

Tuesday The Holy Apostles

Tuesdays we recall the Apostles; the men called by Christ to spread the Gospel and proclaim God's Truth! The Catholic Church is *apostolic*, meaning we can trace our lineage—our priestly succession—directly to Christ.

“And he called the twelve; and began to send them two and two, and gave them power over unclean spirits.”

(Mark 6:7)

WHO WERE THE APOSTLES?

Peter (formerly “Simon,” renamed “Cephas” by Jesus) preached in Antioch, Asia Minor, Corinth, and Rome. He was the first Pope and was crucified upside-down in Rome, Italy around 64 AD. His relics are kept at St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City. Saint Peter is the patron saint of fishermen, net makers, and ship builders. His symbols are the papal keys, an upside-down Latin Cross, and a book or scroll. His feast day is June 29th (along with Saint Paul).

Andrew, who was the brother of Peter, preached around the shores of the Black Seas and throughout Greece, Turkey, and Cyprus. He was the first of the Apostles called by Christ and died by crucifixion on an X-shape in Patras in Achaia. Saint Andrew is the patron of fishermen, singers, Scotland, Romania, Russia, Ukraine, and Patras. His feast is on November 30th, and his symbols are the X-shaped Cross (saltire), an anchor, fish, and a fishing net.

James the Greater preached in Israel, the Roman Empire, and Spain. He was the son of Zebedee and the brother of John. Saint James was stabbed with a sword in 44 AD and is known as the first Apostle to die. He is the patron saint of pilgrims and Spain, and his symbols are a pilgrim's staff, scallop shell, key, sword, pilgrim's hat, astride a white charger, and the Cross of Saint James. His feast is July 25th.

John, “the Disciple whom Jesus loved,” preached in Asia Minor (Ephesus). He was the son of Zebedee, brother of James the Greater. He died a natural death and is the only Apostle to not be martyred (other than Judas Iscariot who killed himself). Saint John is the patron of love, loyalty, friendship, and authors. His symbols are a chalice with a serpent (a failed poisoning attempt), eagle, cauldron, sword, and a book. His feast day is December 27th.



Tuesday The Holy Apostles

Philip preached in Greece and was crucified upside-down by soldiers about 80 AD. He was also known as the Apostle who brought Nathaniel to Christ. Saint Philip is the patron on hatters, Luxembourg, Uruguay, and pastry chefs, and his symbols are the loaves and fishes, a column, and a long staff with a Cross. His feast day, along with James the Less, is May 3rd in the Novus Ordo and May 11 in the Extraordinary Form.

Bartholomew, whose name means “Son of Tolomai,” preached in India, Mesopotamia, Persia, Egypt, Armenia, and possibly the shores of the Black Sea. Many Biblical scholars believe Bartholomew to be the same man as Nathaniel. He was flayed alive, then beheaded, which means his symbols are a knife and draped human skin. Saint Bartholomew is the patron saint of skin diseases and tanners, and his feast day is August 24th.

Matthew was a tax collector called by Jesus, and he also wrote one of the Gospels. He preached in Judea and other countries, and was stabbed with a sword, or lance. Saint Matthew is the patron saint of bankers, whose symbols are an angel, book and pen, standing on a bag of coins, and a lance. His feast day is September 21st.

Thomas was also called Didymus (“twin”). He is known as “Doubting Thomas” because he was had to put his finger in Christ’s wounds in order to believe. Thomas preached in India and was killed when thrust through with a spear. His symbols are the builder’s square, spear, axe, scroll, and touching Christ’s wounds. Saint Thomas is the patron saint of architects. His feast is July 3rd in the Novus Ordo and December 21st in the Extraordinary Form.

James the Less was the son of Alphaeus; he is also known as “James the Just.” He preached to the Jews and was the Bishop of Jerusalem. James was also an epistle writer and the brother of Jude Thaddeus. He dies by stoning in 62 AD. His symbols are the book and club, and he is the patron saint of hatmakers. His feast day, along with Saint Philip, is May 3rd in the Novus Ordo and May 11 in the Extraordinary Form.

Jude Thaddeus preached in Judea, Samaria, Idumaea, Syria, Mesopotamia, and Lybia. He is the brother of James the Less and an epistle writer. Saint Jude was hacked to death with an axe. His symbols are the Image of Edessa (a medallion with the profile of Jesus, an oar, boat, book and pen, and axe. Saint Jude is the patron saint of hopeless causes. His feast day, along with Saint Simon, is on October 28th.

Simon, known also as “Simon the Zealot” or “Simon the Canaanite,” preached in Egypt and Persia. He was sawed in half and is the patron of curriers and sawyers. His symbols are the boat/oar, cross and saw, fish (or two fish), lance, and a man being sawn in two longitudinally. Saint Simon shares his October 28 feast day with Saint Jude.

Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. He committed suicide by hanging himself.

Matthias, which means “Gift of Yahweh,” preached in Asia. The Apostles chose him as replacement for Judas Iscariot. He was one of 70 disciples who had been followed Jesus after His Baptism by John through the Ascension. He was crucified in Judea. He is the patron of alcoholics and addictions, and his symbol is a lance. His feast is May 14th in the Novus Ordo and February 24th in the Extraordinary Form.

Paul was originally named Saul. He preached in Asia, Arabia, around the Northern part of the Mediterranean Sea, and Italy. Saul was called to conversion by Jesus on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-19), when Christ changed his name to Paul. He was beheaded in Rome in 67 AD. His symbols are the sword, book, and scroll. He is the patron saint of missions, theologians, and the Gentile Christians. His feast, along with Saint Peter, is June 29th.