

# *St. Philip the Apostle*

Roman Catholic Church



## **Wednesday, May 3, 2023**

- Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Easter
- Feast of Saints Philip & James, Apostles
- Fr. Sherdel's Morning Mass Intention: ***Dottie Fritsch***

### **First Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8**

I am reminding you, brothers and sisters, of the Gospel I preached to you, which you indeed received and in which you also stand. Through it you are also being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures; that he was buried; that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures; that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at once, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. After that he appeared to James, then to all the Apostles. Last of all, as to one born abnormally, he appeared to me.

### **Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 19:2-3, 4-5**

***Their message goes out through all the earth.***

The heavens declare the glory of God;  
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.  
Day pours out the word to day;  
and night to night imparts knowledge. ***R/.***

Not a word nor a discourse  
whose voice is not heard;  
Through all the earth their voice resounds,  
and to the ends of the world, their message. ***R/.***

### **Gospel: John 14:6-14**

Jesus said to Thomas, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me is doing his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves. Amen, amen, I say to you,

whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father. And whatever you ask in my name, I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything of me in my name, I will do it."

## **Reflection**

*Philip said to him, "Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us." (John 14:8)*

For hundreds of years, only four apostles were given feast days: Sts. Peter, Paul, Andrew, and John. However, in AD 560, the relics of Sts. Philip and James (the lesser) were formally brought to the Basilica of the Twelve Holy Apostles in Rome and placed under the main altar there. To commemorate the event, this new feast day was added to the Church calendar.

Like the other apostles, James and Philip played essential roles in building up the Church. Philip preached to the Scythians in what is now southern Russia and Ukraine and northern Iran. For his part, James remained in Jerusalem, where he served as head of the church there until he was martyred around AD 62.

The fact that we are celebrating a missionary and a bishop on the same day shows us that Jesus' apostles were a diverse set of individuals. Each of them followed the path God had laid out for them with steadfast love and perseverance. This unique day also shows us two different but related ways that we ourselves can deepen our faith.

James is probably the better known of these two apostles because of the New Testament letter that bears his name. In that letter, James makes it clear that faith must be paired with action (2:14-19).

When Jesus invited Philip to follow him, Philip was so excited that he encouraged Nathanael to do the same. As we see in today's Gospel, Philip never stopped seeking a deeper understanding of the Lord. He felt free to ask Jesus questions because he wanted his faith to have the strongest foundation possible. That foundation likely became his main support in all his missionary travels!

Two very different apostles — a missionary and a pastor. Two very important themes — deepening our faith and pairing that faith with action. Taken together, Philip and James show us that the Christian life is meant to change our actions and our inner thoughts and understanding. May we always follow their example!

*Lord, teach me how to deepen my faith in my thoughts and in my deeds.*

## **An Act of Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus,  
I believe that You  
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament  
I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment  
receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there  
and unite myself wholly to You.  
Never permit me to be separated from You.  
Amen.

## **Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel**

St. Michael the Archangel,  
defend us in battle.

Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,  
and do thou,

O Prince of the heavenly hosts,

by the power of God,

thrust into hell Satan,

and all the evil spirits,

who prowl about the world

seeking the ruin of souls.

Amen.