

CLOUD OF WITNESSES

These banners are heraldic symbols of the twelve apostles chosen by Jesus to spread the Gospel throughout the world. The banners are also symbolic of the "cloud of witnesses" for whom we give special thanks on this "All Saints Sunday." As the earliest of Christian disciples and martyrs, the Apostles remind us of all of those who have lived and died in the Faith.

ANDREW was one of the first chosen of the apostles (Mark 1:16-18). He is known as the patron saint of Scotland, where he supposedly preached. His symbol is an X-shaped cross upon which he was crucified. This banner was made by Mary Catherine Smith.

BARTHOLOMEW took the Gospel to Armenia where he met his death by being flayed alive; his symbol is the knife by which he was martyred. This banner was made by Nancy Oliphint.

JAMES THE GREATER was the first apostle to be martyred, being put to death by the sword by order of Herod Agrippa I (Acts 12:1-2). He is represented as a pilgrim with a cockle shell and a sword. This banner was made by Sandy Melton.

JAMES THE LESS is sometimes referred to as "James, the brother of Christ." His symbol is the saw. This banner is by Lorabel Gammill.

JOHN, the youngest of the twelve, is often referred to as the "beloved disciple." According to legend when he was forced to drink a cup of poison by the emperor, the poison left the cup in the form of a serpent. This banner was made by Mary Northrup.

JUDE is traditionally identified as the brother of James and the writer of the epistle of Jude in the New Testament. He is a popular intercessor for those who are in desperate straits; his symbol is a boat. This banner was made by Mary Northrup.

MATTHEW was a tax collector, called by Christ to be an apostle (Matthew 9:9). He is symbolized by three money bags. The authorship of the first gospel is traditionally ascribed to him, and as such, he is portrayed as a man with wings. This banner is by Jean Denney.

MATTHIAS was elected by the apostles to replace Judas who had betrayed Christ (Acts 1:23-26). His symbol is the open book and the two-headed axe. This banner is by Cindy Sybert.

PETER is represented by an upside down cross and two crossed keys. The cross refers to his martyrdom when Peter chose to be crucified upside down because he was unworthy to die like his Lord. The crossed keys refer to the passage in Matthew when Christ said, "You are Peter, and unto you I give the keys of my Church" (Matthew 16:15). This banner was made by Kathy Ozier.

PHILIP according to legend, preached the Gospel in Scythia where he was crucified. His symbol is a Latin cross. The banner is by Karen Stephens.

SIMON is represented by a closed book and a fish. Legend is that he preached the Gospel in Egypt and Persia. This banner is by Sharon Mielke.

THOMAS is known as the "doubting" apostle. Because of a legend in which he preached that by faith and charity in this world it was possible to build up a store of wealth in Heaven, his usual attribute is a builder's square. A spear is the symbol of his martyrdom. This banner is by Cindy Booker.

THE FOUR EVANGELISTS (Gospel writers) are traditionally represented by a man (Matthew), a lion (Mark), an ox (Luke), and an eagle (John), in accordance with the four "living creatures" seen by Ezekiel (Ezekiel 1:4-14). These banners, made by Veta Boswell, Mary Ingram, Mary Meeker and Dona Sherwin, are placed along the rear of the balcony.