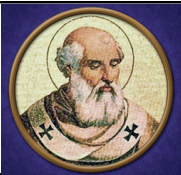


63 - Pelagius II (579-590)



72 - John IV (640-642)

	73 - Theodore I (642-649)		82 - John V (685-686)
	74 - St. Martin I (649-655)		83 - Conon (686-687)
	75 - St. Eugene I (654-657)		84 - St. Sergius I (687-701)
	76 - St. Vitalian (657-672)		85 - John VI (701-705)
	77 - Adeodatus II (672-676)		86 - John VII (705-707)
	78 - Donus (676-678)		87 - Sisinnius (708-708)
	79 - St. Agatho (678-681)		88 - Constantine (708-715)
	80 - St. Leo II (682-683)		89 - St. Gregory II (715-731)
	81 - St. Benedict II (684-685)		90 - St. Gregory III (731-741)



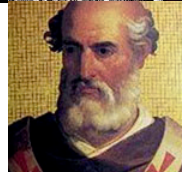
91 - St. Zachary (741-752)



100 - Valentine (827-827)



92 - Stephen II (752-757)



101 - Gregory IV (827-844)



93 - St. Paul I (757-767)



102 - Sergius II (844-847)



94 - Stephen III (768-772)



103 - St. Leo IV (847-855)



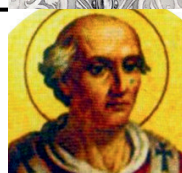
95 - Adrian I (772-795)



104 - Benedict III (855-858)



96 - St. Leo III (795-816)



105 - St. Nicholas I (858-867)



97 - Stephen IV (816-817)



106 - Adrian II (867-872)



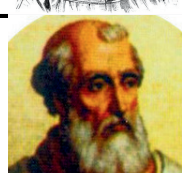
98 - St. Paschal I (817-824)



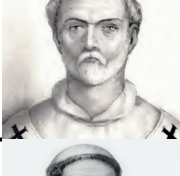
107 - John VIII (872-882)

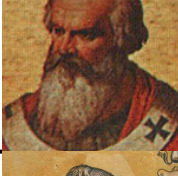
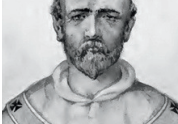


99 - Eugene II (824-827)

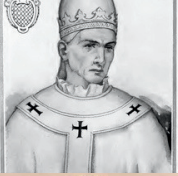
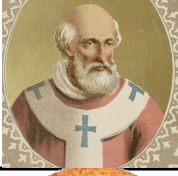


108 - Marinus I (882-884)

	109 - St. Adrian III (884-885)		118 - Leo V (903-903)
	110 - Stephen V (885-891)		119 - Sergius III (904-911)
	111 - Formosus (891-896)		120 - Anastasius III (911-913)
	112 - Boniface VI (896-896)		121 - Lando (913-914)
	113 - Stephen VI (896-897)		122 - John X (914-928)
	114 - Romanus (897-897)		123 - Leo VI (928-928)
	115 - Theodore II (897-897)		124 - Stephen VII (929-931)
	116 - John IX (898-900)		125 - John XI (931-935)
	117 - Benedict IV (900-903)		126 - Leo VII (936-939)

	127 - Stephen VIII (939-942)		136 - John XIV (983-984)
	128 - Marinus II (942-946)		137 - John XV (985-996)
	129 - Agapetus II (946-955)		138 - Gregory V (996-999)
	130 - John XII (955-964)		139 - Sylvester II (999-1003)
	131 - Benedict V (964-964)		140 - John XVII (1003-1003)
	132 - Leo VIII (964-965)		141 - John XVIII (1003-1009)
	133 - John XIII (965-972)		142 - Sergius IV (1009-1012)
	134 - Benedict VI (973-974)		143 - Benedict VIII (1012-1024)
	135 - Benedict VII (974-983)		144 - John XIX (1024-1032)

	145 - Benedict IX (1032-1044)		154 - Stephen IX (1057-1058)
	146 - Sylvester III (1045-1045)		155 - Nicholas II (1058-1061)
	147 - Benedict IX (1045-1045)		156 - Alexander II (1061-1073)
	148 - Gregory VI (1045-1046)		157 - St. Gregory VII (1073-1085)
	149 - Clement II (1046-1047)		158 - Bl. Victor III (1086-1087)
	150 - Benedict IX (1047-1048)		159 - Bl. Urban II (1088-1099)
	151 - Damasus II (1048-1048)		160 - Paschal II (1099-1118)
	152 - St. Leo IX (1049-1054)		161 - Gelasius II (1118-1119)
	153 - Victor II (1055-1057)		162 - Callixtus II (1119-1124)

