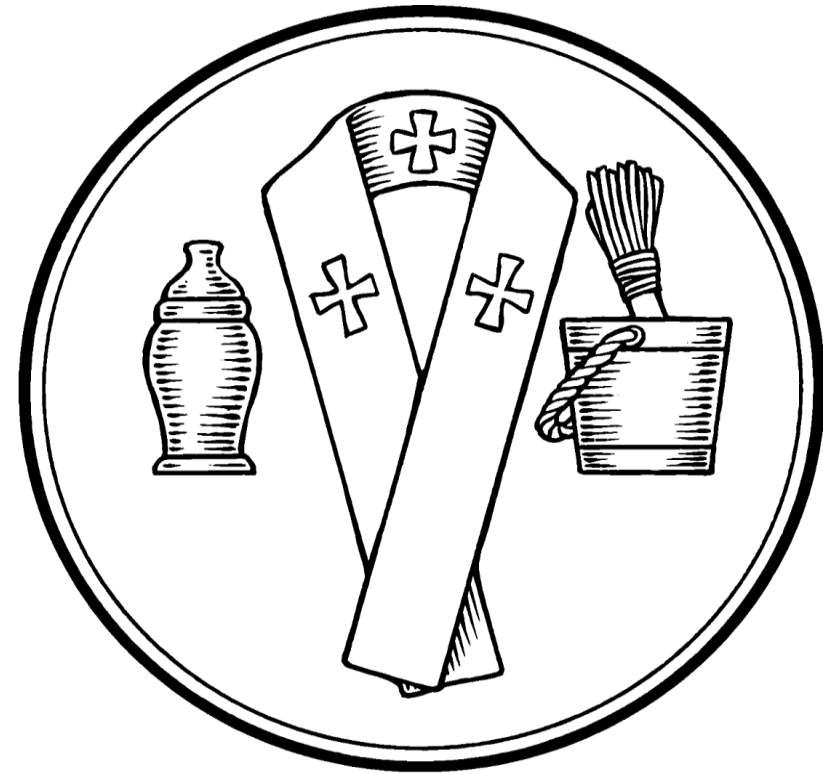


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#### Saints Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany

Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany were disciples with whom Jesus had a special bond of love and friendship. John's Gospel records that "Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus". (John 11:5) Because Mary is often associated with the sinful woman who anointed Jesus' feet, her symbol is a jar of myrrh. Besides his fame of being raised from the dead, legend holds that Lazarus became bishop alternately of Cyprus and Marseilles. Hence, a stole is here used for his symbol. Martha's symbol of a bucket and asperge is also used in a reprise. Together, their day of commemoration is July 29th.

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# Names Matter

## Exodus 6, Matthew 6

Names matter. God's name matters most! That was the lesson Moses learned earlier (Exodus 3:14) when God had called him from the burning bush and sent him to the people of Israel in Egypt. When they asked him what is the name of the God of Israel who has sent him, Moses was told, "Say to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

But now in chapter six, after neither the Israelites nor Pharaoh have not listened to Moses and things have seemed only to get worse, God gives Moses a reminder about His name. "I am the LORD. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them" (Exodus 6:2-3). Yet still the Israelites did not listen (6:9). There would be no quick answers to the prayers for deliverance. Only later would God deliver them and they would glorify Him. In the rest of chapter six as a brief genealogy is given, it is made clear that not only do we need to know who had sent Moses, we also need to know just exactly which "Moses" and "Aaron" we are talking about. Names matter.

As does the name of the God whom we address in prayer matter. "When you pray... pray like this: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name'" (Matthew 6:7,9). The same God who revealed His name to Moses is the One who bids us call Him "Father." Thus we go to Him as His dear children, loved and cared for.

He knows your name as well—your name matters. In baptism your name was spoken, and in Christ your name is written in the book of life (Daniel 12:1; Philippians 4:2-3; Revelation 21:27). "Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me" (Psalm 50:15).

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