

St. Bartholomew

the Apostle

Saint of the Month

August 2008

Feast Day – August 24



Patron Saint of : leatherworkers, bookbinders, butchers.

Profile: Also known as Nathaniel, Son of Tolomai. Probably a close friend of Saint Philip, his name is always mentioned in the Gospels in connection with him, and it was Philip who brought Bartholomew to Jesus.

Represented by: a tanner's knife, or a skinless man holding his own skin.

Character Trait: Respect

Virtue: Fortitude

Family Activity:

Find other places in the Bible where his name is written.

All that is known of him with certainty is that he is mentioned in the synoptic gospels and Acts as one of the twelve apostles. His name, a patronymic, means "son of Tolomai" and scholars believe he is the same as Nathanael mentioned in John, who says he is from Cana and that Jesus called him an "Israelite...incapable of deceit." The Roman Martyrology says he preached in India and Greater Armenia, where he was flayed and beheaded by King Astyages. Tradition has the place as Abanopolis on the west coast of the Caspian Sea and that he also preached in Mesopotamia, Persia, and Egypt.

John 1:49

Nathaniel answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God: you are the King of Israel."

Prayer:

O Glorious Saint Bartholomew, Jesus called you a person without guile and you saw in this word a sign that he was the Son of God and King of Israel. Obtain for us the grace to be ever guileless and innocent as doves. At the same time, help us to have your gift of faith to see the Divine hand in the events of daily life. May we discern the signs of the times that lead to Jesus on earth and will eventually unite us to him forever in heaven. Amen.