

MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED

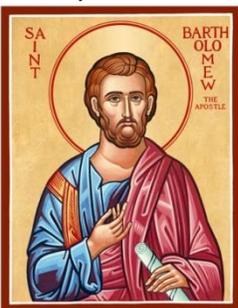
November 19th, 2017 – 33rd Sunday Ordinary Time

Spirituality Ponderings

Apostles

Let us continue to take a closer look at the Apostles.

Bartholomew/Nathaniel



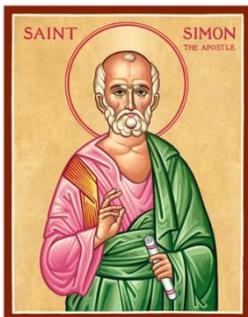
In John 1:43-55 we hear the call story of Nathaniel. The story invites us to see Nathaniel as a person who has certain prejudices against people from Nazareth - "Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come from Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.'" (46). Nathanael over comes his own personal biases and the temptation to simply dismiss Jesus and in his encounter with the Lord he is forever changed. Praying over the life of Nathaniel in the Scripture helps me realize that God can help me overcome my personal sins (demons).

St. Bartholomew

O Glorious St. Bartholomew, Jesus called you a person without guile and you saw in this word a sign that he was the Son of God and King of Israel. Obtain for us the grace to be ever guileless and innocent as doves. At the same time, help us to have your gift of faith to see the Divine hand in the events of daily life. May we discern the signs of the times that lead to

Jesus on earth and will eventually unite us to him forever in heaven.

Simon

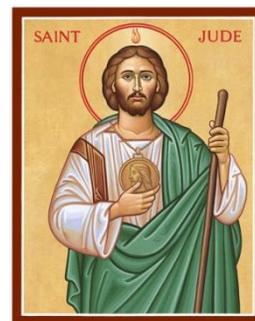


Most Scripture scholars that I have read believe that Simon had some connection to a political party that desired to have the Romans ousted from Israel. I wonder therefore what he must have thought of Jesus' selection of Matthew as an apostle. I assume overtime that they came to have a mutual love and respect for each other. This meant that Simon would have had to let Matthew's past remain in the past. In a real sense, he would have to love his enemy until his enemy became his friend. In my life, I have come to believe that God forgives us much easier than we forgive one another. We often like to dredge each other's pasts us in order to use as a weapon against the other person. Would our world be experiencing peace if we all followed the example of Simon and Matthew and united ourselves to Jesus and left our pasts in the pasts? When I think about bringing up someone's past, I ask Simon to help me to discern whether or not I am doing it to help the other person or to hurt the other person.

Prayer to St. Simon

O Glorious St. Simon, you were a cousin of Jesus and a devoted follower as well. You were called "the Zealot," indicating that you were willing to give your life for your religion and your freedom as a human person. Obtain for us the grace to be willing to give our lives for Christ and to labor for the freedom and peace that only God can give. Help us to spend ourselves for God on earth and be received by him in eternal bliss in heaven.

Jude



We do not know much about St. Jude from the Scripture and often when we do read about him, it is to only state that he was not the one who betrayed Jesus. He has also become the patron of lost causes. For some reason, in my mind when I add these things together, I find myself praying to St. Jude to help me be myself. I feel like St. Jude over his life time learn to appreciate his role in the Church and he was glad that he did not have the other Judas's role.

Prayer to St. Jude

Most holy Apostle, Saint Jude Thaddeus, friend of Jesus, I place myself in your care at this

difficult time. Help me know that I need not face my troubles alone. Please join me in my need, asking God to send me: consolation in my sorrow, courage in my fear, and healing in the midst of my suffering. Ask

our loving Lord to fill me with the grace to accept whatever may lie ahead for me and my loved ones, and to strengthen my faith in God's healing powers. Thank you, Saint Jude Thaddeus, for the promise of hope you hold

out to all who believe, and inspire me to give this gift of hope to others as it has been given to me.
V. Saint Jude, Apostle of Hope
R. Pray for us!

Breaking Open the Word

November 19, 2017 Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary: 157 Gospel MT 25:14-30

Jesus told his disciples this parable: "A man going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third, one-- to each according to his ability. Then he went away. Immediately the one who received five talents went and traded with them, and made another five. Likewise, the one who received two made another two. But the man who received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money. After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. The one who had received five talents came forward bringing the additional five. He said, 'Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.' Then the one who had received two talents also came forward and said, 'Master, you gave me two talents. See, I have made two more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.' Then the one who had received the one talent came forward and said, 'Master, I knew you were a demanding person, harvesting where you did not plant and gathering where you did not scatter; so out of fear I went off and buried your talent in the ground. Here it is back.' His master said to him in reply, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I did not plant and gather where I did not scatter? Should you not then have put my money in the bank so that I could have got it back with interest on my return? Now then! Take the talent from him and give it to the one with ten. For to everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And throw this useless servant into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.'"

Spiritual Reflection: I have never met a true atheist (someone who does not believe in God). Every atheist that I have met turned out to be anti-theist (someone who was rebelling against God for one reason or another). Most atheists see God as a task master that scares them like the master scared the servant in today's Gospel. The truth is God expects so little of us (simply putting the money in the bank was the minimum he wanted from his servants). Are you afraid to do even the minimum for God?

