

JULY 2017

**Collect for the Feast Day of Saint James
July 25**

*O gracious God, we remember before you today
your servant and apostle James,
first among the Twelve to suffer martyrdom
for the Name of Jesus Christ;
and we pray that you will pour out upon
the leaders of your Church that
spirit of self-denying service
by which alone they may have
true authority among your people;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.*



Dear Friends,

James, son of Zebedee, brother of John, was a fisherman called by Jesus to become a fisher of people. He became a close friend of Jesus, a traveling companion and worker for the kingdom. Along with Peter and John he witnessed the Transfiguration, was present when Jesus raised the little girl back to life and was with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus nick named James and his brother John the “sons of thunder”. James was loyal, fierce and sometimes (like the other disciples) simply didn’t understand what Jesus was saying or doing. We read about James throughout the Gospels and in the Book of the Acts, in which we learn that he was the first disciple martyred—killed by King Herod Agrippa I with a sword.

The symbols associated with St. James are those of a pilgrim, the staff and the shell, because tradition tells us that St. James traveled to Spain to spread the Gospel. James wasn’t perfect, but he is a great person to honor, pray with and look to for wisdom and guidance. I’m proud our parish is named for this loyal, impetuous friend of Christ.

Your Sister in Christ,
Mother Bonnie+