

WHATEVER BECAME OF THE 12 APOSTLES?



BY

SEAN M. WRIGHT

+++ From the Holy Scriptures +++

In the Gospel according to St Matthew, in 10:1-15, we read:

Then He summoned His twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits to drive them out and to cure every disease and every illness. The names of **the Twelve Apostles** are these: first, **Simon called Peter**, and his brother **Andrew**; **James, the son of Zebedee**, and his brother **John**; **Philip** and **Bartholomew**, **Thomas** and **Matthew** the tax collector; **James, the son of Alphæus**, and **Lebbæus surnamed Thaddæus**; **Simon the Cananæan**, and **Judas Iscariot** who betrayed Him.

Jesus sent out **the Twelve** after instructing them thus, "Do not go into pagan territory or enter a Samaritan town. Go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, make this proclamation: 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons. Freely you have been given; freely you are to give. Take no gold or silver or copper for your belts; no sack for the journey, or a second tunic, or sandals, or walking stick; for the laborer is worthy of his hire. Whatever town or village you enter, look for a worthy person in it, and stay there until you leave. As you enter a house, call down peace upon it. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; if not, let your peace return to you. Whoever will not receive you or listen to your words—go outside that house or town and shake the dust from your feet. Amen, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town."

To which the Gospel according to St Mark 3:13-19; 6:7-10, 13, 30 concurs: He went up the mountain and summoned those whom He wanted and they came to Him. **He appointed Twelve whom He also named Apostles** that they might be with Him and He might send them forth to preach and to have authority to drive out demons: He appointed **the Twelve: Simon, whom he named Peter; James, son of Zebedee**, and **John the brother of James, whom he named Boanerges**, that is, **Sons of Thunder; Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphæus; Thaddæus, Simon the Cananæan**, and **Judas Iscariot** who betrayed Him ... He summoned **the Twelve** and sent them out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits ... **The Apostles** gathered together with Jesus and reported all they had done and taught.

Not forgetting what Jesus promised them later according to Matthew 19:28:

“Amen I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on His glorious throne, **you who have followed Me** will also sit on **twelve thrones**, judging the **twelve tribes** of Israel (*See also Luke 22:30 in which this promise is repeated*).

On the other hand, in his Gospel account, St Luke, 6:12-16, reports:

In those days He departed to the mountain to pray, and He spent the night in prayer to God. When day came, He called His disciples to Himself, and from them **He chose Twelve, whom He also named Apostles: Simon, whom He surnamed Peter**, and his brother **Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Jude of James**, and **Judas Iscariot**, who became a traitor.

Again, in the Acts of Apostles 1:13, 14, St Luke points out:

When they entered the city they went to the Upper Room ... **Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Jude of James**. All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and **Mary the mother of Jesus**, and His brothers.

To which must be added St Luke's revelation in Acts 1:26:

Then they cast lots and the lot fell upon **Matthias**, and he was numbered among the **Eleven Apostles**.

Continuing St Luke's narrative in Acts 5:12, we learn:

And by the hands of **the apostles** were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.

Telling of their arrest by the Sanhedrin in Acts 5:29, St Luke declares:

Then **Peter and the other apostles** answered and said, “We must obey God rather than men.”

And let's not forget St Luke's disclosure, in Acts 14:14, how:

The apostles Barnabas and Paul tore their garments when they heard this [that they were being proclaimed gods by the people of Lystra

St Luke further explains, in Acts 15:6:

And **the apostles** and elders came together for to consider of this matter.

Nor can we disregard Romans 16:6 in which Paul asks them to:
Greet **Andronicus** and **Junia**, my fellow Jews who have been in prison with me. They are outstanding among **the apostles** and they were in Christ before I was.

To which 1Corinthians 15:3-9 should be added:

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures; that He was buried; that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures; that He appeared to **Cephas**, then to **the Twelve**. After that, He appeared to more than five hundred brothers at once, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. After that He appeared to **James**, then to **all the apostles**. Last of all, as to one born abnormally, He appeared to me. For **I am the least of the apostles, not fit to be called an apostle**, because I persecuted the Church of God.

Still, St Paul goes on to state in Galatians 1:1—as in other letters—that he is:
Paul, an apostle not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead.

In conclusion, the comment in Hebrews 3:1 should be considered:
Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider **the Apostle** and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus.



Jesus Chooses The Twelve by James Tissot

WHAT IS KNOWN ABOUT THE TWELVE – AND OTHER APOSTLES

1. **Simon bar Jona**—(Hebrew: **Shim'on**: "Listener"; variant: **Symeon**; Greek: **Simon**). From Bethsaida of Galilee, lived in Capharnaum with his wife, Per-pertua, & mother-in-law; he & his brother fish in partnership with Zebedee & his sons. Jesus sur-named him, **Kefa** (Heb: or Aramaic "**Boulder**"; Gr: **Cephas** = **Rock**; Gr: **Petros**; Latin: **Petrus**; English: **Peter**), a nickname similar to "**Rocky**"): Designated 1st leader of the Church by Jesus; Fleeing Judæa, Peter became 1st Bishop of Antioch, then 1st Bishop of Rome. Honored as the Prince of the Apostles, he traveled extensively, ordaining Linus, Cletus & Clement to act at Rome in his absence. He wrote two epistles and died, crucified upside down, during Nero's reign in 64 or 67.



2. **Andrew bar Jona**—(Gr: **Andreas**: "**Manly**") brother of Simon, fishing partner with Zebedee and his sons in Capharnaum, former disciple of John the Baptist: he was the first recorded follower of Jesus: Preaching with Philip in Greece, he was sent to Byzantium by Peter, say the Orthodox, founding the Church there in the year 62. He later traveled to Patras, a city in Greece. There he was crucified, bound by ropes to an X-shaped cross on the shore of the Black Sea. A crowd gathered. From this pulpit he converted many, preaching Christ's love, dying two days later.



3. **James bar Zebedee**: "**the Greater**" or "**Major**"—(Heb: **Yacob**, Gr: **Iacobos**: "**May God protect**": The English: **James** is derived from Latin variant, **Iacomus**); a son of Zebedee, who, with his father, and brother, John, was a fishing partner with Simon and Andrew bar Jona. Jesus named them both **Boan'erges**, (Heb: "**Sons of Thunder**") when they wanted to call down fire and brimstone on a Samaritan town which refused Jesus entry. Said to have traveled to Spain to preach the Faith, and then returned to Jerusalem. Acts 12 tells how he was arrested in 42 by Herod Agrippa I and beheaded by the axe or the sword, the 1st apostle to be martyred.



