

St. Bartholomew the Apostle

Feast Day, August 24

The Patron Saint of Tanners, Tailors, Plasterers and Leatherworkers

Bartholomew is only mentioned in lists of the Apostles. There are no stories in the Gospels that relate to him as Bartholomew specifically. However, we do know of him by the alternative name of Nathanael.

Jesus spoke highly of Bartholomew recognizing him for integrity and faith. While this distinction alone is enough to make Bartholomew stand out among the Twelve, his subsequent labors also make him remarkable.

There are two records that indicate Bartholomew traveled to India and evangelized there. However, modern scholars contend with this conclusion and claim that he actually served in Ethiopia or Arabia. Nonetheless, all agree that St. Bartholomew had an Apostolate, and he labored hard to baptize and evangelize.

St. Bartholomew is also said to be one of two Apostles who evangelized Armenia, introducing Christianity there along with St. Jude. He also introduced Christianity to Azerbaijan. It was in this region that he died.

The circumstances of St. Bartholomew's death are unclear, but the most common date for his death is 71 AD and there is agreement that his death was extremely brutal.

According to one tradition, St. Bartholomew healed the daughter of King Polimius of Armenia from madness. After this, the king converted to Christianity. Fearing Roman reprisal, Bartholomew was flayed alive. He was then crucified upside down, like St. Peter.

St. Bartholomew's feast day is August 24. He is the patron saint of tanners, tailors, plasterers, and leatherworkers.



MAJOR SHRINES

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