

July 25, 2022

Good Morning All,

~An update from Fr. Runnion....Father Runnion wants everyone to know that they have not been seeing him at the Parish lately due to his attending to his elderly mother, who lives in another city. He thanks everyone for their prayers and understanding and is keeping you all in his prayers.

~Sign up for the Parish Directory here.. [Online appointment scheduler \(instant-scheduling.com\)](https://instant-scheduling.com)

1. Today's Readings: [Feast of Saint James, Apostle | USCCB](#)

2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus: Today we celebrate the feast of St. James the Greater, one of the 12 apostles. You may also be familiar with The Way of St. James (Camino de Santiago in Spanish). The medieval pilgrim sought indulgences at the shrine to St. James (located at the end) and believed they were guaranteed a place in heaven if they completed the pilgrimage. Our two articles today give a short biography of St. James and some information about The Way.

On Formed.org, there is a documentary about several pilgrims who make the pilgrimage. Our parish offers a free subscription (see bulletin for details on how to sign up). [The Way of Saint James - FORMED](#)

3. Quotes of the Day:

~"They who want to win the world for Christ must have the courage to come into conflict with it" *Bl. Titus Brandsma*

~"God did not tell us to follow Him because He needed our help, but because He knew that loving Him would make us whole." *St. Irenaeus of Lyons*

~"If we follow Christ closely we shall be allowed, even on this earth, to stand, as it were, on the threshold of the heavenly Jerusalem and enjoy the contemplation, of that everlasting feast, like the blessed Apostles, who, in following the Saviour as their leader, showed and still show, the way to obtain the same gift from God. They said – See, we have left all things and followed You. We too follow the Lord and we keep His feast by deeds rather than by words." *St Athanasius*

St. James the Greater, Pray for Us!
St. Joseph, Pray for Us!

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St. James the Greater

Nothing is known of St. James the Greater's early life, though it has been established that he is the son of Zebedee and Salome and brother of John the disciple.

The title "the Greater" was added to St. James' name to help distinguish him from the Apostle James "the Less," who is believed to have been shorter than James "the Greater."

Saint James the Greater was one of Jesus' first disciples. James was fishing with his father and John the Apostle when Jesus came to the shores of the Sea of Galilee and called for the fisherman, who were unable to catch any fish that day, to dip their nets in the water once again.

When the fishermen followed Jesus' instructions, they found their nets full, and after emptying the fish on board, the boats nearly sank from their weight.

Later, James was one of only three called by Jesus to witness his Transfiguration, and when he and his brother wanted to call fire upon a Samaritan town, both were rebuked by Jesus.

Following Christ's Ascension, James spread the Gospel across Israel and the Roman kingdom as well. He traveled and spread the Word for nearly forty years in Spain.

It is said that one day, as he prayed, The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to him and asked him to build her a church, which he did.

Later, James returned to Jerusalem but was martyred for his faith by King Herod, who decapitated him. Saint James the Greater is known as the first apostle to die.

As he was not allowed to be buried following his martyrdom, his remains were taken to Compostela, Spain, by some of his followers, who buried him.

In the ninth century his remains were discovered and moved to a tomb in Santiago de Compostela. Today, his remains can still be found in the Cathedral of Santiago.

Because Santiago de Compostela is the most frequently visited place pilgrims migrate to following Rome and Jerusalem, Pope Leo declared it a shrine.

St. James the Greater Prayer

O glorious Apostle, St. James, who by reason of thy fervent and generous heart wast chosen by Jesus to be a witness of His glory on Mount Tabor, and of His agony in Gethsemane; thou, whose very name is a symbol of warfare and victory: obtain for us strength and consolation in the unending warfare of this life, that, having constantly and generously followed Jesus, we may be victors in the strife and deserve to receive the victor's crown in heaven. Amen.

Source: catholic.org

What is the Way of St. James

As you drag your feet into the town of Santiago de Compostela in Spain, tired and dirty—with blistered feet—you will be rewarded with two things.

The first is a visit to the town's majestic Cathedral where, tradition tells us, the body of St. James the Greater is buried.

This sacred place is the focal point of the great pilgrimage you have just made: the Camino de Santiago de Compostela, or the Way of St. James of Compostela. Pilgrims have been traveling some version of this royal road since the 9th century, when it is said the tomb of St. James was discovered in Spain.

Your other reward is a certificate that labels you a real pilgrim of the "Camino," as it is fondly called. You have to walk at least 100 km (~62 mi) to earn this certificate. (If you do it on a bike, you have to do 200 km.)



Pilgrims on the Way

But 100 km isn't much compared to what you could possibly walk on the Camino. Depending on where you start and what route you take, you could hike for hundreds of kilometers. These various routes exist because pilgrims would generally start from their home regions—be that Portugal, France, Great Britain, or somewhere else.

The most popular route, the Camino Frances, goes through France and measures 800 km. More than half of pilgrims choose this route.

The oldest route is the Camino Primitivo, also called the Original Way. This one starts in north-eastern Spain and is 311 km long.

Another popular route is the 280 km Camino Portugues, which runs along the picturesque Portuguese coast.

One of the special symbols of the Camino is a seashell: a universal symbol of St. James with many different origin stories. You'll often see these shells hanging on the packs of pilgrims or displayed proudly in the home of a returning traveler.

Another symbol is the Santiago Cross, a red cross with a pointed lower end, the insignia of the military Order of Santiago.

Source: catholiccompany.com