4. **John bar Zebedee**—(Heb: **Yochanan**: "**Yahweh is gracious**"; Latin: **Ioannes**); The brother of James; at the Last Supper he called himself **the Disciple Jesus loved**, a fiery man, though the crucified Christ left the care of His Mother to him. Traveling to Ephesus with the Virgin Mary he acted as a kind of archbishop to the bishops of seven cities in Asia Minor (now Turkey). Clement of Alexandria tells how John saved a young robber. Tertullian reports his arrest by order of the Emperor Domitian at Rome in 94. Thrown into a cauldron of boiling oil, he escaped unharmed. Exiled to the island of Patmos he labored in the mines and wrote the Apocalypse, returning to Ephesus in 96. His Gospel, composed to fill in the blanks in the Synoptics, names participants in Jesus' ministry, recording many of His deeply spiritual discourses. Three of his epistles are also in the New Testament. Near the year 100, as he lay dying, John repeatedly preached, "Little children, love one another," as the essence of Jesus' Good News.



5. **Philip**—(Gr: **Philippos**: "**Friend of horses**") also from Bethsaida, he fished in the Sea of Galilee. A disciple of John the Baptist, he introduced his friend Nathanael to Jesus. Outside Capharnaum in the year 32 where a crowd was gathered, Jesus told him to feed them. Astounded, Philip said that not even 300 denarii, a year's wages could buy enough food. Jesus then multiplied 5 loaves & 2 fishes to feed 5000. At the Last Supper Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth and the life." He preached in Greece with Andrew. In Hieropolis refusing to cease proclaiming Christ he was nailed, upside down, by his feet to the branch of a tree, a true *arbor infelix*, taken down then beheaded at the age of 87 sometime around AD 90.



6. **Nathanael bar Tholmai**—(Heb: **Netan'El**: "**God has given**"); born in Cana when Philip told him about Jesus he wondered if anything good could come out of Nazareth. Identified as **Bartholomew** in the Synoptic Gospels, John speaks of how after the Resurrection he was with a half-dozen other apostles for the miraculous catch of 153 fishes. Nathanael Bartholomew evangelized, working miracles in Ethiopia, Parthia, India and Armenia, dying there in 62, flayed alive, crucified then beheaded the brother of the king, Polymius, in revenge for converting him to Christianity.



7. **Levi bar Chalpai** surnamed **Matthew**—(Heb: **Levi**: "**Attached**"; Heb: **Mattiyahu**; Gr: **Matthaios**: "**Gift from God**"); collected taxes for Herod Antipas in Capharnaum. Called **Levi** in the Gospels of Mark and Luke, Jesus may have given him the name **Matthew**. Probably not a brother of James and Jude despite his father's name being Alphæus. Matthew gave a party for Jesus, who shocked Pharisees by saying that He came to call sinners not the righteous. Spreading the Word of God among his fellow Jews for 15 years, Matthew wrote the first version of his Gospel in Aramaic, c. 50. He traveled to Parthia, Syria and Macedonia, dying in "Ethiopia to the south of the Caspian Sea" not in Africa. Sources disagree as to his being burned, stabbed, stoned, or beheaded, c. 90



8. **Judas** surnamed **Thomas** or **Didymus**—(Heb: **T'oma**: Gr: **Didymos**: both mean "**Twin**"). **Judas** is used in the gospel forgery attributed to him). When the rest balked at returning to Jerusalem after attempts to stone Jesus, Thomas bravely declared, "Let us go also, that we may die with Him." Although he's the original "**Doubting Thomas**," once convinced that the Risen Jesus stood before him he humbly declared, "My Lord and my God!" *The Acts of Mary* says he traveled to India but came back, hearing of Mary's impending death. Thomas was the only witness of her Assumption which the remaining apostles disbelieved, in reverse of the Resurrection incident. Thomas proved it when only Mary's sash remained among flowers after her tomb was opened. Returning to India, Thomas converted the King of Mylapore; said to be stoned & stabbed by a spear in 72. Unknown for centuries the Christians of India trace their beliefs to those of the Apostle and made their union with Rome in the 1300s. They are still known as Thomas Christians.



9. **James bar Chalpai**—surnamed "**the Less**" or "**Minor**" in Mark 15:40. He is often identified with "**James the Just**", 1st Bishop of Jerusalem after Peter fled to Antioch. Paul calls him "**Brother of the Lord**" but Hegesippus explains that James' father, **Alphæus** aka **Cleophas**, was the brother of Joseph, husband of the Virgin Mary. James had been opposed to accepting Gentiles without circumcision. He presided over the Apostolic Council in Jerusalem ending the practice in AD 50 (Acts 15). James prayed daily at the Temple in Jerusalem and



wrote an epistle. During a switch in Roman procurators James was pushed from the Temple pinnacle, stoned and finished off with a fuller's club in 62.

10. Jude bar Chalpai—(Heb: *Yehuda (Judah)*: "Praised"; surnamed **Thaddeus**, Ara: *Taddai*; Gr: *Thaddaios*: "great heart" or "courageous heart"). Born in Panæas, later Cæsarea Philippi, some manuscripts of Matthew give him the surname: **Lebbæus** ("praising heart"). Luke calls him "**Jude of James**"; John calls him "**Judas, not the Iscariot**." Brother of James the Less, Jude wrote a short epistle, warning Christians not to let heretics take part of their *Agape*, or "Love Feast", the Mass. With his brother, Simon Zelotes, he evangelized Idumaea, Syria, Mesopotamia, Libya, possibly Edessa, and, finally, Berytus (Beirut), then part of the Roman province of Syria, where he was clubbed to death or shot with arrows in 65.



11. Simon bar Chalpai—Matthew & Mark discreetly call him "**the Cananean**" (Gr: *Kananaios*); Luke openly names him "**the Zealot**" (Gr: *Zelotes*). Both terms refer to the party seeking to rid Israel of Roman domination. Sources suggest that he or Jude was the groom at the wedding in Cana. Another of Jesus' cousins, brother of James and Jude; son of Cleophas (Alphæus), said to have evangelized Britain, he returned to Jerusalem after James died, becoming its 2nd bishop. He led his flock across the Jordan, to Petra before the city was destroyed in 70. Returning, Simeon continued leading the Church in Jerusalem until accused of being a Christian and descendant of David. The Roman governor, Atticus, had him crucified at the age of 120. He died praying for his executioners. His attributes, a fish lying atop a Book of Gospels reminds us that he was "a fisher of men."



12. Judas bar Simon—The traitor, surnamed **Iscariot**, referring to the Judæan town of **Kerioth**; to the tribe of **Issachar**; or to being one of the **Sicarii**, Jewish assassins affiliated with the Zealots. Always listed last, John calls him "**Judas, son of Simon Iscariot**". Judas held the purse for the apostles from which, John adds, he embezzled funds. He was bothered that Mary of Bethany poured expensive nard on Jesus' hair and feet. After betraying Christ in Gethsemane for 30 silver denarii, Matthew says Judas regretted his deed, threw the



money back into the Temple, then committed suicide by hanging himself. In Acts, Luke explains that Judas fell and his body burst open. The money was used to buy the potter's field called Aceldama, "Field of Blood" as a cemetery, in fulfillment of prophecy.

