

October 28, 2022

Good Morning All,

~Day 5: Novena for Holy Souls in Purgatory (attached)

~Please pray for the repose of the soul of James Pekarik - funeral today at 11:00.

1. Today's Readings: [Feast of Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles | USCCB](#)

2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus: Today we celebrate 2 apostles. St. Jude is so named by Luke and Acts. Matthew and Mark call him Thaddeus. He is not mentioned elsewhere in the Gospels, except of course where all the apostles are mentioned. Scholars hold that he is not the author of the Letter of Jude. Actually, Jude had the same name as Judas Iscariot. Evidently because of the disgrace of that name, it was shortened to "Jude" in English. Simon is mentioned on all four lists of the apostles. On two of them he is called "the Zealot." The Zealots were a Jewish sect that represented an extreme of Jewish nationalism. Their feast is celebrated together because they were martyred in the same place on the same day.

3. Quotes of the Day:

~"Simon was worlds apart from Matthew, who, on the contrary, had an activity behind him as a tax collector that was frowned upon as entirely impure. This shows that Jesus called His disciples and collaborators, without exception, from the most varied social and religious backgrounds.

It was people who interested Him, not social classes or labels! And the best thing is that in the group of His followers, despite their differences, they all lived side by side, overcoming imaginable difficulties, indeed, what bound them together, was Jesus Himself, in whom they all found themselves united with one another.

This is clearly a lesson for us who are often inclined to accentuate differences and even contrasts, forgetting that in Jesus Christ, we are given the strength to get the better of our continual conflicts.

Let us also bear in mind that the group of the Twelve, is the prefiguration of the Church, where there must be room for all charisms, peoples and races, all human qualities that find their composition and unity in communion with Jesus." *Pope Benedict XVI Catechesis on Saints Simon and Jude General Audience St Peter's Square Wednesday, 11 October 2006* (anastpaul.com)

"But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; they said to you, 'In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions.' It is these who set up divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. But you, beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit;

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keep yourselves in the love of God; wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And convince some, who doubt; save some, by snatching them out of the fire; on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment spotted by the flesh” (St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr, Patron of Lost Causes; Letter of St. Jude 1:17-23).
(integratedcatholiclife.org)

Ss. Simon and Jude, Apostles, Pray for Us!
St. Joseph, Pray for Us!

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Novena for the Holy Souls in Purgatory

Our Catholic Faith teaches us the souls of the faithful departed must be entirely purified before they enter into eternal rest in Heaven. The souls of most people who have died in friendship with God must be purified in Purgatory. The holy souls in Purgatory are in great need of our prayers. You can pray the Novena for the Holy Souls in Purgatory for a deceased relative or friend. Or you can pray for a deceased group of people, such as victims of a natural disaster. Or you can use it to pray for all people who have died from a specific ailment. On each of the nine days of prayer, we meditate on the suffering that each and every soul must endure in purgatory and pray a prayer specific to that day. We conclude with the Prayer to Our Suffering Savior for the Souls in Purgatory, the Hail Mary and Our Father.

Prayer to our Suffering Savior for the Souls in Purgatory

O most sweet Jesus, through the bloody sweat which Thou didst suffer in the Garden of Gethsemane, have mercy on these Blessed Souls. Have mercy on them, O Lord.

O most sweet Jesus, through the pains which Thou didst suffer during Thy most cruel scourging, have mercy on them. Have mercy on them, O Lord.

O most sweet Jesus, through the pains which Thou didst suffer in Thy most painful crowning with thorns, have mercy on them. Have mercy on them, O Lord.

O most sweet Jesus, through the pains which Thou didst suffer in carrying Thy cross to Calvary, have mercy on them. Have mercy on them, O Lord.

O most sweet Jesus, through the pains which Thou didst suffer during Thy most cruel Crucifixion, have mercy on them. Have mercy on them, O Lord.

O most sweet Jesus, through the pains which Thou didst suffer in Thy most bitter agony on the Cross, have mercy on them. Have mercy on them, O Lord.

O most sweet Jesus, through the immense pain which Thou didst suffer in breathing forth Thy Blessed Soul, have mercy on them. Have mercy on them, O Lord.”

