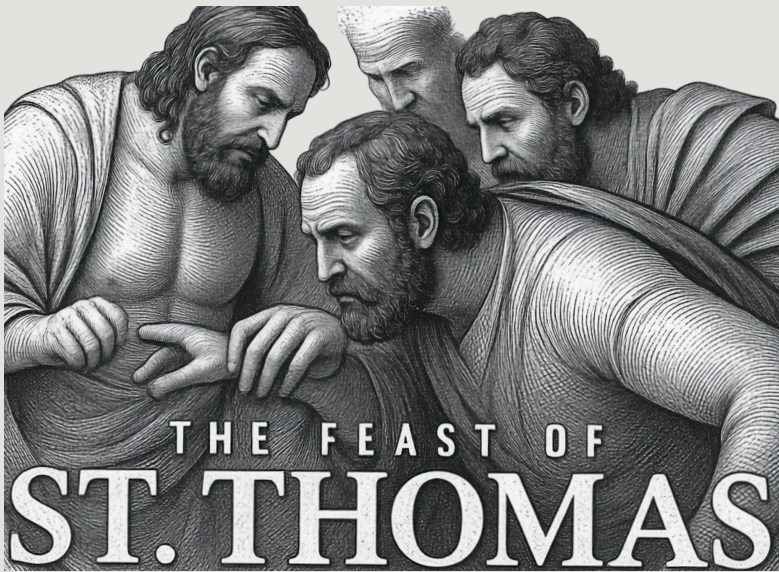


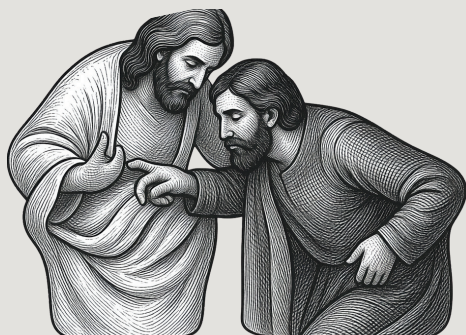


# *Celebrating* Saint Thomas the Apostle



## **Jesus' Original Twelve Apostles**

Simon called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew, **Thomas**, and Matthew the tax collector; James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddeus; Simon the Cananean, and Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus.



St. Thomas the Apostle is best known for saying he wouldn't believe Christ truly rose from the dead until he placed his finger in Christ's side. He is commonly known as "Doubting Thomas." He redeemed himself, however, upon seeing the Resurrected Lord, uttering the expression of faith used by Christians ever since, **"My Lord and My God!"**

*(ewtnmission.com/seasonsandfeastdays/stthomas)*

### **A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to John (20:24-29)**

**24** Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

**25** So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

**26** Now, a week later, his disciples were again inside, and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you."

**27** Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe."

**28** Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

**29** Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."



The name “Thomas” is of Aramaic origin and is known to mean “twin.” In Scripture, Thomas is also referred to as “Didymus,” which means “twin” in Greek. Because of this, some have come to the conclusion that if Thomas’ name meant “twin,” he must have been the twin of Jesus, or at least his brother. Nowhere does the biblical, ecclesiastical, or historical tradition support such speculation. St. Luke makes clear in describing the Annunciation of the Archangel to Mary the singular nature of the Lord’s conception (Luke 1). Thus, the Church has always upheld the perpetual virginity of Mary as the true “ark of the Covenant,” who only ever held within the Word of God made Flesh (John 1).

## Symbol

Each Apostle has their own symbol to represent them. St. Thomas is represented by a spear and a ruler. The ruler refers to his profession as a builder and the spear represents his martyrdom.

## Patron Saint

St. Thomas is the patron saint of architects and builders, due to his profession.

## Virtue

The main virtue we can learn from St. Thomas is that of Faith. After Thomas’ skepticism at Our Lord’s Resurrection, Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.” (John 20:29). From this incident, therefore, we should learn this lesson of Our Lord: to have faith and to believe, even without seeing.

## Prayer

Intercessory prayer through Saint Thomas the Apostle seeks his intercession for courage, steadfast faith, and guidance through moments of doubt.

## Death + Burial

It is believed that St. Thomas was martyred with a spear in India. A historical tradition holds that following his death, some of his relics were taken to Edessa, located today in southeast Turkey, while the rest were kept in India. These latter can still be found in St. Thomas Cathedral Basilica in Chennai, Mylapore, India. It is believed that the relics that were once held in Edessa, were later taken to the Basilica of St. Thomas the Apostle in Ortona, Italy.



## Reflection

Saint Thomas shares the lot of Peter the impetuous, James and John, the “sons of thunder,” Philip and his foolish request to see the Father—indeed all the apostles in their weakness and lack of understanding. We must not exaggerate these facts, however, for Christ did not pick worthless men. But their human weakness again points up the fact that holiness is a gift of God, not a human creation; it is given to ordinary men and women with weaknesses; it is God who gradually transforms the weaknesses into the image of Christ, the courageous, trusting, and loving one.

*([franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-thomas](http://franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-thomas))*