- 13. Matthias**—(In some manuscripts, *Mattathias*, Heb: variant; Gr: **Matthew**). In Acts 1:15-26 Peter proposed that a disciple be chosen to fill the Apostolate in place of Judas, a witness of Jesus' Baptism & Resurrection. Lots were drawn between him and Joseph Barsabbas Justus resulting in favor of Matthias, who was numbered as an Apostle. The *Catholic Encyclopedia* candidly admits that accounts of his later career are "vague and contradictory." Matthias preached and was crucified in Judæa or Colchis. Another tradition has him "preaching the Gospel to barbarians & cannibals," dying by a spear thrust. Still another maintains Matthias was stoned at Jerusalem then beheaded or crucified in 51.



- 14. Paul**—(Originally **Saul**, Heb: *Sha'ul*, "Asked for" & Latin: *Paulus*: "Small" or "Humble": the 1st term may be descriptive, the 2nd brings a smile to readers who recall Paul's stated delight at being "a Pharisee & the son of a Pharisee," born of the tribe of Benjamin and a Roman citizen in the city of Tarsus). After persecuting the Church in Judæa, he was called by Christ Himself to be "a vessel of election." Paul became a stellar missionary making three long sojourns to convince Gentiles that Jesus is Lord. With Barnabas, Silas & many other co-workers, he suffered stoning, scourging and imprisonment. His letters make up 1/3 of the New Testament and helped codify belief. One tradition has him converting Thecla, a remarkable woman venerated in the East as a "near apostle". Arrested in Judæa Paul went to Rome for trial, was acquitted, and is said to have gone to Spain. Back in Rome after the Great Fire of 64, he was beheaded, some say, on the same day that Peter was crucified, in 64 or 67. He is often depicted holding a scroll or "the Sword of the Spirit."



- 15. Joseph Barnabas**—(Heb: *Yosef*: "He will add"; Gr: **Ioseph**; Heb: *Bar naviya'*, Gr: *Barnabas*: "Son of the prophet", although in Acts 4:36, Luke claims that the name means "Son of encouragement", a nickname given him by the Apostles). A Levite from Cyprus, uncle of John Mark, he laid his fortune at the feet of the Apostles soon after Pentecost (Acts 4). Luke says, "he was a good man, full of the Holy



Spirit and of Faith." Learning that pagans were being converted in Antioch, he brought Paul to the attention of the Apostles who commissioned them to form the Church there. Barnabas accompanied Paul on his first missionary journey. Tradition has Barnabas preaching in Alexandria and Rome, returning to Cyprus which he and Paul had earlier evangelized. It's said he was stoned to death in the Cypriot city of Salamis about 61. It's said that he was buried by Mark who laid his uncle's copy of the Gospel of Matthew, in Aramaic on his chest. Barnabas is venerated as the founder of the Church in Cyprus.

16. John Mark (Gr: *Markos*, Latin: *Marcus*: "**Hammer**"). His mother owned the house in which the Holy Spirit descended on 120 believers. After setting off on a journey with Paul & his uncle Barnabas he turned back. Paul was disinclined to include him again so Mark accompanied Peter who sent him to the great city of Alexandria to establish the Church there. Papias says Mark based his Gospel on Peter's preaching, "accurately, though not in order," dying while being dragged through the streets of Alexandria.



17. Luke (Gr: *Loukas*; Latin: *Lucas*, contraction of *Lucanus*, "**From Lucania**", a region in Italy, or "**Bringer of Light**"; English diminutive: "**Lucky**"). From Antioch, Luke worked as a doctor before becoming a Christian. He associated himself with Paul who mentions him in three of his epistles. In about AD 70 Luke wrote his Gospel, based it on Paul's preaching. He also produced the 1st Church history, Acts of Apostles. He died in Thebes, aged 84, probably of natural causes.



18. Mary Magdalene (Heb: *Miryam*, Gr: *Mariam*, Latin: *Maria*: Thought to mean "**Sea of bitterness**" or "**Rebelliousness**" but most likely from Egyptian: *Mry*: "**Beloved**" or *Mr*: "**Love**"; from *Migdal*, Heb: *Magdala* = "**Tower**" or "**Hairdresser**"). Mentioned among the women accompanying Christ, she witnessed the Crucifixion & saw the Risen Jesus Who sent her "to My brothers" (John 20:17) "and Peter" (Mark 16:7). Since Jesus "sent" by to the 12 she is called "The Apostle to the Apostles." The East claims she died in Ephesus; western tradition says she went to Marseilles, living 30 years as a penitent.



Cæsaræa Philippi

The massive cliffs forming the foothills of Mount Hermon, the highest peak in Galilee, stands at the headwaters of the Jordan River. Formerly called Panæas, here Jesus surnamed Simon “Kefa”, or “Petros” – “Rock”, commissioning him as head of the Church & bestowing on him “the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven.”

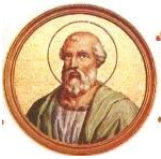


ABOVE: Cæsaræa Philippi, massive cliff and Jordan River headwaters, ABOVE RIGHT: Four people stand in front of the “Gates of Hell”. BELOW RIGHT: Close up of the Cave of Echo to the right of Hell Gate with votive niches for statues of Pan, Echo’s consort, placed there by devotees.

THE PAPAL PORTRAITS IN ST PAUL’S OUTSIDE THE WALLS



St Peter



St Linus



St Honorius I



Bl Benedict XIII



St John XXIII

Papal mosaics in the original basilica destroyed by fire in 1823 were recreated for the new basilica, reconsecrated in 1855 by Pope Pius IX but not completed for many years after.



The papal medallions surround the entire basilica.



Pope Benedict XVI’s mosaic is readied for installation.

“AND WITH HIM WERE THE TWELVE”



The Cross and Chi-Rho in triumph, forming an ankh, flanked by the Twelve.

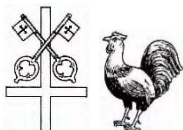
Jesus saw them as twelve ordinary men who believed in the One God of their ancestors, following the worship ritual laid down by Moses. Most importantly, He saw how they loved their families and friends, proud to be Jews seeking the Kingdom of God. Most fished along the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Responding to the call, “Come, follow Me,” they laid down their nets. Jesus, always fond of punning wordplay, told them, “I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19, Mark 1:17).

Having made a covenant with God the Hebrew nation had survived 1500 years since the Exodus despite internecine wars, enslavement, annexation and exile by Shalmaneser V, Nebuchadnezzar, Alexander and Pompey. Jesus came to show that they were destined for an eternal kingdom of joy. The Twelve took part in a three year seminar led by Jesus, appreciating Scripture and how it would be fulfilled. They trekked across the length and breadth of the provinces and tetrarchies of Galilee, Samaria and Judæa, the homeland of the Children of Israel, also visiting the surrounding districts of Phoenicia, Ituræa, Peræa and the ten Græcianized cities of the Decapolis.

