

The Holy Apostles (4) - St. Thomas.

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The Virgin, after her assumption, hands over her Belt to the Apostle Thomas. An icon of the Holy and Great Monastery of Vatopedi on Mount Athos, in which the Holy Belt is kept.

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St. Thomas.

Little is recorded of St. Thomas the Apostle, nevertheless thanks to the fourth Gospel his per-sonality is clearer to us than that of some others of the Twelve. His name occurs in all the lists of the Synoptists (Matthew 10:3; Mark 3:18; Luke 6, cf. Acts 1:13), but in St. John he plays a dis-tinctive part. First, when Jesus announced

His intention of returning to Judea to visit Lazarus, “Thomas” who is called Didymus [the twin], said to his fellow disciples: “Let us also go, that we may die with him” (John 11:16). Again it was St. Thomas who during the discourse before the Last Supper raised an objection: “Thomas saith to him: Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?” (John 14:5). But more especially St. Thomas is remembered for his incredulity when the other Apostles announced Christ’s Resurrection to him: “Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe” (John 20:25); but eight days later he made his act of faith, drawing down the rebuke of Jesus: “Because thou hast seen me, Thomas, thou hast believed; blessed are they that have not seen, and have believed” (John 20:29).

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