

Saint Simon and Saint Jude
Apostles
28 October



About Saints Simon and Jude

Like many saints in the early Church, we do not have a great deal of information about Saints Simon and Jude. We do however know that they accepted the call from Christ Himself to be two of the chosen twelve.

Tradition tells us that Saint Simon the Zealot preached missions throughout Persia and Egypt.

Saint Jude (not to be confused with Judas Iscariot), is the patron saint of helpless causes and is called Thaddeus in the Gospel according to both Saint Matthew and Saint Mark. Saint Jude is the apostle who at the Last Supper asked Jesus why He showed Himself only to the disciples and not the rest of the world. It is believed he undertook missionary work in Mesopotamia and Persia.

It is believed that both Apostles were martyred in Persia and their relics were transferred to Saint Peter's Basilica during either the seventh or eighth century.

What can we learn from Saints Simon's and Jude's life?

There are two concrete facts that stand out about these two men. They responded to Christ's call to follow Him and they also were willing to die a martyr's death. As apostles they preached the Gospel and were unwavering in their faith in Christ.

We too, in the twenty-first century, are called like these two men, to be faithful in our witness to Christ and preach the Gospel by the way we live our lives.

We are also called like these two men to live out our faith with joy and not be ashamed of being a follower of Christ.

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Collect

O God, who by the blessed Apostles
have brought us to acknowledge your name,
graciously grant,
through the intercession of Saints Simon and Jude,
that the Church may constantly grow
by increase of the peoples who believe in you.
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

Luke 6:12-16

Jesus chooses his twelve apostles

Jesus went out into the hills to pray;
and he spent the whole night in prayer to God.
When day came he summoned his disciples and picked out twelve of them;

he called them 'apostles':

Simon whom he called Peter, and his brother Andrew;
James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas,
James son of Alphaeus,
Simon called the Zealot,
Judas son of James,
and Judas Iscariot who became a traitor.

Antiphon

Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord;
and my Father will love him, and we will come to him,
and make our home with him.

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Hymn for the Feast of Saints Simon and Jude

These two men heard Your call, O Christ,
to leave their past behind
and follow you in everything
with their whole heart and mind.

O Christ, Simon and Jude both preached
Your Word far from their shore:
Your Good News to those who would hear
and in turn You adore.

Saints Simon and Jude faithful were
to You until the end:
for You alone their Master were,
they died for You, their friend.

O Lord, like these Saints may we be
your disciples on earth:
preaching your Name throughout our land
bringing faith to new birth.

CM McKee (CWB 721)

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