

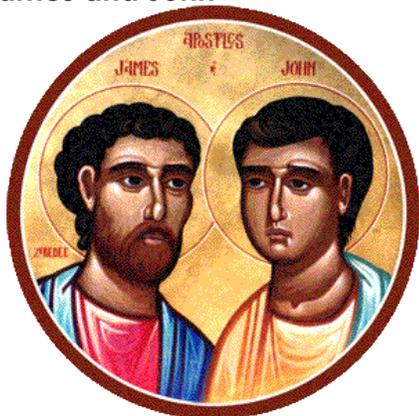
MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED

November 12th, 2017 – 31st Sunday Ordinary Time

Spirituality Ponderings Apostles

Let us continue to look deeper at the Apostles.

James and John



I love reflecting on the life of these two brothers and seeing the changes Jesus brings about in their lives. We know from the beginning that they both have fiery tempers (Mark 3:17). It appears that they also had a really hard time understanding Christ teaching about what it means to be great in the kingdom of God as they are power seekers (Matthew 20:19). In addition, they fell asleep in the garden despite being singled out for the special honor (Mark 14:33) and like the rest of the apostles, they abandon Jesus during His crucifixion although John did come back. Focusing on their sins and faults helps me become even more amazed at who they become because of their encounter with Christ. James becomes the first apostle martyr and John goes on to become the mystical evangelists who writes a Gospel, three letters, and the Book of Revelation. If God can transform them, I have hope

that he can transform me into who I am supposed to be.

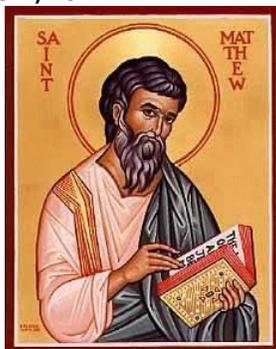
Prayer to St. James:

*O glorious Apostle, St. James, who by reason of thy fervent and generous heart was chosen by Jesus to be a witness of His glory on Mount Tabor, and of His agony in Gethsemane; Thou, whose very name is a symbol of warfare and victory: obtain for us strength and consolation in the unending warfare of this life, that, having constantly and generously followed Jesus, we may be victors in the strife and deserve to receive the victor's crown in heaven.
Amen.*

Prayer to St. John:

O Glorious Saint John, you were so loved by Jesus that you merited to rest your head upon his breast, and to be left in his place as a son to Mary. Obtain for us an ardent love for Jesus and Mary. Let me be united with them now on earth and forever after in heaven.

Matthew/Levi



When I reflect on the life of Matthew, I turn to a passage of Scripture that does not mention him. Instead I turn to John 12:3-6: "Mary took a liter of costly perfumed oil made from

genuine aromatic nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and dried them with her hair; the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. Then Judas the Iscariot, one [of] his disciples, and the one who would betray him, said, "Why was this oil not sold for three hundred days' wages and given to the poor?" He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief and held the money bag and used to steal the contributions."

As I pray over this passage again and again, I realize that Matthew would have been the better choice to hold onto the common purse because as a tax collector he would have been good at matters dealing with money. I see Matthew not being in charge of the money as an example of someone choosing to avoid the near temptation of sin. Therefore, I ask Matthew to help me to avoid the near occasions of sin. I don't ask him to help me avoid sin but I insist on him helping me avoid the near occasion of sin. Would Judas had become a traitor if he had followed Matthew's example?

Prayer to St. Matthew

O Glorious St. Matthew, in your Gospel you portray Jesus as the longed-for Messiah who fulfilled the Prophets of the Old Covenant and as the new Lawgiver who founded a Church of the New Covenant. Obtain for us the grace to see Jesus living in his Church and to follow his teachings in our lives

on earth so that we may live forever with him in heaven.

James



There is very little known about second James (a.k.a. James the Less) but this does not prevent him from being a role model for us through the grace of God. I have taken James as a model for me as an example of what it means to simply be a follower of Jesus humbly without looking for

any sort of outside recognition. James was simply happy doing Jesus' will and I pray to St. James the Less asking his help to have a servant heart's that does not seek recognition.

