

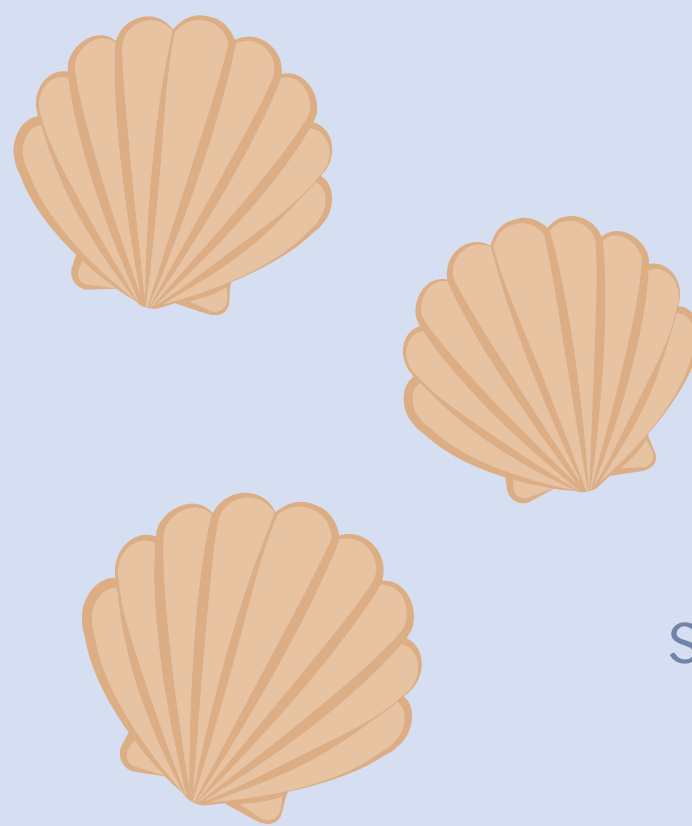
SAINT JAMES THE APOSTLE

FEAST DAY: JULY 25

PATRON SAINT OF: PILGRIMS AND SPAIN

Origins of Saint James the Greater

SAINT JAMES WAS THE SON OF ZEBEDEE AND SALOME AND BROTHER OF THE APOSTLE JOHN. JAMES AND JOHN WORKED WITH ANDREW AND PETER FISHING ON THE SEA OF GALILEE BEFORE JESUS CALLED THEM TO BECOME FISHERS OF MEN.



THE SCALLOP SHELL IS AN ANCIENT CHRISTIAN SYMBOL OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH PILGRIMAGES. SAINT JAMES IS THE PATRON SAINT OF PILGRIMS, AND THE SCALLOP SHELL WAS SOON HIS SYMBOL.

THE NAME JAMES IS DERIVED FROM THE HEBREW NAME "YA'AQOV" FOR THE OLD TESTAMENT PATRIARCH JACOB. SAINT JAMES IS ALSO KNOWN AS JAMES THE GREATER, AS OPPOSED TO THE OTHER APOSTLE JAMES THE LESSER. WITH HIS BROTHER JOHN, JAMES IS ALSO KNOWN AS ONE OF THE SONS OF THUNDER.

After the Ascension

JAMES THE GREATER WAS THE FIRST APOSTLE TO BE MARTYRED. IT IS RECORDED THAT HEROD AGRIPPA HAD HIM BEHEADED IN JERUSALEM AROUND THE YEAR 42 A.D. (ACTS 12:1-2). HOWEVER, HIS REMAINS ARE LOCATED IN SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA IN SPAIN. IT WAS THOUGHT THAT HE PRIMARILY EVANGELIZED SPAIN BEFORE HIS MARTYRDOM.

A Place of Honor

SAINT JAMES WAS ONE OF JESUS' INNER CIRCLE, WHICH INCLUDED PETER AND JOHN. ONLY THESE THREE APOSTLES WERE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE HOUSE OF JAIRUS (LUKE 8:51), EXPERIENCE THE TRANSFIGURATION (MATTHEW 17:1), AND ACCOMPANY JESUS IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE (MARK 14:33).

