

BOOKLET TO PRINT

Saint Tychicus

Life, prayer and novena

Feast day: April 29

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IN BRIEF

Saint Tychicus

Companion of Saint Paul from the province of Asia, bearer of his letters to the Churches.

Feast day	April 29
Born	Roman province of Asia (probably Ephesus)
Era	1st century

In this booklet

Life

Prayer to Saint Tychicus, Faithful Messenger

Novena to Saint Tychicus

Credits and sources

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LIFE

Saint Tychicus

Saint Tychicus was a Christian from the Roman province of Asia, probably from Ephesus, and one of the most faithful companions of the apostle Paul. Paul entrusted him several times with carrying his letters and news to the communities: in a sense, he was the mail carrier of the first Churches. Named five times in the New Testament, he is venerated as a saint and remembered on April 29.

Who was Saint Tychicus?

Tychicus first appears in the Acts of the Apostles (20:4). Around the year 57, when Paul left Greece to go up to Jerusalem, he traveled with a small group of delegates from the Churches, among them "Tychicus and Trophimus" from Asia. These men were probably carrying the collection gathered by the communities for the poor of Jerusalem. Tychicus and Trophimus went ahead and waited for the apostle at Troas.

This was no small responsibility. The collection for Jerusalem was one of Paul's great projects, a sign of communion between the Churches born among the Gentiles and the mother Church of Jerusalem. To be chosen as a delegate for it, Tychicus had to be a man the communities of Asia trusted, both with money and with their good name.

His name is Greek and comes from the word for "fortune" or "chance," a common name at the time. Nothing in it suggests importance. Yet this ordinary man became a link between the apostle and whole Churches.

We meet him again later at the side of Paul in captivity. The Letters to the Colossians and to the Ephesians present him as the man who will carry these texts to their readers and fill in, by word of mouth, the news about the apostle.

Key dates

- **First century**: Born in the Roman province of Asia, probably in Ephesus.
- **c. 57**: Travels with Paul from Greece toward Jerusalem and waits for him at Troas (Acts 20:4-5).
- **The 60s**: During one of Paul's imprisonments, he carries the Letter to the Colossians, together with Onesimus, and the Letter to the Ephesians.
- **Later**: Paul plans to send him to Crete to Titus (Titus 3:12), then sends him to Ephesus (2 Timothy 4:12).
- **April 29**: The day the Roman Martyrology remembers him.

The bearer of Paul's letters

In the ancient world there was no postal service for private individuals. A letter traveled in the luggage of a trusted person, who often read it aloud to those it was addressed to, explained it and answered their questions. The role of Tychicus was therefore much more than simple delivery.

Paul says so plainly to the Colossians: "All the things that concern me, Tychicus, our dearest brother, and faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will make known to you: whom I have sent to you for this same purpose, that he may know the things that concern you, and comfort your hearts" (Colossians 4:7-8, Douay-Rheims). Almost the same words close the Letter to the Ephesians (6:21-22), which many scholars see as a circular letter meant for several Churches of Asia.

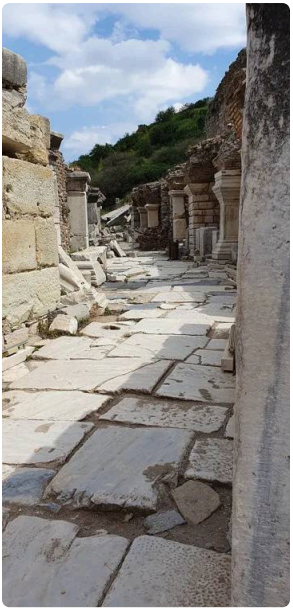
For the Letter to the Colossians, Tychicus traveled with Onesimus, the runaway slave whom Paul was sending back to his master Philemon. One can imagine how delicate this mission was: accompanying a man returning to the one he had left, with a letter from Paul asking that he be welcomed as a brother.

A trusted man to the end

Paul kept relying on him. In the Letter to Titus, he plans to send "Artemas or Tychicus" to Crete so that Titus can come and join him (Titus 3:12). In the Second Letter to Timothy, written in the last period of the apostle's life, he notes simply: "Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus" (2 Timothy 4:12). To the very end, Tychicus remained the one Paul could send where he could not go himself.

