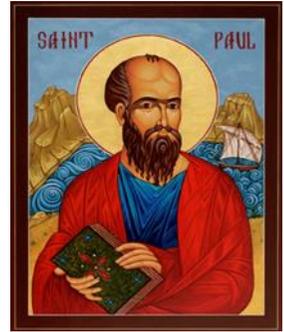


Did you know . . .

St. Paul, Apostle of Christ

St. Paul is one of the most important and influential of all the saints. He was a Roman citizen and a Pharisee who presided over the persecutions of the early Christians and was present at the Martyrdom of St. Stephen. On the road to Damascus, he experienced a powerful vision that caused him to convert to Christianity.



Paul traveled extensively throughout most of Europe.

While preparing for a missionary trip to Spain, he was captured by the Jews and imprisoned for two years. When he next traveled, he was shipwrecked in Malta and imprisoned for another two years for preaching in Rome. Even with all these imprisonments, he continued to preach.

After Paul made it to Spain, he returned to the East and finally to Rome again, where in 67 AD he was again arrested. This time he was beheaded under the Emperor Nero.

St. Paul's feast day is June 29, honored with St. Peter. He is also honored on January 25 (Conversion of St. Paul), February 10 (St. Paul's Shipwreck) and November 18 (Dedication of St. Paul's Basilica).

Soon to be released is "Paul, Apostle of Christ", a biblical drama based on the Acts of the Apostles and starring James Faulkner as Paul and Jim Caviezel as St. Luke. Jim Caviezel played the role of Christ in the 2004 movie, "The Passion of Christ." In a recent interview, Caviezel explained that, "The movie follows St. Paul in the last days of his life, facing Roman imprisonment for preaching Christianity while waiting execution under Emperor Nero. Luke, a physician, is able to visit his fellow Christian in jail."

He said that the movie's theme centers on forgiveness and merciful love. "Forgiveness starts with not just love, but ardent love," Caviezel told USA Today. "It's really easy to love people who think like you think; it's very hard to treat someone with a polar opposite view with the same dignity and respect you would treat a friend. That's this movie's core message."

The movie is scheduled to open during Holy Week on Wednesday, March 28

Judy Pearson