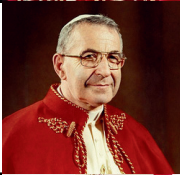
	163 - Honorius II (1124-1130)		172 - Urban III (1185-1187)
	164 - Innocent II (1130-1143)		173 - Gregory VIII (1187-1187)
	165 - Celestine II (1143-1144)		174 - Clement III (1187-1191)
	166 - Lucius II (1144-1145)		175 - Celestine III (1191-1198)
	167 - Bl. Eugene III (1145-1153)		176 - Innocent III (1198-1216)
	168 - Anastasius IV (1153-1154)		177 - Honorius III (1216-1227)
	169 - Adrian IV (1154-1159)		178 - Gregory IX (1227-1241)
	170 - Alexander III (1159-1181)		179 - Celestine IV (1241-1241)
	171 - Lucius III (1181-1185)		180 - Innocent IV (1243-1254)

	181 - Alexander IV (1254-1261)		190 - Honorius IV (1285-1287)
	182 - Urban IV (1261-1264)		191 - Nicholas IV (1288-1292)
	183 - Clement IV (1265-1268)		192 - St. Celestine V (1294-1294)
	184 - Bl. Gregory X (1271-1276)		193 - Boniface VIII (1294-1303)
	185 - Bl. Innocent V (1276-1276)		194 - Bl. Benedict XI (1303-1304)
	186 - Adrian V (1276-1276)		195 - Clement V (1305-1314)
	187 - John XXI (1276-1277)		196 - John XXII (1316-1334)
	188 - Nicholas III (1277-1280)		197 - Benedict XII (1334-1342)
	189 - Martin IV (1281-1285)		198 - Clement VI (1342-1352)

	199 - Innocent VI (1352-1362)			208 - Nicholas V (1447-1455)
	200 - Bl. Urban V (1362-1370)			209 - Calixtus III (1455-1458)
	201 - Gregory XI (1370-1378)			210 - Pius II (1458-1464)
	202 - Urban VI (1378-1389)			211 - Paul II (1464-1471)
	203 - Boniface IX (1389-1404)			212 - Sixtus IV (1471-1484)
	204 - Innocent VII (1404-1406)			213 - Innocent VIII (1484-1492)
	205 - Gregory XII (1406-1415)			214 - Alexander VI (1492-1503)
	206 - Martin V (1417-1431)			215 - Pius III (1503-1503)
	207 - Eugene IV (1431-1447)			216 - Julius II (1503-1513)

	217 - Leo X (1513-1521)		226 - Gregory XIII (1572-1585)
	218 - Adrian VI (1522-1523)		227 - Sixtus V (1585-1590)
	219 - Clement VII (1523-1534)		228 - Urban VII (1590-1590)
	220 - Paul III (1534-1549)		229 - Gregory XIV (1590-1591)
	221 - Julius III (1550-1555)		230 - Innocent IX (1591-1591)
	222 - Marcellus II (1555-1555)		231 - Clement VIII (1592-1605)
	223 - Paul IV (1555-1559)		232 - Leo XI (1605-1605)
	224 - Pius IV (1559-1565)		233 - Paul V (1605-1621)
	225 - St. Pius V (1566-1572)		234 - Gregory XV (1621-1623)

	235 - Urban VIII (1623-1644)		244 - Innocent XIII (1721-1724)
	236 - Innocent X (1644-1655)		245 - SOG Benedict XIII (1724-1730)
	237 - Alexander VII (1655-1667)		246 - Clement XII (1730-1740)
	238 - Clement IX (1667-1669)		247 - Benedict XIV (1740-1758)
	239 - Clement X (1670-1676)		248 - Clement XIII (1758-1769)
	240 - Bl. Innocent XI (1676-1689)		249- Clement XIV (1769-1774)
	241 - Alexander VIII (1689-1691)		250 - Pius VI (1775-1799)
	242 - Innocent XII (1691-1700)		251 - SOG Pius VII (1800-1823)
	243 - Clement XI (1700-1721)		252 - Leo XII (1823-1829)

	253 - Pius VII (1829-1830)		262 - St. Paul VI (1963-1978)
	254 - Gregory XVI (1831-1846)		263 - Bl. John Paul I (1978-1978)
	255 - Bl. Pius IX (1846-1878)		264 - St. John Paul II (1978-2005)
	256 - Leo XIII (1878-1903)		265 - Benedict XVI (2005-2013)
	257 - St. Pius X (1903-1914)		266 - Francis (2013-2025)
	258 - Benedict XV (1914-1922)		267 - Leo XIV (2025-present)
	259 - Pius XI (1922-1939)		
	260 - Ven. Pius XII (1939-1958)		
	261 - St. John XXIII (1958-1963)		