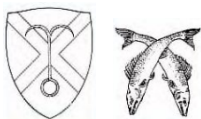
The Twelve Apostles set up the Church in Jerusalem before evangelizing the entire Roman Empire, an empire conquered by the teachings of a Galilean peasant who not only claimed to be God, but convinced a number of hard-headed fishermen. They, in turn, convinced the rest of us. Christianity has always been a belief passed on by being convinced by the hearsay

Twelve thrones were promised the Twelve Apostles (Matthew 19:28, Luke 22:30) for devoting their lives to preaching the Kingdom of God in this world to be achieved in the next. We know little of their later lives. Ancient traditions were set down by early Church historians like Eusebius, Papias, Hegessipus and other Christian writers like Clement of Alexandria, Irenæus, Tertullian, Origen and Hippolytus, Some stories sound right, others are contradictory, a few tales seem purely legendary.

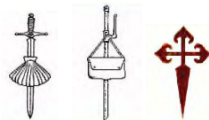
Later audiences couldn't read so artists gave the apostles attributes suggested by events in their lives or by the manner of their deaths. The unlettered Faithful coming to church were then able to identify them as they learned the Bible from the priests and nuns who taught them with the pictures and statuary in their churches.

ST PETER

Given the keys of the kingdom he founded the Church in Antioch, later in Rome. He died on an inverted cross; a rooster crowed when he denied knowing Jesus; the first Bishop of Rome

ST ANDREW

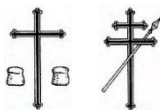
The 1st to follow Jesus, he became a fisher of men as the hooks show, fishes recall his role in the miraculous feeding of 5000. He died on a cross saltire, i.e., shaped like an X.

ST JAMES THE GREATER

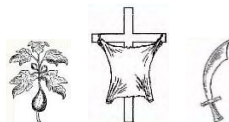
1st apostle to be martyred; beheaded by Herod Agrippa, object of pilgrimage in Compostela, Spain. A drowning Spanish knight saved by a scallop shell and pilgrim's staff, with the pointed Cross, became heraldic symbols for St James.

ST JOHN

Given poison by enemies the Beloved Disciple blessed the wine and a viper slithered out of the cup; surviving boiling in oil, he was exiled to Patmos, later dying in Ephesus

ST PHILIP

His role in the feeding of the 5000 denoted by the bread, his daughters were revered; stabbed while crucified at the age of 87 in Hieropolis.

ST NATHANAE BAR THOLMAI

Brought by Philip to Jesus who saw him under a fig tree; he labored in many countries, in Armenia he converted many but was skinned alive and crucified. Bartholomew is his name in the Synoptic Gospels.

ST THOMAS DIDYMUS

Sent to India he built churches as the carpenter's square denotes. He was stabbed and stoned. He alone of the Apostles believed in Mary's Assumption. Her tomb reopened, only her sash remained.

ST LEVI MATTHEW

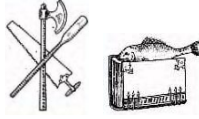
A tax collector for Antipas, he left to follow Jesus. and gave a feast for Him; took the Gospel to Persia; was beheaded. Or burned at the stake, crucified or stoned. The records are confused on the manner of Matthew's martyrdom.

ST JAMES THE LESS

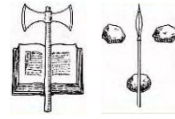
Son of Alphæus, bishop of Jerusalem after Peter fled. He is said to have prayed in the Temple daily. Called "the Just" he was thrown off the Temple roof, stoned and finished off with a fuller's club, for refusing to deny Jesus.

ST JUDE THADDÆUS

Patron of hopeless cases, evangelized Armenia and Libya; possibly took the Shroud of Jesus to Edessa to cure Abgar the ruler as implied by the medal.

ST SIMON THE ZEALOT

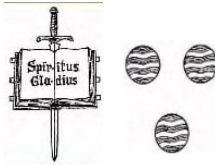
Traveled with St. Jude, spreading the Gospel in Persia; returned to Jerusalem to be bishop after the death of St. James; preached and fed the poor; at 120 was crucified and his body sawn in half.

ST MATTHIAS

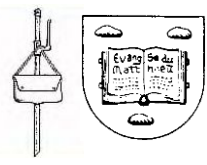
One of the 72 disciples, elected an apostle after Judas died (see Acts 1) preached to cannibals in Ethiopia; crucified there or he was stoned, stabbed and beheaded in Jerusalem.

JUDAS ISCARIOT

The 30 pieces of silver and the rope of his suicide are the symbols of the Betrayer. As Bishop Fulton Sheen observed, Judas' tragedy is he could have been St. Judas.

ST PAUL

"The sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God" he writes in Eph 6:17; the Trevi Fountain in Rome sprang up where St. Paul's severed head hit the ground three at his martyrdom.

ST JOSEPH BARNABAS

The staff and wallet symbolize the missionary journeys shared with St. Paul. The Gospel of St. Matthew was found with his body after his stoning in Cyprus.

AND LET'S NOT FORGET THE SYMBOLISM FOR ...**ST STEPHEN. DEACON**

The deacon's vestment, the dalmatic, along with 3 rocks commemorate his manner of martyrdom. As described in Acts 7 Stephen was one of the early Church's most powerful preachers.

ST PHILIP, DEACON

With Stephen, he was one of the first 7 deacons; he evangelized Samaria, baptizing the eunuch official of the queen of Ethiopia as told in Acts 6 and 8.

ST JOSEPH

The chaste spouse of Mary, foster father of Jesus Christ. Patron of a happy death and of the Universal Church. His staff flowered, signaling that he was to wed Mary. The carpenter's square indicates his occupation as a carpenter.

THE VIRGIN MARY



Of medieval design, a device using all the letters of "Maria" to make a beautiful motif of Mary's name, enclosing a Cross, a powerful sign of the divine maternity, affirming the fact that Mary carried Jesus within her womb.

A MONOGRAM OF THE CHRISTOS



Chi Rho Sigma indicates the title, $\chi\rho\iota\sigma\tau\omicron\varsigma$ – "Christos". Some believe this means "Christos Sotor" – Christ the Redeemer – not taking into account the bar over the letters which always indicates "abbreviation".

ST MARY MAGDALENE



She may be Mary of Bethany who anointed Jesus' head & feet, wiping them with her hair (John 12) or the "woman of the town" who did the same in Luke 7. She was at the Crucifixion; the Risen Lord chose her as Apostle to the Apostles.

