



ST. MICHAEL
CATHOLIC CHURCH
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St. Jude the Apostle



Apostle of the Impossible

St. Jude Biography

The tradition of devotion to St. Jude goes beyond a simple Bible story; in fact, it is a reflection of the ability of ordinary people to call upon their powerful faith to triumph over seemingly impossible odds in their daily lives.

Legend has it that St. Jude was born into a Jewish family in Paneas, a town in the Galilee portion of ancient Palestine, the same region that Jesus grew up in. He probably spoke Greek and Aramaic, like many of his contemporaries in that area, and he was a farmer (as many of his family were) by trade.

Jude was described by St. Matthew (13:55) as being one of the “brethren” of Jesus (the Hebrew word for “brethren” indicates a blood relationship of some sort). Jude’s mother, Mary, was referred to as a cousin of Jesus’ mother Mary, while his father, Cleophas, was the brother of St. Joseph. Jude had several brothers, including St. James, who was another of the original Apostles. His own first name, “Jude”, means giver of joy, while “Thaddeus”, another name he was called, means generous and kind.

He was later married, had at least one child, and there are references to his grandchildren living as late as 95 A.D.

Jude was then called to be one of Jesus 12 Apostles and began preaching the Good News of Jesus to Jews throughout Galilee, Samaria, and Judea.

St. Jude went to Mesopotamia (present-day Iraq) around 37 A.D., and became a leader of the Church of the East that St. Thomas established there. St. Jude was a true internationalist, traveling throughout Mesopotamia, Libya, Turkey, and Persia with St. Simon, preaching and converting many people to Christianity. He was

credited with helping the early creation of the Armenian Church, and other places beyond the borders of the Roman Empire.

Around the year 60 A.D., St. Jude wrote a Gospel letter to recent Christian converts in Eastern churches who were under persecution. In it, he warned them against the pseudo-teachers of the day who were spreading false ideas about the early Christian faith. He encouraged them to persevere in the face of the harsh, difficult circumstances they were in, just as their forefathers had done before them. He exhorted them to keep their faith and to stay in the love of God as they had been taught. His inspirational support of these early believers led to him becoming the patron saint of desperate cases.

He is believed to have been martyred in Persia or Syria around 65 A.D. The axe or club that he is often shown holding in pictures symbolizes the way in which he was killed. Truly, he paid the ultimate price for his faith. After his death his body was brought back to Rome and was placed in a crypt beneath St. Peter's Basilica, which people visit to this day

St. Jude is traditionally depicted carrying the image of Jesus in his hand or close to his chest. This idea comes from an apocryphal story in which King Abgar of Edessa (a city located in what is now southeast Turkey) asked Jesus to cure him of leprosy and sent an artist to bring him a drawing of Jesus. Impressed with Abgar's great faith, Jesus pressed his face into a cloth and gave it to St. Jude to take to Abgar. Upon seeing Jesus' image, The King was cured and he converted to Christianity along with most of the people under his rule.

St. Jude is often shown in paintings with a flame around his head. This represents his presence at Pentecost, when he received the Holy Spirit with the other apostles.

In the Middle Ages, St. Bernard of Clairvaux (France) was a renowned devotee of St. Jude, as was St. Bridget of Sweden.

Devotion to St. Jude began again in earnest in the 1800's, starting in Italy and Spain, spreading to South America, and finally to the U.S. (originally in the Chicago area) in the 1920's. Novena prayers to St. Jude helped people, especially newly-arrived immigrants from Europe, deal with the pressures caused by the Great Depression, Second World War, and the changing workplace and family life.

Why has devotion to St. Jude continued to grow to the present day?

In spite of (or possibly because of) all the advances human society has made, human beings find themselves under incredible stress and have difficulty coping at one time or another. Increasingly, people are finding that technology and other man-made innovations are unable to provide comfort and hope when it is truly needed, so millions of people around the world turn to St. Jude when they feel the most helpless and alone. St. Jude has proven to be a true friend and a beacon of hope to those who call on him—always willing to help and seek help no matter how desperate the need. And in today's tumultuous times, we need him more than ever.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer to St. Jude

Most holy Apostle, St. Jude, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the Church honors and invokes you universally as the patron of hope.

