

SAINT OF THE MONTH: APRIL 2008

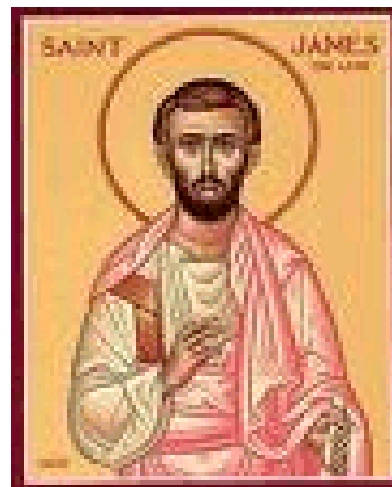
Saint James

the Less

**APOSTLE, MARTYR,
PATRON OF DRUGGISTS**

(Memorial: AD 62)

FEAST DAY: MAY 3



“For just as a body without a spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead” (James 2:26).

St. James is commonly known to be the author of the epistles in the New Testament, which bears his name. Its main themes include: Good news for the poor, to be doers not bearers, and testing faith by good works. St. James was known to pray tirelessly in the Temple. He was responsible for many converts. In his papal address Pope Benedict XVI spoke of St. James’s epistle saying, “It is a rather important writing, which insists much on the need not to reduce one’s faith to a pure verbal or abstract declaration, but to express it concretely in good works. Among other things, he invites us to constancy in joyfully accepted trails and to trusting prayer to obtain from God the gift of wisdom, thanks to which we succeed in understanding that the true values of life are not in transitory riches, but rather in being able to share one’s food with the poor and needy (cf. James 1:27).” Contributed to Integrate the Original Jewish Dimension of Christianity, VATICAN CITY, June 29, 2006.

INSPIRATIONAL EVENT: As they began to stone Apostle James, the Just, after they had thrown him from a pinnacle and clubbed him, he turned, knelt down and said, “I beseech thee, O Lord God, Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

THEOLOGICAL VIRTUE:

***LOVE
JUSTICE***

CHARACTER TRAIT:

RESPONSIBILITY

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

Ask your family to consider the strength of faith in St. James that he could forgive those who took his life. Think about how within your family you can practice forgiveness so it will be easier to model in your daily life outside your home.