Spiritual Questions

1. Have you met a true atheist?
2. Were you ever against God for one reason or another? If so why?
3. What does the image of "wailing and grinding of teeth" invoke in you?
4. How can you invest your talents more?
5. How can you overcome your fear of God so that you may do what He desires you to do?



Prayers for the Week

With Thanksgiving Day quickly approaching.

THANKSGIVING DAY PRAYER #1

Father all-powerful, Your gifts of love are countless and Your goodness infinite. On Thanksgiving Day we come before You with gratitude for Your kindness: open our hearts to concern for our fellow men and women, so that we may share Your gifts in loving service. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A THANKSGIVING DAY PRAYER # 2

Father, all of Creation rightly owes you thanks and praise. Your justice, love and mercy abound. We thank you this day for all that you have given us: For the Passion and Death of your Divine Son, we thank you Father, through the Cross, He redeemed the world. For the Church,

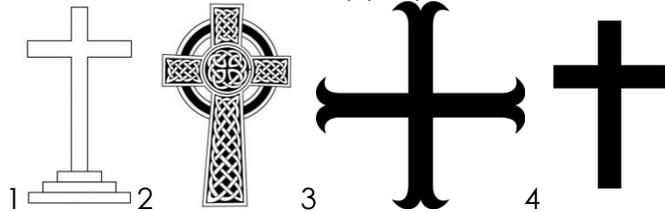
we thank you Father, it is our beacon for salvation. For the martyrs and saints who give testimony to your Son, we thank you Father, their witness to your Son is our inheritance. For our loved ones and friends who have died and gone before us, we thank you Father, their love abides with us forever. For loving spouses, we thank you Father, together we seek you. For the gift of children, we thank you Father, they are your precious gifts to us and to the world. For the gift of our families, loved ones and good friends, we thank you Father, Through them we see the reflection of your Son. For jobs, our homes and all that we have, we thank you Father, give us only that which we need, as we seek Your Kingdom. For the bounty we are about to eat, we thank you through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Catholic Trivia



Last Week's Answers

Match the Cross with its appropriate title.



- A. Latin = 4
C. Celtic = 2

- B. Calvary = 1
D. Greek = 3



This Week's Questions

Match the Cross with its appropriate title.

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. St. Martin of Tours | 2. St. Martin de Porres |
| 3. St. Christopher | 4. St. Miguel Pro |

- A. Saint was called "servant of slaves"
B. Saint shared his cloak with a beggar who turned out to be Christ in disguised.
C. Saint carried a child, who was Christ in disguised over a water hazard.
D. Saint was executed for being a priest.

Quotes of the Week – Quotes About Purgatory

Let us be grateful to the people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom." Marcel Proust

"Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all others." Marcus Tullius Cicero

"Cultivate the habit of being grateful for every good thing that comes to you, and to give thanks

continuously. And because all things have contributed to your advancement, you should include all things in your gratitude." Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Praise God even when you don't understand what He is doing." Henry Jacobsen

"Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you kneel to say your nightly prayer. And let faith be the bridge you build to overcome evil and welcome good." Maya Angelou,

"I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought, and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder." G.K. Chesterton

Pro-Life Corner

Pro-Life Quote: A person is a person no matter how small. —Dr. Seuss

Pro-Life Prayer: Prayer for the Unborn

Heavenly Father, in Your love for us, protect against the wickedness of the devil, those helpless little ones to whom You have given the gift of life. Touch with pity the hearts of those women pregnant in our world today who are not thinking of motherhood. Help them to see that the child they carry is made in Your image - as well as theirs - made for eternal life. Dispel their fear and selfishness and give them true womanly hearts to love their babies and give them birth and all the needed care that a mother can give. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.

Saint Monica Society Prayer For November

ACT OF LOVE

O My God, I love you above all things, with my whole heart and soul, because you are all-good and worthy of all love. I love my neighbor as myself for the love of you. I forgive all who have injured me, and ask pardon of all whom I have injured. In a special way I ask you to help me to manifest your love to those whose practice of the faith is mediocre at best. May they come to know your love and may they love you the way that I do. Amen.

St. Monica Society

Please join us in praying a special prayer each month for Catholics who have fallen away from their faith.

Catholic Humor

1. A lady was picking through the frozen turkeys at the grocery store for Thanksgiving Day, but couldn't find one big enough for her family. She asked a stock boy, "Do these turkeys get any bigger?"
"No, ma'am. They're dead."
2. **Danny:** Why did the cranberries turn red?
Jake: Beats me.
Danny: Because they saw the turkey dressing!
3. **Luke:** What did the turkey say to the computer?
Will: What?
Luke: "Google, google, google."
4. A man buys a parrot, only to have it constantly insult him. He tries everything to make the parrot stop, but nothing works. Frustrated, the man puts the parrot in the freezer. After a few minutes the insults stop. The man thinks he might have killed the parrot, so he opens the freezer and takes the parrot out. The parrot is shivering. It stammers, "S-s-sorry for being r-r-rude. Please f-f-forgive me." Then, after a moment, the parrot softly asks, "W-w-what exactly d-d-did the turkey do?"