Prayer to St. James the Less
O Glorious St. James, you were our Lord's cousin and at the same time his friend and follower. You wrote that every good and perfect gift comes to us from the Father of lights, and that faith without works is useless. You preached the divinity of Jesus until your death as a martyr. Obtain for us from the Father of lights the great gift of a living faith in Jesus' divinity which will inspire us to unstinting labor in the service of God and our fellow human beings and

enable us to reach our heavenly destiny.

Prayer to St. Andrew:
O Glorious Saint Andrew, you were the first to recognize and follow the Lamb of God. With your friend Saint John you remained with Jesus for that first day, for your entire life, and now throughout eternity. As you led your brother Saint Peter to Christ and many others after him, draw us also to Him. Teach us to lead others to Christ solely out of love for Him and dedication in His service. Help us to learn the lesson of the Cross and to carry our daily crosses without complaint so that they may carry us to Jesus.

Breaking Open the Word

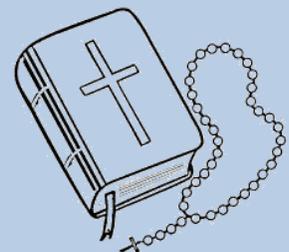
November 12, 2017 Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary: 154 Gospel MT 25:1-13

Jesus told his disciples this parable: "The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps. Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight, there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise ones replied, 'No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.' While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked. Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!' But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.' Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Spiritual Reflection: Fulton Sheen: "If you do not worship God, you worship something, and nine times out of ten it will be yourself. You have a duty to worship God, not because He will be imperfect and unhappy if you do not, but because you will be imperfect and unhappy." The 10 virgins all started off on equal footing. Five of them were smart enough to realize that the bridegroom (and the community) did not report to them and so they went the extra mile. The five foolish ones failed to see for one reason or another that they were not there center of the event and that the bridegroom was and therefore they failed.

Spiritual Questions

1. How is the foolish virgins' failure related to the sin of pride?
2. How is the wise virgins' successes related to the virtue of humility?
3. Why do you think the bridegroom did not recognize the foolish virgins?
4. What happens to people who are not ready when Christ comes?
5. What can you do to be more "awake" in your spiritual life?



Prayers for the Week

The Church invites us to pray for those who have died and now find themselves in Purgatory. Here are a few prayers from the Church's tradition.

LITANY FOR THE SOULS IN PURGATORY # 1

Lord, have mercy on us/Lord, have mercy on us
Christ have mercy on us/Christ have mercy on us
Lord, have mercy on us/ Lord, have mercy on us
Christ, hear us/Christ, graciously hear us.

R: Have mercy on the souls of the faithful departed

God the Father of Heaven, **R.**
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, **R.**
God the Holy Spirit, **R.**
Holy Trinity, One God, **R.**

R: Pray for the souls of the faithful departed

Holy Mary, **R.** Holy Mother of God, **R.**
Saint Michael, **R.** Saint Gabriel, **R.**
All ye holy angels and archangels, **R.**
Saint John the Baptist **R.** Saint Joseph, **R.**
All ye holy patriarchs and prophets, **R.**
Saint Peter, **R.** Saint Paul, **R.** Saint John, **R.**
All ye holy apostles and evangelists, **R.**
Saint Stephen, **R.** Saint Lawrence, **R.**
All ye holy martyrs, **R.** Saint Gregory, **R.**
Saint Ambrose, **R.**
All ye holy bishops and confessors, **R.**
Saint Mary Magdalen, **R.** Saint Catherine, **R.**
All ye holy virgins and widows, **R.**
All ye saints of God, Make intercession for the
souls of the faithful departed. **R.**

Be merciful, Spare them, O Lord/Be merciful, Hear
them, O Lord.