APOSTOLIC SYMBOLISM AND TRADITIONS

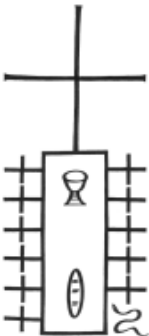
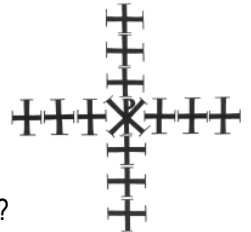


Above is a 5th century altar found at Marseilles: the Twelve Apostles are shown as birds, a sign typically signifying believers, flanking the Chi-Rho symbol of Christ.



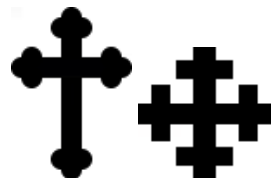
The Shield of the Twelve shows them as Sheep following the Good Shepherd.

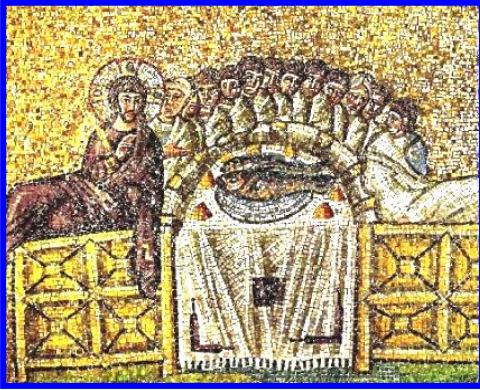
Christ ($\chi\rho$) sends forth the Twelve (Matthias apparently snuck in for this group picture).



Hey! Who let that snake in here? See him? The one at the foot of the table. Christ and Apostles at the Last Supper, the 1st Mass.

The Budded Cross, right, and the Cross Crosslet beside it, with their twelve protrusions, represent the union of the Apostles with Jesus and His sacrifice.





A 6th century mosaic from Sant' Apollinare, Ravenna, Italy. Jesus & the Twelve recline on divans (*triclinia*) at a Passover Seder. They are in union with Him at a semicircular table representing an altar. The fishes represent the transubstantial Holy Eucharist.

Upon reflection, it's quite fascinating how St Thomas, "Doubting Thomas" as he's known, makes the *fullest* confession of faith in Jesus of any of the Apostles. It's what Pope Benedict XVI calls "the most splendid profession of faith in the whole of the New Testament." Way to go, Tom!

SAINTS FUN FACTS by John Sheppard

St. Thomas was one of the original Apostles. He was a dedicated follower of Christ. Thomas, unwilling to believe other Apostles had seen the risen Lord, he earned the title "doubting Thomas." On Christ's second apparition, Thomas saw the wounds in our Lord's hands and side and proclaimed, "My Lord and My God."

As the Apostles dispersed, Thomas eventually reached India.

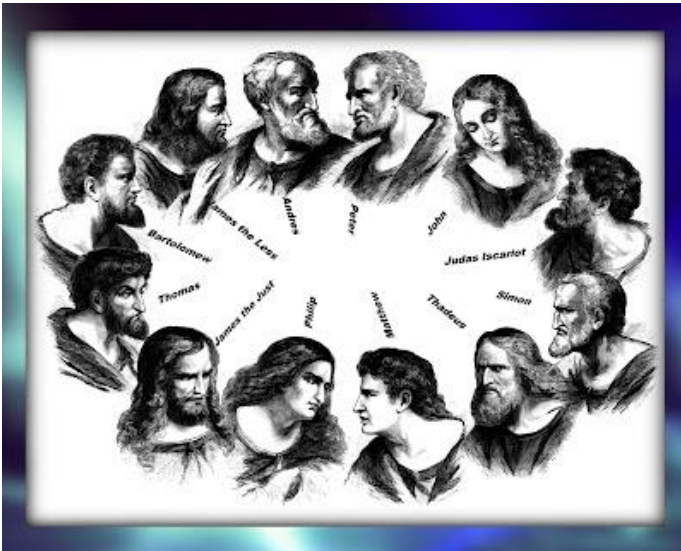
He is the patron saint of architects.

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According to a very old tradition St Luke was a skilled artist. "In this particular, what they tell us is supported by the authority of Theodorus Lector, who lived in 518, and relates that a picture of the Blessed Virgin painted by St. Luke was sent from Jerusalem to the Empress Pulcheria ... Moreover, a very ancient

inscription was found in a vault near the Church of St. Mary in viâ latâ in Rome, in which it is said of a picture of the Blessed Virgin Mary discovered there, "One of the seven painted by St. Luke." (*Butler's Lives of the Saints*)



Speaking of paining, ever wonder which Apostle is which at the Last Supper? Here's a "Who's Who" of the Twelve taken from Leonardo's portraits. Notice Peter and Andrew seeming to scowl at each other at the top – must be some family issue. Just to clear up one small note of confusion, "James the Just" is really "James the Greater".

4 LIVING CREATURES: 4 EVANGELISTS
EZECHIEL 10:14 – APOCALYPSE 4:6-8

Early on the Church began associating the Four Evangelists with the Four Living Creatures found in Ezechiel and Revelation. St Irenæus seems to have started the associations about 180 but iconographers eventually settled on St Jerome's reasoning: Matthew starts with the human ancestry of Jesus; Mark begins with John the Baptist, like a roaring lion, "the voice of one crying in the wilderness"; Luke, opening with the vision of the priest, Zachary, is assigned the calf or ox, beasts of sacrifice; John's eagle represents the soaring theological insights of his spiritual sublimity.

According to...	Man/Angel	Lion	Calf/Ox	Eagle
St Irenæus of Lyons	Matthew	John	Luke	Mark
Pseudo-Athanasius	Matthew	Luke	Mark	John
St Jerome	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
St Augustine of Hippo	Mark	Matthew	Luke	John



Feast Days, Patronage and Invocations

St Peter – Chair: **Feb 22**; as Apostle: **June 29** – Birzebugia, Poznan, Povoa de Varzim, Rome, St Petersburg, Sestao, Trier, Westminster Abbey; Bakers, Bridge Builders, Butchers, Carpenters, Clockmakers, Cloth Makers, Cobblers, Cordwainers, Fishermen, Fishmongers, Glassmakers, Harvesters, Horologists, Locksmiths, Masons, Net Makers, Popes, Potters, Sailors, Shipbuilders; **Invoked For:** Longevity; **Against:** Criminal Activity, Frenzy, Fever, Footache

St Andrew – **Nov 30** – Amalfi, Austria, Barbados, Bruges, Germany, Greece, Luqa, Romania, Russia, Scotland, Ukraine, University of Patras; Anglers, Boatmen, Butchers, Farmers, Fishmongers, Fishermen, Karadordevic Dynasty, Knights of the Golden Fleece, Maidens, Pregnant Women, Rope Makers, Sail Makers, Textile Workers, Water Carriers; **Invoked For:** Happy Marriages, Easy Pregnancies, **Against:** Convulsions, Fever, Gout, Neckache, Sore Throats, Whooping Cough

