

# LITURGY BYTES

## More July Saints

*St. Mary Magdalene* is the most honored woman in the Bible, except for our Blessed Mother. She is not to be confused with the unnamed sinful woman who anointed the feet of Jesus in Luke's Gospel. Mary of Magdala was one of the many who assisted Jesus and the apostles. She stood at the foot of the cross with Jesus' Mother and was the official witness to His Resurrection, a privilege she was given. She is known as the Apostle to the Apostles. Her feast day is celebrated on July 22<sup>nd</sup>.



*St. James'* feast occurs on July 25<sup>th</sup>. He's the brother of John the Evangelist and is also known as the son of Zebedee. The two were called by Jesus as they worked with their father on a fishing boat. We also know that James witnessed the Transfiguration, the raising to life of Jairus' daughter, and the agony in the garden. Sometimes, he is referred to as James the Greater. He was the first of the apostles to be martyred by King Herod. This James should not be confused with the James that wrote the letter of James in the New Testament or James the Lesser.

On July 26<sup>th</sup>, the Church celebrates the parents of our Blessed Mother – *Sts. Joachim and Anne*. Actually, we know nothing factual about them except that they existed. Their heroism and holiness is apparent from the whole family atmosphere that surrounds Mary in the Scriptures. We see in Mary many generations of prayerful people and the strong religious traditions of her people. Her parents represent generations of the faithful who perform their duties and practice their faith. They are very special grandparents who are examples of great wisdom for us all.

Have a blessed, saintly, and healthy week ahead! ~~~ *Michele Hall*