

About this painting of St. Jude The Apostle

This manuscript painting is a concluding segment of a prayer to Saint Jude Thaddeus, also known as Thaddeus of Edessa, the patron saint of desperate cases and lost causes.

Blessed Saint Jude,

I honor you with special affection and devotion, hand me the presence and strength of God.

Protect me in all circumstances, may your help and consolation never cease.

Obtain for me by the grace of the Lord Jesus, Mary and Joseph, deliverance, prosperity, work and health; make it so that well-being is installed in my home.

As an expression of my affection and gratitude, I promise you I will promote an authentic devotion to you and already from this moment, I infinitely give you thanks for all your favors. So be it.

Symbolism in this Painting

A brief explanation of the symbolism in this painting:

Saint Jude, also known as Judas Thaddaeus, was one of Jesus's Twelve Apostles. In the Catholic Church he is the patron saint of desperate cases and lost causes. The Armenian Apostolic Church honors Thaddeus along with Saint Bartholomew as its patron saints. October 28 is the Western feast day and the Eastern feast days are June 19 and August 21.

His robes are green because green symbolizes hope and renewal.

The flame above his head represents that he is in the presence of the Holy Spirit, which he received at Pentecost along with the other apostles.

He is holding an image of Jesus Christ, known as the Image of Edessa. The image of Edessa is a holy relic consisting of a square or rectangle of cloth upon which a miraculous image of the face of Jesus

had been imprinted. In the Orthodox Churches the image is known as the Mandylion. Legend has it that King Abgar of Edessa, which is in southeast Turkey, suffering from leprosy sent a letter to Jesus, asking him to come cure him of an illness. Jesus declines, but also replies he would send a disciple to heal Abgar. After Jesus death and resurrection, Thaddaeus does so by revealing to the king Abgar the image of Jesus' face. Seeing Jesus' image, the King was cured, and he converted to Christianity along with most of the people under his rule.

In the **border of this painting** a highly stylized "acanthus" surrounds this composition.

In Christianity, **the acanthus leaves represent resurrection. Red roses** are commonly associated with love although they can also be a symbol of martyrdom. Saint Jude suffered martyrdom around 65 AD in Beirut.

Thistles represent the torment both bodily and spiritual.

Pea flowers and pods are related to the birth of Christ and represent the unity of the Trinity.

The Lily is a symbol of purity that also represents rebirth and renewal.

Violas symbolize the Trinity because of their three-color petals.

The blue five-petal forget-me-nots and **the four-petal speedwells** signify remembrance.

The **butterfly** is a symbol for the cycles of life, caterpillar, chrysalis and finally, the butterfly.

Bees and ants that are scattered throughout the composition are used because of their industrious habits, as symbols of activity, diligence, and good order.

The spots of the seven-spot ladybug symbolize Mary's Seven Joys and Seven Sorrows. "Nature is nowhere to be seen in greater perfection than in the very smallest of her works". - Pliny the Elder

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