St James the Greater – **July 25** – Acoma Pueblo, Antiqua, Guatemala, Bangued, Philippines diocese, Brentino Belluno, Caltagione, Cali, Cassine, Chile, Compostela, Galicia, Gavi, Guatemala, Hettstedt, Saxony, Lolisa, Puerto Rico, Medjugorje, Montreal, Canada, Nicaragua, Pistoia, Portugal, Reading, PN, Sahuayo, Mexico, Santiago de Compostela, Santiago de Querertaro, Seattle, WA archdiocese, Spain, Tunja; Apothecaries, Blacksmiths, Equestrians, Furriers, Knights, Laborers, Pilgrims, Soldiers, Spanish Armed Forces, Tanners, Veterinarians; **Invoked Against** Arthritis, Rheumatism

St John – **Dec 27** – Arezzo-Cortona diocese, Italy; Asia Minor, Boise, ID diocese, Borgo Santo Sepolcro, Italy, Morra, Netherlands, Cleveland, OH diocese, Eger, Hungary archdiocese, Milwaukee, WS archdiocese, Saint-Jean Longueuil, Quebec diocese, Sansepolcro, Italy, Sundern, Germany, Taos, NM, Umbria, Italy, Wroclaw, Poland; Art Dealers, Authors, Basket Makers, Bookbinders, Booksellers, Burn Victims, Compositors, Editors, Engravers, Glaziers, Government Bureaucrats, Harvesters, Lithographers, Notaries, Painters, Papermakers, Publishers, Saddle Makers, Scholars, Sculptors, Tanners, Theologians. Typesetters, Vinters, Writers; **Invoked For:** Friendships, **Against:** Burns, Epilepsy, Foot Problems, Hailstorms, Poisoning

St Philip – **May 3** – Diso, Frascati, Monterotondo, Nemi, Venegono Inferiore all in Italy, Hierapolis, Jacmel, Luxembourg, San Felipe Indian Pueblo, Uruguay: Hatters, Milliners, Pastry Chefs, Special Forces

St Nathanael Bartholomew – **Aug 24** – Armenia; Potosi, Bolivia, Frankfurt am Main, Germany, Pizen, Czech Republic, Benevento, Borgo Tossignano, Boves, Carpineto dell Nora, Civitella in Val di Chiana all in Italy, Magalang, Philippines; Bookbinders, Butchers, Cobblers, Curriers, Florentine Cheese and Salt Merchants, Leatherworkers, Plasterers, Tanners, Trappers; **Invoked Against:** Nervous and Neurological Disorders

<p>St Matthew – Sept 21 – Ethiopia; Ortiganna, Raggiolo, Salerno, Villa d'Ogna, all in Italy; San Mateo, Ibiza, Spain; Accountants, Bankers, Bookkeepers, Customs Agents, Financial Officers, Joiners, Money Managers, Perfumers, Security Guards, Stock Brokers, Tax Collectors</p>
<p>St Thomas – July 3 – Ceylon, East Indies, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka; Architects, the Blind, Builders, Geometricians, Masons, Politicians, Stone Cutters, Surveyors, Theologians;</p>
<p>St James the Less – May 3 –Diso, Frascati, Monterotondo, Nemi, Venegono Inferiore all in Italy, Jacmel, Uruguay; Druggists, the Dying, Fullers, Hatters, Milliners, Pharmacists;</p>
<p>St Jude Thaddæus – Oct 28 – Armenia, St Petersburg, FL diocese; Police Officers, Hospitals & Hospital Workers; Invoked For: Aid in Desperate Situations, Forgotten, Lost or Impossible Causes</p>
<p>St Simon Zelotes – Oct 28 – Iran; Monterchi, Italy; Curriers, Lumberjacks, Sawyers, Tanners, Woodcutters</p>
<p>St Matthias – May 14 – Aachen, Germany; Gary, IN diocese, Great Falls-Billings MT diocese; Hanover; Carpenters, Reformed Alcoholics, Tailors; Invoked Against: Alcoholism, Smallpox</p>
<p>St Paul – His Conversion: Jan 25: as Apostle, June 29 – Caraballo, Greece, Las Vegas, London, Malta, Poznan, Rio de Janeiro, Rome, St Paul, Minn, Sao Paulo, Valletta; Hospital Public Relations Workers, Missionaries</p>
<p>St Barnabas – June 11 – Antioch, Cyprus, Marino, Italy; Peacemakers; Invoked For: Peace Conferences Against: Hailstorms, Discord</p>
<p>St Mark – Apr 25 – Antakya; Cortona, Italy, Egypt, Venice; Attorneys, Captives, Glaziers, Lions, Lion Trainers, Notaries, Prisoners, Stained Glass Artists, Invoked Against: Impenitence, Insect Bites, Scrofula, Struma</p>
<p>St Luke – Oct 18 – Andalusia, Antioch, Capena, Italy, Hermersdorf, Germany; the Worshipful Company of Painters; Artists, Bachelors, Bookbinders, Brewers, Butchers, Doctors, Glaziers, Gold Smiths, Notaries, Stained Glass Workers, Students, Surgeons</p>
<p>St Mary Magdalene – July 22 – Atrani, Salerno, Casmiccola, Credera Rubbiano, Foglizzo, La Magdeleine all in Italy; Anguiano, Spain; Contemplatives, Converts, Druggists, Hairstylists, Penitent Sinners, People Ridiculed for Their Piety, Perfumers, (Reformed) Prostitutes, Tanners, Women; Invoked For: Repentance; Against: Sexual Temptation, Bad Hair Days (?)</p>



The Five Great Patriarchates

ROME, ANTIOCH, ALEXANDRIA, JERUSALEM, CONSTANTINOPE.

The bishops of each city are directly linked to St Peter. By the 200s the bishops of three major cities of the Roman Empire known as centers of learning, **Rome**, **Antioch** and **Alexandria**, commanded respect from all Christians. Simon Peter established himself in Rome after seven years overseeing the Church in Antioch. From Rome Peter sent his assistant, St Mark the Evangelist, to Alexandria in Egypt, to establish the Church there. Jerusalem, where Peter first exercised his primacy, conquered by the Emperor Hadrian in 115, was renamed Ælia Capitolina. In 325 the 1st Ecumenical Council at Nicaea officially established the **Patriarchates**. While giving special recognition to Jerusalem, that city's bishop was appointed by the Patriarch of Antioch. Not until the Council of Chalcedon in 451 was **Jerusalem** raised to patriarchal rank. In 330 Constantine moved to Byzantium renaming it Constantinople. The bishop claimed patriarchal status as successor of St Andrew, St Peter's brother. In 381 the 1st Council of Constantinople declared, "The Bishop of Constantinople shall have primacy of honor after the Bishop of Rome, since it is New Rome." The move was rejected by Pope St Leo I and the other Patriarchs. They did not recognize **Constantinople** as a patriarchate, 2nd in honor to Rome, until 870 at the 4th Council of Constantinople.

