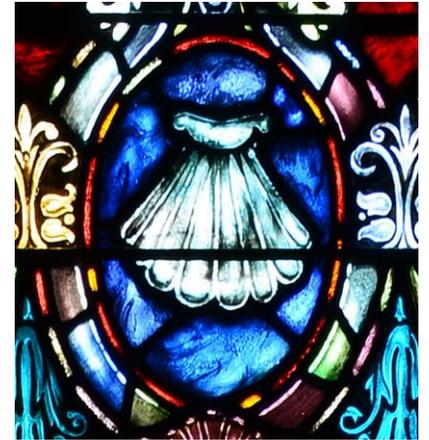


## JAMES THE APOSTLE

The chapel's window presents James as Apostle, pilgrim, soldier, and martyr for the faith. James is noted in the Gospels as the brother of St. John. James, John, and Peter were the three apostles named who witnessed the Transfiguration and who were with Christ during the night spent in the garden of Gethsemane before the Passion. We know little of James's life after Christ's death except that he was present at several councils in Jerusalem and that in 43 CE Herod Agrippa had him "killed by the sword" (Acts 12:2). Legend, however, which was undoubtedly inspired by accounts of the extensive voyages of St. Paul, described James as the Apostle to the Iberian Peninsula, sowing the seeds of the Gospels in the very first years of the Christian era. He returned to Palestine to his martyrdom but his followers reputedly brought his body back to Iria Flavia in northwestern Spain to be buried. When the land was colonized by Muslims from Africa, James's tomb was forgotten. In the ninth century, during the reconquest of Spain from the Arabs, his remains were claimed to be discovered and Alfonso el Casto, ruler of Leon, ordered them transferred to the city of Compostela, which then became a major pilgrimage site.

The presence of St. James or Santiago in Spain became a rallying point for the progressive incursion of the Christian rulers into Arab-held territory. Reports of apparitions of James as a mounted soldier aiding the Christian forces against the Arabs were recorded as early as the battle of Clavijo in the ninth century. A military order of St. James was instituted by Ferdinand II in 1175. At the battle of Jerez in the thirteenth century he was said to have appeared on a white horse with a sword in one hand and a white banner in the other, the image seen at the bottom of the window. Holy Cross, in a more pacific interpretation, places the Scriptures in James's hand, instead of a sword. *Santiago* thus became Spain's captain-general as well as the patron of all Christian soldiers. Compostela, after Rome and Jerusalem, became the third great pilgrimage site for European Christians. Four great routes developed through France, crossing the Pyrenees and traveling along northern Spain to James' tomb. The scallop shell souvenir brought back by returning pilgrims from Compostela became the standard emblem of pilgrimage in any form, as well as the emblem of James in art. It appears in the lunette above the head of the saint.



Of particular importance in this chapel, dedicated in 1926 to the memory of those who had served in armed conflicts, was a saint coming to the aid of soldiers. James also has a special relationship to the College of the Holy Cross: the Society of Jesus was founded by Ignatius Loyola, who first served Spain as a soldier; Holy Cross is located on a hill named Mount Saint James; and the members of the Holy Cross community traditionally called themselves Crusaders.

In the central image, James is depicted in green and gold drapery loosely gathered and girded at the waist. He holds a pilgrim's staff in his left hand and the book of the Gospels in his right. His feet are bare, clearly a pilgrim image. To the left of his head the head and wings of a cherub support the words *Pax vobis* (peace be with you). These symbols are derived from the Gospel text describing Christ's mission to the Apostles: "Carry no

money bag, no sack, no sandals. Into whatever house you enter, first say "Peace to this household" (Luke 10:4-5).



The borders continue with symbols of James: the net that the brothers James and John were using when called by Christ to be "fishers of men" (Matt 4:18-22), the martyr's crown with a palm branch, and the sword of James's execution.