R: O Lord, deliver them

From all evil **R.**
From Thy wrath, **R.**
From the flame of fire, **R.**
From the region of the shadow of death, **R.**
Through Thine Immaculate Conception, **R.**
Through Thy Nativity, **R.**
Through Thy Most Holy Name, **R.**
Through the multitude of Thy tender mercies, **R.**
Through Thy most bitter Passion, **R.**
Through Thy most Sacred Wounds, **R.**
Through Thy most Precious Blood, **R.**
Through Thine ignominious death, by which Thou
hast destroyed our death, **R.**

R. We beseech Thee, hear us.

We sinners, **R.**
O Thou Who didst absolve the sinner woman and
hear the prayer of the good thief, **R.**
That thou wouldst release our deceased parents,
relations and benefactors from the bonds of their
sins and the punishment for them, **R.**
That Thou wouldst hasten the day of visiting Thy
faithful detained in the receptacles of sorrow,
and wouldst transport them to the city of eternal
peace, **R.**
That Thou wouldst shorten the time of expiation
for their sins and graciously admit them into the
holy sanctuary, into which no unclean thing can
enter, **R.**
That through the prayers and alms of Thy Church,
and especially by the inestimable Sacrifice of Thy
Holy Altar, Thou wouldst receive them into the
tabernacle of rest and crown their longing hopes
with everlasting fruition, Son of God, **R.**

R: Grant them eternal rest.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the
world, **R.**
Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the
world, **R.**
Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the
world, **R.**
Christ, hear us. / Christ, graciously hear us.
Lord, have mercy on us/Lord, have mercy on us
Christ have mercy on us/Christ, have mercy on us
Lord, have mercy on us/ Lord, have mercy on us

Pray the "Our Father"

From the gates of Hell, /Deliver their souls, O Lord.
May they rest in peace. / Amen.
O Lord, hear my prayer / And let my cry come
unto Thee.

Let Us Pray

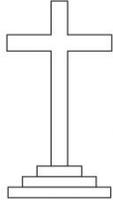
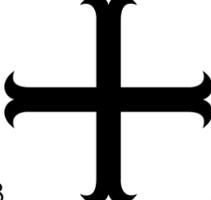
O God, Creator and Redeemer of all the faithful,
grant to the souls of Thy departed servants the
remission of all their sins, that through our pious
supplications they may obtain the pardon which
they have always desired. Through Jesus Christ
Our Lord. Amen.

O God, the Giver of pardon and the Lover of the

salvation of men, we beg Thy clemency on behalf of our brethren, kinsfolk and benefactors who have departed this life, that by the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of all the saints, Thou wouldst receive them into the joys of Thine everlasting kingdom. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

O God, to Whom it belongs always to have mercy and to spare, be favorably propitious to the souls of Thy servants and grant them the remission of all their sins, that being delivered from the bonds of this mortal life, they may be admitted to life everlasting. Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Catholic Trivia

 <p>Last Week's Answers</p> <p>Identify the Sacrament that is the inspiration for the following Stained Glass Windows</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">     </div> <p>1. Holy Orders 2. Baptism 3. Marriage 4. Anointing of the Sick</p>	 <p>This Week's Questions</p> <p>Match the Cross with its appropriate title.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>1</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>2</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>3</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>4</p> </div> </div> <p>A. Latin B. Calvary C. Celtic D. Greek</p>
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Quotes of the Week – Quotes About Purgatory

The doors of Hell are locked from the inside. - C.S. Lewis

All the way to Heaven is Heaven, because He is the way. - Saint Catherine of Siena

Hell is full of the talented, but Heaven of the energetic. - Saint Jeanne de Chantal

The national anthem of Hell is "I Did It My Way". - Peter Kreeft

Don't wait for six strong men to take you to church. - Anonymous

The issue is now clear. It is between light and darkness and every one must choose his side. - G.K. Chesterton (Chesterton's last words)

A priest goes to Heaven or a priest goes to Hell with a thousand people behind. - Saint John Vianney

Pro-Life Corner

Pro-Life Quote: Abortion and racism are both symptoms of a fundamental human error. The error is thinking that when someone stands in the way of our wants, we can justify getting that person out of our lives. Abortion and racism stem from the same poisonous root, selfishness. —Alveda King

Pro-Life Prayer: O my God, relying on your almighty power and infinite mercy and promises, I hope to obtain pardon for all sins against life and with the help of your grace may I do all within my powers to be a guardian of life in all its stages so that I may one day have a share of eternal life through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer. - Amen