Please intercede on my behalf. Make use of that particular privilege given to you to bring hope, comfort, and help where they are needed most.

Come to my assistance in this great need that I may receive the consolation and help of heaven as I work with my challenges, particularly (here make your request). I praise God with you and all the saints forever.

I promise, blessed St. Jude, to be ever mindful of this great favor, to always honor you as my special and powerful patron, and to gratefully encourage devotion to you.

Amen.

Prayer to St. Jude for Today

St. Jude, may your path of hope be mine in the days ahead. I promise in faith to share your hope with others, to forgive as I am forgiven by my Father in heaven, and to show caring and kindness at every opportunity. Guide me, St. Jude, so that I begin each new day with gratitude, truth, and hope in my heart. Challenge me, St. Jude, to end each day reflecting on my actions and motivations so that I grow in faith, love, and hope.

Amen.

Prayer to St. Jude for Tomorrow

St. Jude, you are with me in all that is new. May your path of hope be mine in the days ahead. I promise in faith to share your hope with others, to forgive as I am forgiven by my Father in heaven, and to show sympathy and kindness at every opportunity. Guide me, St. Jude, so that I will begin each new day with gratitude on my lips, with truth on my mind, and with hope in my heart. Challenge me, St. Jude, so that I will end each day reflecting on my actions and motivations so that I will grow in faith, love, and hope.

Amen.

Prayer to St. Jude for Healing

Most holy Apostle, St. Jude, I place myself in your care. Pray for me; help me remember that I am not alone in my struggles.

Please join me in asking God to send me hope in my sorrow, courage in my fear, and healing in the midst of my challenges.

Please ask our loving God to fill me with the grace to accept whatever my life holds and to strengthen my faith in His healing power.

Thank you, St. Jude, for the promise of hope you hold to all who believe, and inspire me to give this gift of hope to others.

Amen.

Prayer to St. Jude for Hope

God the Father, give me hope. Help me to know that your hope is alive in me as I offer kindness, forgiveness, and tenderness to others.

I seek the calm that comes from trusting in your hope and your healing presence.

I trust that your servant St. Jude walks with me in all the blessings and challenges of my life, and intercedes on behalf of my petitions.

St. Jude, fill my heart with hope.

Amen.

Prayer to St. Jude for Peace

Through your intercession, St. Jude, please help me to always be open to the calming presence of God. Help me to remember how important my forgiveness toward others can be, for their peace as well as for mine. I will continue to pray for peace between nations. But I also want to contribute to building peace in the corners of the world that I live in, and with the people I meet . . . whether I know them well or not. May God grant my family peace. And may He grant me peace and strength as I continue to work to follow Jesus' teachings. Thank you, St. Jude, for being a source of deep hope and for bringing my petitions to God.

Amen.

Prayer to St. Jude for Eternal Life

You give me hope, St. Jude, in the face of loss and sorrow. I pray that you will guide all souls to the light of Christ. May the hope that you offer be a source of comfort to all those who grieve. For in that hope and through our faith, we experience God's tender mercy, and trust His promise of eternal life. Stay by my side, St. Jude, so that I may always rely on your care for me. Amen.

Amen.

Prayer to St. Jude for Those Affected by Cancer

St. Jude, you are the bearer of abiding hope. I place myself in your care as I bear the cross of cancer.

I trust that you intercede constantly for me, giving me courage when I am afraid, strength when I grow weary, hope for my most difficult challenges.

Most faithful patron, may you remind me always of the love and healing God offers to each of His children.

Amen.

Prayer to St. Jude for Special Intentions

Most holy St. Jude – apostle, martyr and friend of Jesus, today I ask that you pray for me and my intentions!

