

About Saint Philip and Saint James

Saint Philip was born at Bethsaida and began as a disciple of Saint John the Baptist. After Saint John the Baptist was martyred, Philip decided to follow Jesus.

We do not know too many details about Saint Philip, but Scripture tells us that he led others to Christ. Saint Philip introduced his friend Nathaniel to Jesus. He also questions Jesus about as the Way to God our Father in the Last Supper account.

Saint James, son of Alpheus, “the lesser”, whose feast we celebrate today (in contrast to Saint James whose feast day we celebrate on 25 July), ruled the Church at Jerusalem, wrote an epistle and converted many Jews to the Christian Faith.

He died as a martyr in the year 62. He was also granted a special appearance of the Risen Christ.

Saints Philip and James (Apostles and Martyrs)

3 May



What can we learn from Saint Philip and Saint James?

Philip introduced people to Jesus and James converted people to the Christian Faith.

By the way we live our lives as followers of Christ, all that we do should bring others to know Christ so that everyone can have a personal relationship with Him.

We must live out the Eucharist in our lives so that when we are dismissed from our worship, we then glorify God by how we live our lives personally and communally throughout the week.

The Collect

O God, who gladden us each year
with the feast day of the Apostles Philip and James,
grant us, through their prayers,
a share in the Passion and Resurrection
of your Only Begotten Son,
so that we may merit to behold you for eternity.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Reading John 14: 6-14

To have seen me is to have seen the father

Jesus said to Thomas:

‘I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me.

If you know me, you know my Father too.

From this moment you know him and have seen him.’

Philip said, ‘Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.’

‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip,’ said Jesus to him ‘and you still do not know me?

‘To have seen me is to have seen the Father,
so how can you say, “Let us see the Father”?’

Do you not believe

that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself:

it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.

You must believe me when I say

that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;

believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me

will perform the same works as I do myself,

he will perform even greater works,

because I am going to the Father.

Whatever you ask for in my name I will do,

so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

If you ask for anything in my name,

I will do it.’

Antiphon

Lord, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us.

Whoever has seen me, Philip, has seen the Father also, alleluia.

Hymn for the Feast of Saints Philip and James

Jesus said to Saint Philip, “Come now and follow me.”

He brought with him Nathaniel, both would apostles be.

When Greeks asked to see Jesus their wish he realized;

and after Christ ascended a eunuch he baptized.

Saint James, son of Alpheus and brother of the Lord

was a faithful apostle, obedient to the word.

Many Jews he converted, their leader he became

and when his life was ended martyrdom brought him fame.

Like these faithful apostles may we proclaim the faith,
by word and by example, leading to heaven’s gate.

As we live out our calling in our community
through our lives and example may all God’s glory see.

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