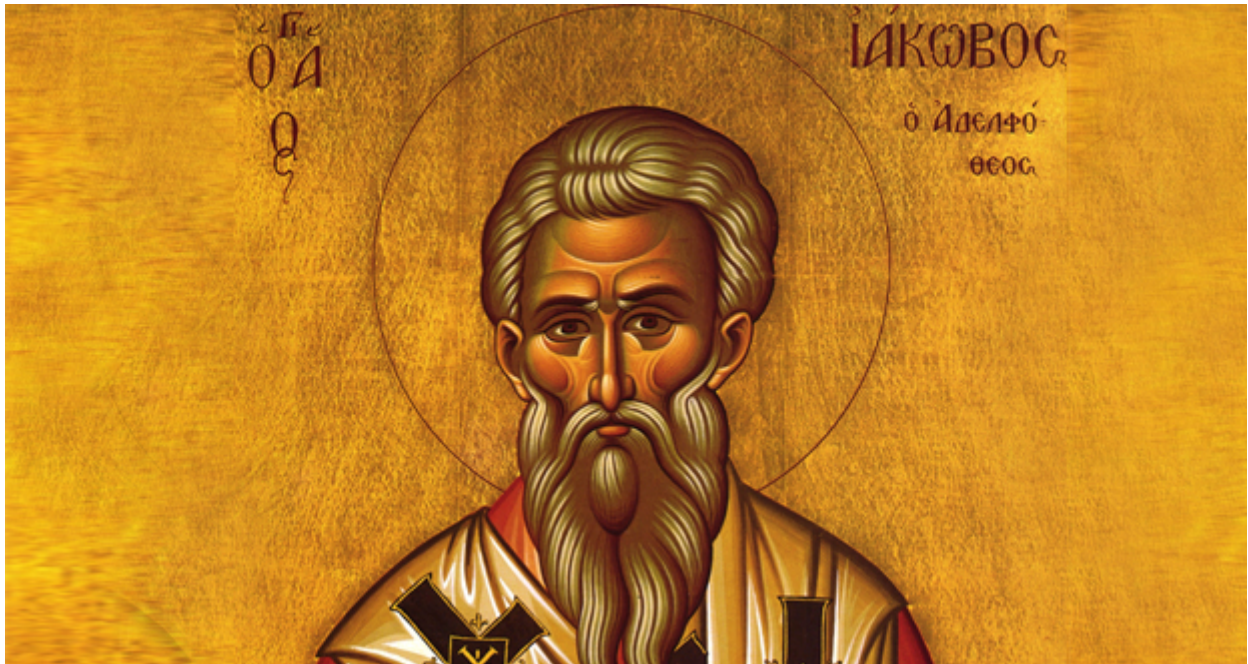


Feast day of St. James (Iakovos) today



The Church today venerates Iakovos the Apostle, known James in English — the brother of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

According to some sources, this saint was a son of Joseph the Betrothed, born of the wife that the latter had before he was betrothed to the Ever-virgin Mary.

James became the first Bishop of Jerusalem, elevated to this Episcopal rank by the Apostles, according to Eusebius, and was known as the Just because of his great holiness and righteousness.

He achieved the crown of martyrdom after having ascended the crest of the Temple on the day of Passover, he bore testimony from there concerning his belief in Jesus, and for this was stoned and clubbed to death.

The first of the Catholic (general) epistles written to the Jews in the Diaspora, who believed in Christ, was written by this Iakovos.