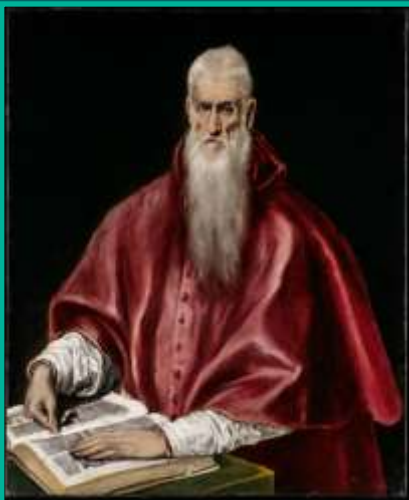


Saint Jerome
(Priest, Doctor)
30 September



About Saint Jerome (c. 347-419/420)

Saint Jerome was born in Strido, (modern Ljubljana), in Dalmatia. He studied in Rome and after he completed his studies he was baptized and led an ascetic life. He went to Syria where he became a hermit and was then ordained a priest against his will.

He was recalled to Rome to act as secretary to Pope Damasus (whose feast day we celebrate on 11 December). **Upon the Pope's death, Jerome returned to the East, this time to Bethlehem, where** with the aid of St Paula and others he founded a monastery, a hospice and a school. It was at this time in his life where he settled down to do his most important work – the translation of the Bible into Latin. (What we know as the Vulgate translation.) This translation is still in use today. He also wrote many letters and commentaries on Holy Scripture.

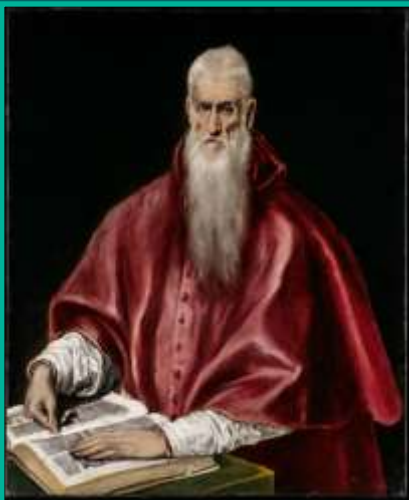
When times of trouble came upon the Roman Empire through Barbarian invasions and to the Church through internal quarreling, Saint Jerome helped the refugees and those in need. He died at Bethlehem.

How can we apply Saint Jerome's life our lives today?

Saint Jerome is the patron saint of scholars and librarians. He had a great love of learning and of books, which combined with his life as a monk and priest gave him a passion for the interpretation of Sacred Scripture. He had an exhaustive knowledge of Classical languages which he put to extremely good use when translating the Bible into Latin. In addition to his work on Scripture, he provided spiritual guidance to a wealthy widow and was a mentor for young monks in monasteries. Together with Saints Ambrose, Augustine of Hippo and Gregory the Great, he was one of the first four Doctors of the Church.

Saint Jerome put his academic talents to good use but didn't ignore the needs of others. It is one thing to know the Word of God, but that alone is not enough. We must live it out. He certainly did that by aiding people in need in times of crisis and also being a mentor to the next generation of monks of his order, together with the part he played in founding a hospice and a school.

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So, let us use the talents, knowledge and wisdom God has given us for His glory and to help others and lastly for our own needs. Let us not hoard knowledge so that others remain ignorant. Let us freely share with others what God blessed us with. Let us always be attentive to the needs of others and ever ready to share what he have with them, so that they can safe, know the love of God through family and friends and not be overcome by any crisis which may afflict them.

Collect

O God, who gave the Priest Saint Jerome
a living and tender love for Sacred Scripture,
grant that your people
may be ever more fruitfully nourished by your Word
and find in it the fount of life.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel

Matthew 13:47-52

The fishermen collect the good fish and throw away those that are no use

Jesus said to the crowds:

'The kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds.

When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore;

then, sitting down,

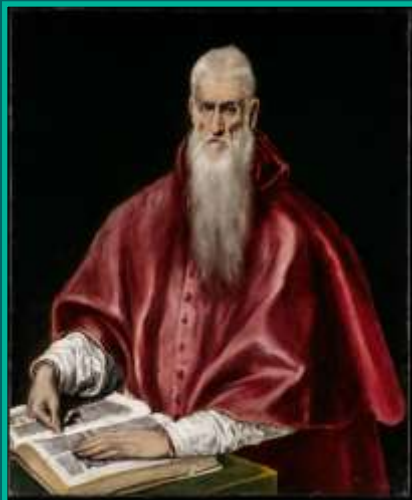
they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use.

This is how it will be at the end of time:

the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just

to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

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'Have you understood all this?'

They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them,

'Well then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

Antiphon

Lord God, your words were found and I consumed them;
your word became the joy and the happiness of my heart.

Hymn for the Memorial of Saint Jerome

Saint Jerome, the Lord did call you
to help those who were in need,
putting flesh on His Holy Word
by your gifts of time and deed.

Saint Jerome, you proclaimed God's Word
in words all could understand:
so that the treasure of His Word
would spread throughout every land.

Like Saint Jerome may we serve God,
living out His Holy Word,
growing in the love and knowledge
which on us it has conferred.

May we keep the Word of God deep
in our hearts to guide our way:
following the path it shows us
we will serve Christ every day.

Text: Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono
87.87D Ode to Joy

Other Music Suggestion

Take the Word of God with you as you go

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