

June 11th

Saint BARNABAS, Apostle

On Cyprus: Solemnity
Elsewhere : Memorial

St Luke considers Barnabas to be "a man of God, filled with the Holy Spirit and faith" (Acts 11:24). He was a prominent figure in the early Christian community, and was credited with the title of "apostle". Captivated by the Gospel, he immediately sold his fields, so as to follow Christ. Being a Levite and a native of Cyprus, he quite naturally served as a link between the community of Jerusalem and the newcomers from paganism. He brought Saul to Antioch, associating him in his apostolate. Together they set out for the first missionary journey to the coast of Asia Minor (about AD 50). He then continued his journey alone, returning to Cyprus, where, according to some traditions, he endured martyrdom in the neighbourhood of Salamis.

Today's readings depict the courage of Barnabas, his courage and boldness in evangelizing, his breadth of view and his total openness to the Holy Spirit. The very surname of Barnabas means: "he who exhorts, who speaks on behalf of God." May the Lord grant us, through his intercession, the strength of faith and the love that will allow us bear witness to Christ.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Acts 11: 24

Blessed are you, St. Barnabas: You were a man of faith filled with the Holy Spirit and counted among the apostles.

COLLECT

O God, who decreed that Saint Barnabas, a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit, should be set apart to convert the nations, grant that the Gospel of Christ, which he strenuously preached, may be faithfully proclaimed by word and by deed.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ...

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 11: 21-26, 13: 1-3

The hand of the Lord was with them and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. The news about them reached the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas (to go) to Antioch. When he arrived and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced and encouraged them all to remain faithful to the Lord in firmness of heart, for he was a good man, filled with the holy Spirit and faith. And a large number of people was added to the Lord. Then he went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a large number of people, and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called Christians. Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Symeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who was a close friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then, completing their fasting and prayer, they laid hands on them and sent them off.
The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 98: 1. 2-3. 3-6. (R. 2b)

R. The LORD has made known his salvation.

1. O sing a new song to the LORD,
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation.

2. The LORD has made known his salvation,
has shown his deliverance to the nations.
He has remembered his merciful love
and his truth for the house of Israel.

3. All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the LORD, all the earth;
raise a shout before the King, the LORD.

SECOND READING

A reading the letter of Paul to the Galatians 2: 1-2. 8-10

Then after fourteen years I again went up to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along also. I went up in accord with a revelation, and I presented to them the gospel that I preach to the Gentiles--but privately to those of repute--so that I might not be running, or have run, in vain. On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter to the circumcised, for the one who worked in Peter for an apostolate to the circumcised worked also in me for the Gentiles, and when they recognized the grace bestowed upon me, James and Cephas and John, who were reputed to be pillars, gave me and Barnabas their right hands in partnership, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. Only, we were to be mindful of the poor, which is the very thing I was eager to do.

The Word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Matt 28: 19a. 20b

R. Alleluia. Alleluia.
Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always until the end of the world.
R. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew 10: 7-11

Jesus said to his disciples: "As you go, make this proclamation: 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons. Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give. Do not take gold or silver or copper for your belts; no sack for the journey, or a second tunic, or sandals, or walking stick. The labourer deserves his keep. Whatever town or village you enter, look for a worthy person in it, and stay there until you leave."
The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Sanctify with your blessing, we pray, O Lord, the offerings presented here, so that by your grace they may set us on fire with the flame of your love, by which Saint Barnabas brought the light of the Gospel to the nations.

Through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...

COMMUNION ANTIPHON John 15:15

No longer shall I call you servants, for a servant knows not what his master does. Now I shall call you friends, for I have revealed to you all that I have heard from my Father.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As we receive the pledge of eternal life, we humbly implore you, Lord, that what we celebrate in sacramental signs on the Solemnity (Memorial) of the blessed Apostle Barnabas we may one day behold unveiled.

Through Christ our Lord.