

## Saint James the Greater

**B**UT HOW was James a messenger of the faith, since the sword of Herod Agrippa put such a speedy end to his mission! And how did he justify his name of *son of thunder*, since his voice was heard by a mere handful of disciples in a desert of infidelity?

... Nearly eight centuries, which to the heavenly citizens are but as a day, had passed over that tomb in the north of Spain, where two disciples had secretly laid the apostle's body. During that time the land of his inheritance, which he had so rapidly traversed, had been overrun first by Roman idolaters, then by Arian barbarians, and when the day of hope seemed about to dawn, a deeper night was ushered in by the Crescent. One day lights were seen glimmering over the briars that covered the neglected monument; attention was drawn to the spot, which henceforth went by the name the *field of stars*. But what are those sudden shouts coming down from the mountains, and echoing through the valleys? Who is this unknown chief rallying against an immense army the little worn-out troop whose heroic valor could not yesterday save it from defeat? Swift as lightning, and bearing in one hand a white standard with a red cross, he rushes with drawn sword upon the panic stricken foe, and dyes the feet of his charger in the blood of 70,000 slain. Hail to the chief of the holy war, of which this Liturgical Year has so often made mention! Saint James! Saint James! Forward, Spain! It is the reappearance of the Galilean fisherman, whom the Man-God once

called from the bark where he was mending his nets; of the elder son of thunder, now free to hurl the thunderbolt upon these new Samaritans, who pretend to honor the unity of God by making Christ no more than a prophet. Henceforth James shall be to Christian Spain the *firebrand* which the Prophet saw, *devouring all the people round about, to the right hand and to the left, until Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place in Jerusalem* [Zach. 12 : 6].

And when, after six centuries and a half of struggle, his *standard bearers*, the Catholic kings, had succeeded in driving the infidel hoards beyond the seas, the valiant leader of the Spanish armies laid aside his bright armor, and the *slayer of Moors* became once more a messenger of the faith. As fisher of men, he entered his bark, and gathering around it the gallant fleets of Christopher Columbus, Vasco da Gama, Albuquerque, he led them over unknown seas to the lands that had never yet heard the name of the Lord. For his contribution to the labors of the twelve, James drew ashore his well-filled nets from west and east and south, from new worlds, renewing Peter's astonishment at the sight of such captures. He, whose apostolate seemed at the time of Herod III to have been crushed in the bud before bearing any fruit, may say with St. Paul: *I have no way come short of them that are above measure apostles, for by the grace of God I have labored more abundantly than all they* [II COR. 12:11; I COR. 15:10].

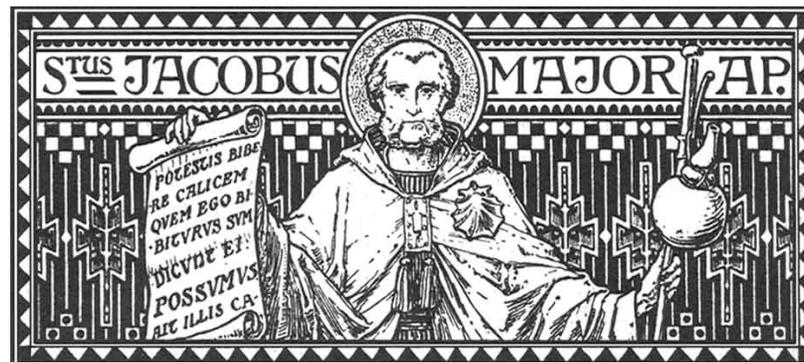
*Commentary from The Liturgical Year by Dom Prosper Guéranger, O.S.B. (1805-1875).*

## Proper Prayers of the Mass in the Extraordinary Form

ADDENDUM:

JULY 25

### Commemoration of St. James the Greater, Apostle



#### Second Collect

ESTO, DÓMINE, plebi tuæ sanctificátor et custos: ut, Apóstoli tui Jacóbi munita præsídiis, et conversatióne tibi pláceat et secúra mente desérviat. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum ...

BE THOU, O Lord, the Sanctifier and Protector of Thy people: so that defended by the aid of Thine Apostle James, they may please Thee in their manner of life, and serve Thee in peace of soul. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son ...

#### Second Secret

OBLATIÓNES pópuli tui, quæsumus, Dómine, beáti Jacóbi Apóstoli pássio beáta conciliet: et quæ nostris non aptæ sunt méritis, fiant tibe plácitæ ejus deprecatióne. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum Filium tuum ...

MAY the holy martyrdom of the blessed Apostle James, we beseech Thee, O Lord, make acceptable the offerings of Thy people: and, since they have no worth from any merits of ours, may his prayers make them pleasing to Thee. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son ...

#### Second Postcommunion

Beáti Apóstoli tui Jacóbi, quæsumus, Dómine, intercessiόne nos ádjuva: pro cujus festivitáte percépimus tua sancta lætántes. Per Dóminum nostrum ...

HELP US, we beseech Thee, O Lord, through the intercession of Thy blessed Apostle James: in honor of whose feast we have received Thy holy Mysteries with joy. Through our Lord Jesus Christ ...

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