(State your intentions here)

You are the patron of the impossible. Pray for me and my intentions! O St. Jude, pray that God's grace and mercy will cover my intentions. Pray for the impossible if it is God's will.

Pray that I may have the grace to accept God's holy will even if it is painful and difficult for me.

St. Jude, pray for me that I will not lose hope.

O St. Jude, pray for me that I may grow in faith, hope and love and in the grace of Jesus Christ. Pray for these intentions, but most of all pray that I may join you in heaven with God for all eternity.

Amen.

Litany to St. Jude

Lord, have mercy on us

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, hear us,

Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of heaven,

have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the World,

have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit,

have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, one God,

have mercy on us.

Holy Mary, Mother of God

pray for us.

Holy Mary, Mother of the Church

pray for us.

Holy Mary, Queen of the Apostles

pray for us.

Saint Jude, Apostle of Christ,	pray for us.
Saint Jude, surnamed Thaddeus,	pray for us.
Saint Jude, among 'the brethren of the Lord',	pray for us.
Saint Jude, cousin of the Lord,	pray for us.
Saint Jude, relative of Mary,	pray for us.
Saint Jude, brother of Saint James the Less,	pray for us.
Saint Jude, Zealot party member turned Disciple,	pray for us.
Saint Jude, spiritual heir of the Maccabees,	pray for us.
Saint Jude, one of the Twelve,	pray for us.
Saint Jude, honored by thy humble Master washing thy feet	pray for us.
Saint Jude, who received thy Eucharistic Lord from His own hands at the Last Supper,	pray for us.
Saint Jude, Saint of the Impossible,	pray for us.
Saint Jude, Helper in Difficult Cases,	pray for us.
Saint Jude, in whom so many have confidence,	pray for us.
Saint Jude, redeemer of the name of Judas,	pray for us.
Saint Jude, one in whom we can trust,	pray for us.
Saint Jude, sent by Christ on missions of healing,	pray for us.
Saint Jude, sent without silver, staff or sandals,	pray for us.
Saint Jude, sent as a sheep among wolves,	pray for us.
Saint Jude, sent to announce the reign of God,	pray for us.
Saint Jude, promised the Holy Spirit under trial,	pray for us.
Saint Jude, filled with the Holy Spirit on Pentecost,	pray for us.

Saint Jude, witness to the Resurrection of Christ and His Ascension,	pray for us.
Saint Jude, miracle worker,	pray for us.
Saint Jude, to whom the epistle by that name is attributed,	pray for us.
Saint Jude, believed to have preached in Mesopotamia,	pray for us.
Saint Jude, thought to have been martyred with Saint Simon in Persia,	pray for us.
Saint Jude, saint for our needs,	pray for us.
Saint Jude, saint for our times,	pray for us.
Saint Jude, pictured with a burning flame,	pray for us.
Saint Jude, patron of many shrines in thy honor,	pray for us.
Saint Jude, beloved intercessor at novenas,	pray for us.
Saint Jude, inspirer of confidence,	pray for us.
Saint Jude, helper of the persistent,	pray for us.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,	spare us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,	graciously hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,	have mercy on us.
Christ, hear us,	Christ, graciously hear us.
Pray for us, St. Jude, Apostle of Christ.	That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

O glorious Saint Jude Thaddeus, by whose sublime prerogatives wherewith thou wast ennobled in thy lifetime, namely, thy kinship with Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh, and thy vocation to be an Apostle; by that glory which is now thine in Heaven as the reward of thine apostolic labors and thy martyrdom: Obtain for us from the Giver of every good and perfect gift all the graces we stand in need of in order to treasure up in our hearts the divinely inspired doctrines which thou hast transmitted to us in thine Epistle; that is to say, to build our edifice of perfection upon our most holy Faith, praying by the grace of the Holy Spirit; to keep ourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of Jesus Christ unto eternal life; to strive by all means to help those who go astray, exalting thus the glory and majesty, the dominion and power of Him Who is able to keep us without sin and to present us spotless with exceeding joy at the coming of our Divine Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.