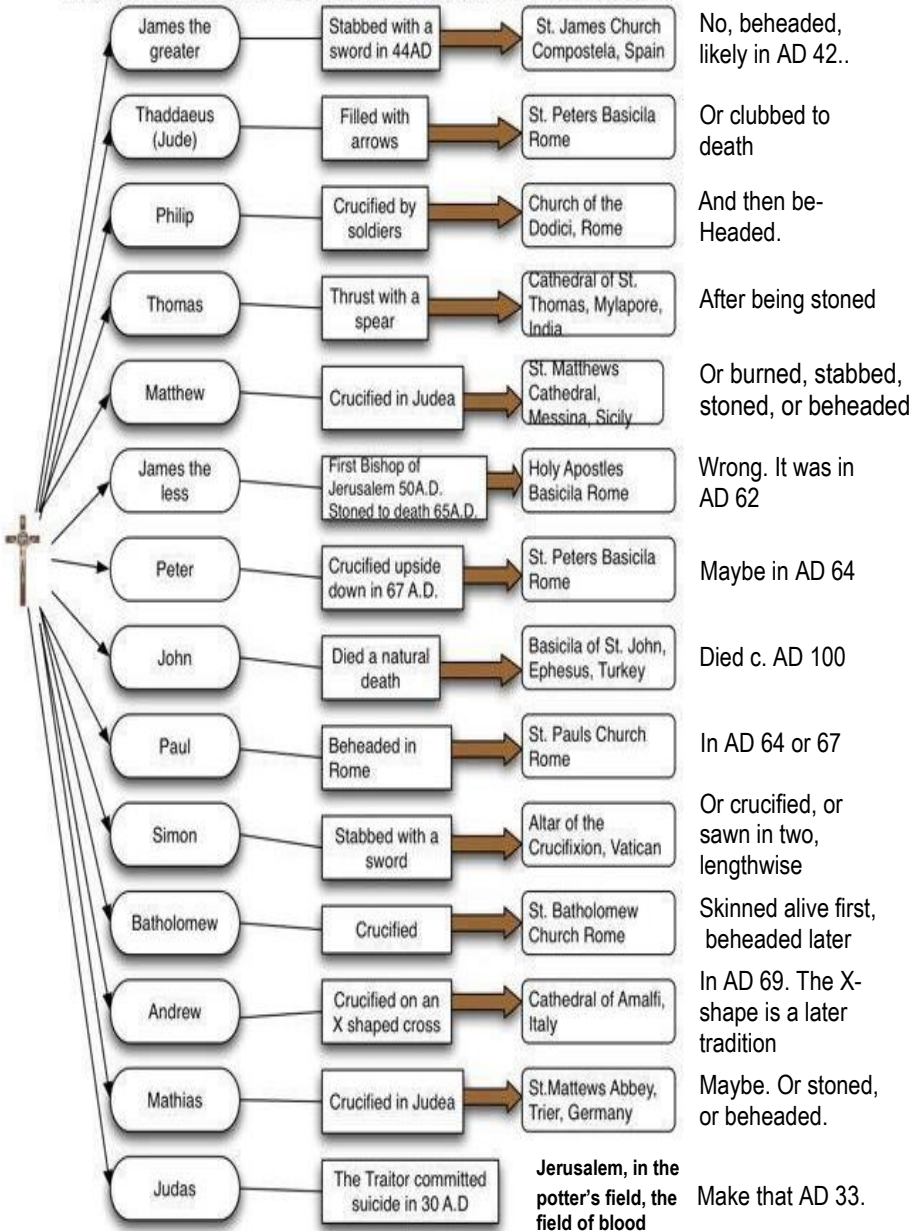
The Apostles in the News!

In 2001 Prof Guido Barbujani announced that he is 99% certain bones in Italy genetically match a skull venerated as St Luke's in Prague, Bohemia. Read more here: [DNA test pinpoints St Luke the apostle's remains to Padua - Telegraph](#). St Luke's body is now in the Abbey of Santa Giustina in Padua, his skull in St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague, A rib was sent to his tomb in Thebes.

In 2005 a miracle reportedly occurred at the tomb of St Barnabas. Information will be found [MYSTAGOGY: The Apostle Barnabas and the Church of Cyprus](#) and at [MYSTAGOGY: The Holy Apostle Barnabas of the Seventy](#)

In 2011 the ruins of a martyrium – a shrine dedicated to St Philip the Apostle, destroyed by an earthquake in the 600s – were uncovered in Hierapolis, Turkey. The tomb itself was not opened. Relics of St Philip can be found throughout Europe. An account of the discovery is noted at this site: <http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-JKzCBh3va7k/TIWH2Aei2PI/AAAAAAAAA60/rwLIGebpAUA/s1600/Philip+the+Apostle+-+Discovered+Tomb.jpg>.

In November, 2013, for the 1st time ever the bones of St Peter were put on public display [Pope Francis displays box that is believed to hold bone fragments of St. Peter - NY Daily News](#). Many reporters reopened the tired idea that the Catholic Faith is opposed to Science, filed by reporters confused about a pope they were sure is opposed to belief in relics and tradition:

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE APOSTLES AND WHERE THEIR REMAINS ARE TODAY


And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, inscribed on them, the twelve names of the Twelve Apostles of the Lamb. -- Apocalypse 21:14

REFERENCES

Jesus Christ: His Life, His Teaching and His Work, 2 volumes, by Ferdinand Prat, SJ, translation of the 16th French edition by John J. Heenan, SJ; Bruce Publishing, 1950, 1951. The best presentation of Jesus' life there is, bar none. Prat's work is like taking a year of exegetical classes—but a lot more enjoyable.

Life of Christ, by Abbot Giuseppe Ricciotti, translated by Alba I. Zizzamia; Bruce Publishing, 1947, 1951; All right, it's the equal of Prat's work, bar none, another great university class in exegetics. Get the older editions. There is a much too heavily edited "Popular Edition" – great cover **but shun it with all your might**.

The Bones of St Peter by John Evangelist Walsh, Doubleday Image Books, 1985; Great account of the excavations made beneath St Peter's, the discovery of the necropolis, explaining the controversy about how the bones were found.

The Apostles and Jesus, the Apostles, and the Early Church both by Pope Benedict XVI; the former is published by Our Sunday Visitor Publishing Division; the later is published by Ignatius Press. Both are copyright 2007 by the Libreria Editrice Vaticana in Vatican City. These are essentially the same book. Pope Benedict presents a series of very clear yet quite erudite and extremely spiritual reflections on the Apostles as the foundation of Church teaching

The Search for the Twelve Apostles, William Steuart McBirnie, PhD. Tyndale House, 1972. 40 years ago, this book intrigued me enough to learn more about the Twelve. McBirnie, an evangelical minister, takes several pot shots at the Catholic Church while mining her archives, visiting her churches and interviewing her clergy, grudgingly admitting that the information he found is credible.

