

Sts. Simon and Jude

October 28



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Biblical figures

Sts. Simon and Jude were two of Jesus' Twelve Apostles. Simon was called "the Zealot," because he was a righteous follower of Jewish law. Jude, who is also called Thaddeus (and who should not be confused with Judas the traitor), was Jesus' cousin.

Simon and Jude followed Jesus through Galilee as He preached the Good News of His Father's Kingdom. They ran away in fear when Jesus was arrested and put to death on the Cross, but they rejoiced when Jesus appeared to the Twelve Apostles after His Resurrection. They watched Jesus ascend to heaven, His last command ringing in their ears: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit." They knew that they must go to the ends of the earth to share their love for Jesus and to baptize all people into God's family.

Both Simon and Jude went far and wide to preach and baptize as Jesus had commanded them. Jude also wrote the Letter of St. Jude, which you can read today in the Bible.

There is a legend that the king of Edessa had begged an artist to paint Jesus, but the artist could not capture Jesus' glorious and shining expression. And so Jesus imprinted a piece of cloth with an image of His face and sent Jude to Edessa to give His image to the king. Later, Jude went to Persia to continue preaching Jesus' love to the world.

It is said that Simon first preached about Jesus to the people of Egypt, but then went to Persia to join the Apostle Jude. Many Persians were baptized and became Christians, but the Apostles' success stirred up the jealousy of the pagan priests, who raised the crowds against Simon and Jude. No one knows for sure how the two Apostles were martyred, but many say that Simon was sawed in half and Jude was hit with a club. And so artists often paint Simon holding a saw and Jude holding a club to show the ways they gloriously died for Jesus.

Sts. Simon and Jude, help me to preach about Jesus' love far and wide!