

The Apostles



Peter

“I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven.”
(*Matthew 16:19*)

James

The patron saint of Spain and of pilgrims. The scallop shells refer to pilgrimage.

Andrew

The patron saint of Russia, Scotland and the Ecumenical Patriarchate. He was crucified on an x-shaped cross.



John

Represents the legend of a poisoned chalice being offered to him, in an attempt made on his life.

Philip

It was to St. Philip that Christ addressed his remark concerning the feeding of the multitude. Two loaves of bread by the cross.

James the Less

The saw represents the tradition that St. James was cast down from a pinnacle of the temple in Jerusalem, stoned and sawn asunder.

Jude

The ship represents the Church, which St. Jude carried to many ports as he journeyed as a missionary.



Matthew

Thomas

The patron saint of builders. A spear which refers to the instrument of his martyrdom along with a builder's square.

Simon the Zealot

A book with a fish atop it represents Simon who was known as a great fisher of men.

Bartholomew

Flaying knives represent the belief that St. Bartholomew was flayed alive and crucified.



Matthias

Chosen to replace Judas, St. Matthias served as a missionary in Judaea, where he is said to have been stoned and beheaded.

Judas

Judas Iscariot apparently followed Jesus in hopes of attaining a high place in an earthly kingdom, however he is best known for his betrayal of his Teacher for “thirty pieces of silver.”



Mark the Evangelist

Mark is represented by a winged lion because his Gospel begins with a reference to John the Baptist as a voice crying in the wilderness.

Luke

Luke is represented by an ox because he gives a full account of the sacrificial death of Jesus.



Matthew

Matthew is represented by a winged man because his Gospel begins with the tracing of the genealogy of Jesus.

John

John is represented by an eagle suggesting the soaring loftiness of his writings.