

AUGUST 24

**Saint Bartholomew,
Apostle and Martyr**

“THE APOSTLE Bartholomew was a native of Galilee. It fell to his lot to preach the Gospel in hither India; and he announced to those nations the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the Gospel of St. Matthew. But after converting many souls to Jesus Christ in that province and undergoing much labor and suffering, he went into eastern Armenia.

“Here he converted to the Christian faith the king Polymius and his queen and twelve cities. This caused the pagan priests of that nation to be exceedingly jealous of him, and they stirred up Astyages the brother of king Polymius against the apostle, so that he commanded him to be flayed alive and finally beheaded. In this cruel martyrdom he gave up his soul to God.

“His body was buried at Albanopolis, the town of eastern Armenia where he was martyred; but it was afterwards taken to the island of Lispari, and thence to Beneventum. Finally it was translated to Rome by the emperor Otho III and placed on the island of the Tiber in a church dedicated to God under his invocation. His feast is kept at Rome on 25 August, and during the eight following days that basilica is much frequented by the faithful.”

On this day of thy feast, O holy apostle, the Church for prays grace

to love what thou didst believe and to preach what thou didst teach. Not that the bride of the Son of God could ever fail either in faith or in love; but she knows only too well that, though her Head is ever in the light, and her heart ever united to the Spouse in the holy Spirit who sanctifies her, nevertheless her several members, the particular churches of which she is composed, may detach themselves from their center of life and wander away in darkness. O thou who didst choose our west as the place of thy rest; thou whose precious relics Rome glories in possessing, bring back to Peter the nations thou didst evangelize; fulfill the now reviving hopes of universal union; second the efforts made by the vicar of the Man-God to gather again under the shepherd's crook those scattered flocks whose pastures have become parched by schism. May thine own Armenia be the first to complete a return which she began long ago; may she trust the mother-Church and no more follow the sowers of discord. All being reunited, may we together enjoy the treasures of our concordant traditions, and go to God, even at the cost of being despoiled of all things, by the course so grand and yet so simple taught us by thy example and by thy sublime theology.

Commentary from The Liturgical Year by Dom Prosper Guéranger (1805-1875).

Illustration: The Martyrdom of St. Bartholomew (detail), 1722, by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo (1696-1770).



Proper Prayers of the Mass in the Extraordinary Form

ADDENDUM:

COMMEMORATION OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW



SECOND COLLECT

OMNIPOTENS sempitérne Deus, qui hujus diéi venerándam sanctámque lætítiam in beáti Apóstoli tui Bartholomæi festivitáte tribuísti: da Ecclésiæ tuæ, quæsumus, et amáre quod crédidit, et prædicáre quod dócuit. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum ...

ALMIGHTY everlasting God, Who hast given us a reverent and holy joy in this day's festival of Thy blessed Apostle Bartholomew: grant to your Church, we beseech Thee, both to love what he believed and to preach what he taught. Through our Lord Jesus Christ ...

SECOND SECRET

BEÁTI Apóstoli tui Bartholomæi solémnia recenséntes, quæsumus, Dómine: ut ejus auxílio tua beneficia capiámus, pro quo tibi laudis hóstias immolámus. Per Dóminum nostrum ...

WE WHO keep the solemn feast of Thy blessed Apostle Bartholomew, beseech Thee, O Lord, that we may receive Thy benefits through his help in whose honor we offer Thee this sacrifice of praise. Through our Lord Jesus Christ ...

SECOND POSTCOMMUNION

SUMPTUM, Dómine, pignus redemptionis æternæ: sit nobis, quæsumus, interveniénte beáto Bartholomæo Apóstolo tuo, vitæ præsentis auxílium partier et futúre. Per Dóminum ...

MAY the pledge of eternal redemption, which we have received, O Lord, be to us, we beseech Thee, through the intercession of blessed Bartholomew, Thine Apostle, a help for this present life and also for the life to come. Through our Lord ...

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