

Did you know . . .

Sts. Simon and Jude

There is not a lot of information on either of these two apostles, St. Simon & St. Jude.

St. Simon was a zealot before meeting Christ. The zealots were Jews who had great passion for honoring God and maintaining purity of religion; but in their zeal they would

assassinate nobles. St. Simon converted after meeting Christ and after Pentecost, went out and preached in Egypt. Though he is listed among the 12 apostles, he is never quoted and there is no notable record of his activities after Pentecost other than going to Egypt.

St. Jude Thaddeus, the brother of Apostle St. James the Lesser, was a cousin of the Lord, nephew to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

It was Jude who, after the Last Supper, asked Our Lord why He chose to reveal Himself only to the disciples. Jesus answered, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him." (Jn 14:22)

Among all the original 12 apostles, St. Jude is perhaps the most commonly invoked in prayer. He is known as the "patron of hopeless causes." While the origins of this are unclear, it may be because of the similarity of his name to that of Judas Iscariot. Petitioners would not appeal for his help until they had unsuccessfully exhausted all other options.

The New Testament contains *The Letter of Jude*. Tradition tells us this letter was written by St. Jude Thaddeus, since its address says it is from "Jude, a slave of Jesus Christ and brother of James", but some scholars think it may be another Jude. The time of writing is unknown. It was not written to a particular person or audience, but rather to Christians as a whole. The letter is most relevant to modern times, for it reminds one of "new age" philosophy. Jude takes issue with false teachers who claim that a Christian's freedom means he is free from moral obligation. This letter urges believers to be faithful to the moral teachings of the Gospel!

Ancient tradition holds that St. Jude and St. Simon were martyred in Persia; their bodies are buried in St. Peter's Basilica, Rome. Their shared missionary journeys, scripture verses, places of death, and burial sites have given to their shared feast day of October 28.



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