The Thirteen Apostles, J. Ellsworth Kalas, Abingdon Press, 2002: A baker's dozen of pleasant, somewhat reverential homilies, of sorts, about the Apostles.

The Twelve: The Lives of the Apostles After Calvary, C. Bernard Ruffin, Our Sunday Visitor Publishing Div., 1984. An enjoyable venture into history featuring well-constructed suppositions based on ancient sources. Don't pass this up.

FROM THE INTERNET

*[BBC Religion & Ethics - Who were the twelve disciples?](#) A good, succinct, no-nonsense summary of the Apostles' lives.

*[CATHOLIC ENCYCLOPEDIA: Home](#) LOTS of details about the Church, Scripture and, to be sure, the Apostles. All Catholics should have this handy online.

*[Faith, Hope, Belief, Prayers, Miracles: Who are the 12 Apostles of Jesus Christ?](#) A well thought out overview of the lives and later careers of the Twelve.

*[History of the Apostle Saint James, the Great | Caminopedia by Follow the Camino™](#): Learn how and why James the Greater became the "Hammer of the Saracens" more than a thousand years after the saint's death.

* [How to Recognize the Holy Apostles in Icons | A Reader's Guide to Orthodox Icons](#). An enjoyable excursion through the traditions of icon artistry.

For a quick, fact-filled overview of the Christians in India who trace their beliefs to St Thomas, check out: [Project MUSE - Origin of India's St. Thomas Christians: A Historiographical Critique \(review\)](#)

* [Relics](#): A list of some of the real – and not so real – relics of Jesus, Mary, and the Apostles thought to exist in the 16th century. The finger of St Thomas preserved at the Church of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem in Rome drew a smile.

* [Saint John the Evangelist and Beloved Disciple | The Catholic Company](#)
An interesting little discussion of some of the traditions concerning the saint.

* [St. Simeon, Bishop and Martyr](#) More information about the holy Apostle who kept the Church alive in Jerusalem after the Romans destroyed the city in AD 70.

* [St. Thomas' Shields of the Apostles - St. Thomas Episcopal Church](#): A quick artistic look at the attributes of the Apostles.

* An engaging discussion of the relics of the Apostle and where they are can be found: [St. John the Apostle's Relics - The Byzantine Forum](#).

* [Saints.SQPN.com](#): Terry Jones has done a great deal of research at this website and directs an almost encyclopedic review of aspects of the Faith.

* [The Bones of St. Peter by John E. Walsh](#): A bonus! If you're intrigued by the archeological discoveries beneath St Peter's and don't want to wait, you can read the book online for free. Don't say I never gave you anything.

><///> **DON'T PASS THIS UP!** [The Tomb of St. Peter by Margherita Guarducci](#) (Hawthorn, 1960): This is Dr Guarducci's account of her magnificent work within the excavations under St Peter's. It's a must read for anyone who wants to know the truth behind the recovery of St Peter's bones. Now you *really* can't say I never gave you anything!

* [The Skeptical Review Online - Print Edition - 1990-2002](#): Here we learn that there was no Jesus, so there couldn't be any Apostles. The writer takes pains to point out that the later lives of the Apostles is a welter of confusing stories that must surely be myths; an important article to make us aware of mindsets closed to any reasonable data interfering with bias and a need to mock believers.

* I generally dismiss any discussion of Catholicism presented by minimalist, and rabidly feminist theologians on The History Channel. The slideshow seems free of an agenda [Tombs of the Apostles: Slideshow — History in the Headlines](#).

* More facts about the tombs of the apostles can be found here: [Tracking apostles' final resting places, U.S. writer follows varied global path - U.S. - Catholic Online](#).

* [Was Mary Magdalene Wife of Jesus? Was Mary Magdalene a Prostitute? – Biblical Archaeology Society](#): A well-written discussion of Mary as a true follower of Jesus, explaining how her reputation was tarnished over the years and how she won the title, "Apostle to the Apostles."

THE APOSTLES' CREED



A brief summary of Christian belief, the Apostles' Creed (Latin: *Symbolum Apostolorum* or *Symbolum Apostolicum*) is traditionally attributed to the Twelve Apostles. According to a pious story of the 5th or 6th centuries, each of the Twelve, in Jerusalem the day after Pentecost, by divine inspiration contributed a clause to a *Regula Fidei*: a Rule of Faith. The Creed contains three paragraphs, one for each Person of the Trinity, each corresponding to the three questions addressed to candidates for baptism in the early Church.

In its several forms Peter always leads off the Creed. Andrew and John are sometimes switched, as are some of the other Apostles with other clauses. This disparity of form, along with the fact that St Luke didn't bother to record it in The Acts of the Apostles, is pretty decisive indications that the Creed was not created thusly. Still, it remains a charming legend.

Peter	1	I believe in God, the Father Almighty
Andrew	2	Maker of heaven and earth
James	3	And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord
John	4	Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin Mary
Philip	5	Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried
Thomas	6	He descended into hell, on the third day He arose again from the dead
Bartholomew	7	He ascended into heaven
Matthew	8	Is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty
James the Less	9	From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead
Simon Zelotes	10	I believe In the Holy Ghost, the Holy Catholic Church
Jude Thaddæus	11	The Communion of Saints, the Forgiveness of Sins
Matthias	12	The Resurrection of the Body and Life Everlasting. Amen

Our Lady, Queen of Apostles

“Mary is Queen of Apostles because she was chosen to be the Mother of Jesus Christ and to give Him to the world; she was made the Apostles’ Mother and our own by our Savior on the Cross; she was with the Apostles while awaiting the descent of the Holy Spirit, obtaining from them the abundance of supernatural graces they received on Pentecost.”



"The perfect model of this spiritual and apostolic life is the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, the Queen of Apostles, who, while she lived on earth the life common to all, filled with labours and care of her family, was always most closely joined with her Son, and cooperated in the work of the Saviour in an entirely singular way. Moreover now, assumed into heaven 'by her motherly love she takes care of the brothers of her Son who are still on the way to their eternal home] and who are involved in dangers and difficulties, until they are led to the blessed Fatherland.' Let all most devoutly honour her, and commend their life and apostolate to her motherly care."

Excerpted from *Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity*
(*Apostolicam Actuositatem* – November 18, 1965)

“Mary remained for a time on earth after the Ascension of her Son, with the Apostles, that she might instruct them more fully, since she had seen and handled things more familiarly, and was therefore better able to express them. For things that we better know we better utter.” – St Jerome