(As you pray for the Souls in purgatory, state your intention(s) here

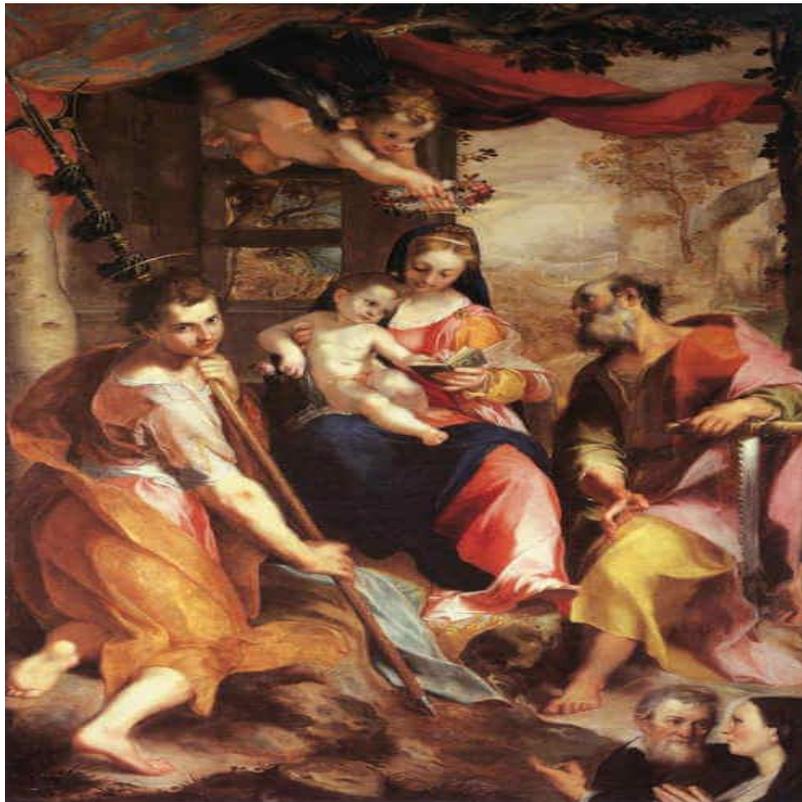
Blessed Souls, I have prayed for thee; I entreat thee, who are so dear to God, and who are secure of never losing Him, to pray for me a miserable sinner, who is in danger of being damned, and of losing God forever. Amen.

Day 5

Meditation/Reflection – As we invoke the novena it becomes clear that without our assistance, the souls of purgatory could languish in torment even longer. Knowing that release will come one day keeps them hopeful, but not knowing when only adds to their torment.

Prayer: “Woe to me, unhappy being, if Thou, O Lord, hadst cast me into hell; for from that dungeon of eternal pain there is no deliverance. I love Thee above all things, O infinite God and I am sincerely sorry for having offended Thee again. Grant me the grace of holy perseverance. Have compassion on me, and, at the same time, on the holy souls suffering in Purgatory. O Mary, Mother of God, come to their assistance with thy powerful intercession.”

Followed by: Prayer to Our Suffering Savior, Our Father, Hail Mary



Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles

Patron Saints of hopeless causes (Jude) and tanners (Simon)

The Apostles laid the foundation for a later generation's household of faith

There is often a crosshatch of bloody scratches on the right cheek of statues of the suffering Christ in Latin America. It's called the "Judas Kiss," a reminder of Judas Iscariot's act of both affectionately greeting Christ and betraying Him in one sinister gesture. No one kneels before a statue of Judas Iscariot in a Catholic church. No one lights a candle to Judas asking that he restore their lost sight or heal their child's cancer. But Judas Iscariot wasn't the only Judas among the Twelve Apostles. Today's Saint Jude (or Judas) was often confused with his evil contemporary. Since Judas Iscariot was so despised and ignored, and since he shared a name with the good Jude, a tradition gathered over the centuries of petitioning today's saint only when all other saints had failed to answer one's prayers. Saint Jude became the Patron Saint of Hopeless Causes, then, probably because of the faithful's reluctance to seek the intercession of one whose misfortune it was to share a name with Christ's betrayer. Out of confusion or an abundance of caution, Saint Jude thus became a saint of last resort. When the dam was barely holding, when a pulse could no longer be felt, when the rains wouldn't come, a candle was lit to Saint Jude, hoping against hope, that he would respond.

Saint Simon the Apostle is called the “Zealot” in Saint Luke’s Gospel. This may describe his zeal for the house of the Lord or denote his membership in a radical Jewish sect. Zeal is, in any case, a virtue. It must be joined with prudence to ensure that it does not offend for the sake of offending. A zealous soul will, however, lovingly provoke others to consider the things of God through his words, actions, and appropriate silences. Zeal for the house of the Lord has migrated to other concerns in many parts of today’s world. While religious zeal has unfortunately come to be understood as a negative virtue, zeal for planet earth and various other more “acceptable” causes are now seen as positive. The intentional disciple, however, understands zeal in its historical sense as a burning concern for perennial truths, not mere fads, and as a proactive form of love for all those things that lead mankind to God. God is a person, after all, and depends on His friends to defend Him.

Saints Simon and Jude disappear from the pages of the Gospels after the brief mentions of their names. Nothing is known of either of them with any certainty, not even where they evangelized or where they met death. As Apostles, however, we know with certainty that they were key actors in laying the deep foundations of the Church in the rock-solid substrata of the Middle Eastern culture in which they lived. The Catholic Church is the household of faith. An earthly family is united by blood, while the theological family of the Church is united by the Sacraments and the Creed. But it is not sufficient for a family to be united by biological or theological DNA. A family is little if it is not a household. A household works together, prays together, and eats together. A household is where a family feels like a family. A boy may know who his father is, but if he doesn’t share everyday life with that father, their family relationship means little. It is in the household that life happens all over the globe. Mom and dad, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, in the kitchen, around the table, in the garden, at Mass, a band united in both mundane and sacred duties. The Church is the household of faith where God’s family gathers week in and week out, century after century. Christians must not only be united intellectually, but must live united, and feel that unity in their bones. Today’s saints worked long ago to build the household we now enjoy. They dug the well so that we could pull up the water and drink. They planted so that we could reap. They lit the fire so that we could warm ourselves close to the flames, one universal family living in one universal household we call the Church.

Source: mycatholic.life