



Celebration of All Saints Sunday

Every child of God has been grafted into Abraham's family and inheritance. In Galatians 3:7 we read, "Know ye, therefore, that they which are of faith, the same are children of Abraham." Each of the tribes had a special calling and purpose in God's plan. As the 12 tribes symbolize God's plan for his children, so did the 12 disciples symbolize the family of God and the foundation of the body of Christ - His Church. It is for that reason that the Grace sanctuary has 24 pillars surrounding us as we worship. It is a reminder of the pillars of faith that we have from both the Old and New Testaments. This morning, as we celebrate All Saints Sunday, 12 banners symbolizing the 12 tribes and 12 banners symbolizing the 12 disciples will process into our sanctuary and be placed at each of the 24 pillars. The symbolism on each banner symbolizes the special calling and purpose they had in God's plan. We pray that you will be blessed and feel God's steadfast love as the banners are shared with us this Sunday.

Matthew 26:26-29
Luke 22:17-20



IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

The 12 Tribes of Israel

Reuben (Color—Sardius)

- Blood covering for our sins
- “Seek ye a Son” - Firstborn
- A new Beginning
- New Life is represented by the man-drake plant.

Simeon (Color—Topaz)

- “One who hears and obeys”
- The pitcher is the symbol of the weapon of Gideon. The Word of the Lord is the sword. One who learns through suffering.

Levi (Color—Garnet)

- “The true priest”
- A true Levi carries the ministry God has given him in his heart day and night.

Judah (Color—Emerald)

- “To Praise”
- A full-grown lion is majestic and strong like a mature Christian. He does not give in to the enemy. They are “Throne Room People.”

Dan (Color—Sapphire)

- To rule, to judge, to strive
- “Dan shall be a serpent by the Way” Genesis 49:17
- Great Discernment of people

Naphtali (Color—Diamond)

- “A hind (female deer) let loose”
- A diamond can grind everything down except itself
- To wrestle right and be victorious - to overcome

Gad (Color—Liquore)

- “A warrior, tent dweller”
- An over-comer
- A roamer - loves to wander

Asher (Color—Agate)

- Lumber not costly, easy to carve. God can shape an Asher.
- “Happy, joyful!”
- Like an olive tree
- A source of oil to bless and be poured out on others.

Issachar (Color—Amethyst)

- Royal stone
- “To lift, to carry”
- A humble and compassionate servant.

Zebulun (Color—Aquamarine)

- “A safe haven for many”
- To dwell
- A Zebulunite wants to put a wall of protection around family and friends. Any separation is torment. Has great concern for people of other lands.

Joseph’s Two Sons:

Manasseh (Color—Onyx)

- “The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree.
- The ability to forgive and forget
- Doesn’t easily change his mind

Ephraim (Color— Onyx)

- “Double Fruitful”
- Double portion of goods and land
- Must be careful not to be led astray

Benjamin (Color—Jasper)

- Thought to bring healing and happiness
- The young wolf struggles to get everything for himself. The mature wolf shares the spoil. This illustration symbolizes the growth of the tribe of Israel.
- “Son of Comfort”

The 12 Apostles

Peter

He was formally named Simon and re-named by Christ. Jesus called him “The Rock” upon whom the Church would be founded. His symbols are the upside-down cross upon which he was crucified, and the keys to heaven. Peter was a fisherman when Jesus called him to be an Apostle.

Andrew

The symbols associated with him are the basket of five loaves of bread and the two fishes. They represent the feeding of the 5000 mentioned in the Gospel of Matthew. The Greek cross indicates that he brought the Gospel to the Greeks. Andrew did not feel worthy to be crucified on a cross like Christ’s so they used an X-shaped one.

James

The three shells represent him as a sailor. James wanted lightning to hit a village that refused to accept Jesus, so Christ called him a Son of Thunder.

John

In Revelation, John speaks of “the Hand of God” holding seven stars for the seven letters sent to the seven churches. He was called the Beloved Disciple. His symbol is the chalice and the snake because there was an attempt to kill him with poison.

Philip

He was a fisherman and a missionary. One of the first that Jesus called to follow Him, he became a “Fisher of Men”.

Bartholomew

When Jesus called him, he was sitting under a fig tree reading scripture; therefore, the fig leaves and a scroll are the symbols associated with him. The fish represents the breakfast that Jesus cooked on the beach. Tradition has it that Bartholomew was skinned alive with flaying knives.

Matthew

He was the first to write the teachings of Christ in the Hebrew language. The symbol for him is moneybags, because they remind us that he was a hated tax collector when Jesus called him.

Thomas

The triangle or Trinity symbol with the 5 drops of blood represent his doubting until he could see and feel Jesus’ wounds for himself. A missionary to South India, he built many churches, as well as a palace for the king. Because he was killed with a spear it is also one of the symbols associated with him.

James

The lesser (or younger): He preached in Palestine and in Egypt. The “Anchor Cross” represents his part in the Church’s formation. The Palm tree is a symbol used for martyrs and the saw is shown here because James was sawn in half.

Simon

The broken sword is the symbol of the change in his life from a militant zealot to a way of love. The fish and the bible represent the change to his new life. He took the Gospel to India as suggested by the ‘towers’.

Jude

Also known as Thaddeus. Grapes are used to show that he was a wine dresser at the time Jesus called him. The crown represents the desire that Jude had for Jesus to become a king, but Christ taught that the Holy Spirit, represented by the dove, has the real power. Because of his many missionary journeys the ship is also used as one of his symbols.

Judas

The black fabric color and the stars remind us of the darkness of his life - his betrayal of the Christ in the garden. His apostolic symbols are moneybag and the pieces of silver.