



St. James

July 25

Who was St. James?

Saint James or St. James the Greater's Feast day is celebrated on July 25th. He is celebrated for his role as one of the original Twelve Apostles of Jesus Christ. It is a day of great significance in the Christian calendar, particularly within the Roman Catholic Church, and in Spain, where he is the patron saint.

Born to Zebedee and Salome, James and his brother John were among the first disciples called by Jesus. Their lives as fishermen changed by this call to discipleship, marked by the miraculous catch of fish, a testament to Jesus's divine authority and a symbol of their new role as "fishers of men."

After the Ascension of Christ, James embarked on evangelizing missions, most notably in Spain. During his mission in Spain, he experienced an apparition of the Virgin Mary, who instructed him to build a church in her honour. This event is monumentalized by the famed cathedral in Zaragoza, known as Our Lady of the Pillar.

However, his missionary work led to his martyrdom under King Herod in Jerusalem, making him the first apostle to be martyred. His death marked him as a pivotal figure in the early Christian Church, embodying sacrifice and devotion to the Gospel.

The feast day of St. James the Greater not only commemorates his life and witness but also serves as a celebration of his ongoing influence in the lives of many Christians. It is a day marked by special liturgies, pilgrimages, and, in Spain, various festive activities celebrating Spanish culture and heritage in honour of their patron saint.

[St. James CES Website](#)

[St. David's Parish Website](#)



Quotes

"Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

- James 5:16

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds."

- James 1:2

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."

- James 1:17

Prayer

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit;

Heavenly Father,

On this Feast Day of Saint James the Greater, we lift up our students and the entire Catholic community to your loving embrace. May the example of Saint James be a source of comfort, guidance, and inspiration for all.

Grant our students the wisdom to seek knowledge with integrity and compassion, following Saint James's dedication as one of the first disciples of Jesus Christ. Fill their hearts with the courage to stand up for justice and truth, and the grace to treat one another with kindness and respect, reflecting the devotion and sacrifice of Saint James.

Guide our Catholic community in fostering a spirit of unity and love. May we reflect your boundless mercy and compassion in our daily lives, serving as a beacon of hope and light to those around us, just as Saint James did through his evangelizing missions and his ultimate martyrdom.

Bless our hearts with your peace and fill us with the strength to carry your love into the world. May we grow closer to you in faith and love each day, drawing inspiration from the life and witness of Saint James the Greater.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, inspired by the legacy of Saint James the Greater.

Amen.

Patron Saint of:

Spain

Pilgrims





York Catholic District School Board



FEAST DAY:
July 25

SCHOOL LOCATION:
Maple, ON

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- Spain
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