What tradition says

The rest of his life is little known. Several cities claimed him as their bishop: Colophon, Chalcedon and Neapolis. Some martyrologies present him as a deacon, and the Roman Martyrology commemorates him at Paphos, on the island of Cyprus. A tradition also counts him among the seventy disciples sent out by Jesus. These traditions are late and cannot be verified, but they show the attachment of the Eastern Churches to this companion of Paul.



The ruins of Ephesus, probably the hometown of Tychicus.

Is Saint Tychicus the patron saint of anything?

No official patronage is traditionally attached to Saint Tychicus. Yet he is easily seen as the saint of faithful go-betweens: those who pass on, connect and explain without putting themselves forward. Mail carriers, messengers, translators, journalists, parish secretaries, catechists and all who carry someone else's word can find in him a friend. Paul calls him "dearest brother" and "faithful minister." His holiness is a reminder that the Gospel spread thanks to trustworthy men and women who took to the road to carry a message that was not their own and to comfort distant communities.

Symbols and how to recognize Saint Tychicus in art

Images of Tychicus are rare. In Byzantine art, such as the Menologion of Basil II, he appears standing among other disciples of Paul, as a bearded man in the robes of a bishop or deacon. When he is shown alone, a **letter or scroll** is the most fitting sign of his mission, sometimes with a **traveler's staff**.

Where to pray to Saint Tychicus

- **Ephesus**, in present-day Turkey: the ancient city that was probably his hometown, a major pilgrimage site linked to Saint Paul and Saint John.
- **Paphos**, in Cyprus: the place where the Roman Martyrology commemorates him.

He can be prayed to anywhere, especially on April 29 or while reading the closing lines of Colossians and Ephesians. See the prayer to Saint Tychicus and the novena to Saint Tychicus.

PRAYER

Prayer to Saint Tychicus, Faithful Messenger

Saint Tychicus, the faithful companion who carried Saint Paul's letters to the Churches of Asia, has no traditional prayer of his own. Paul described him as a "dearest brother" and "faithful minister," sent to bring news and to comfort hearts. The prayer below takes up those words. This prayer is an original text by Saintspedia.

Prayer to Saint Tychicus

Saint Tychicus, beloved brother and faithful servant in the Lord, you carried on the roads of Asia the letters of the apostle Paul. You did not speak your own word, but you made the word of another known with care and love.

Teach me to be faithful in the tasks entrusted to me, even when they seem small. Help me to pass on the Gospel without bending it, and to explain it with patience to those who are searching.

You were sent to comfort hearts: make me a bearer of good news for those who are discouraged, lonely or far away. Bless all who carry messages, letters and news, and all who serve as links between people.

You walked beside Onesimus as he went back to his master: help me to accompany those who must take a hard step toward reconciliation.

I entrust to you my intention: (name it in silence). Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

This prayer is an original text by Saintspedia, free to use for personal and community prayer.

When to pray this prayer

- **On April 29**, the day the Roman Martyrology remembers Saint Tychicus.
- **Before delivering an important message**, a hard piece of news or a letter that matters.
- **For catechists, readers at Mass and all who pass on the Word of God.**
- **For people who work as messengers**, such as mail carriers, couriers, translators and secretaries.
- **When accompanying someone toward reconciliation**, as Tychicus accompanied Onesimus.

A word of Scripture to pray with

The words of Saint Paul about Tychicus can themselves become a prayer for those who serve quietly:

> *"Tychicus, our dearest brother, and faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord ... whom I have sent to you for this same purpose ... that he may comfort your hearts." (Colossians 4:7-8, Douay-Rheims)*

Read these lines slowly and ask for the grace to be, for someone today, a faithful messenger and a comfort. Learn more on the page Saint Tychicus, or pray for nine days with the novena to Saint Tychicus.

NOVENA

Novena to Saint Tychicus

This novena is an original composition by Saintspedia, built on the few New Testament passages that speak of Saint Tychicus. It is not an official liturgical text. To end it on the eve of his memorial, begin on April 20; it ends on April 28, the day before April 29. It can also be prayed at any time, for a mission you have received, for a reconciliation or for someone far away.

Tychicus is a saint of the background. He founded no Church and wrote no letter. But without people like him, Paul's letters would never have reached their readers. These nine days invite us to discover the holiness of faithful service.

This novena is especially suited to people whose work is to connect others: parents who hold a family together, parish volunteers, teachers, nurses, office workers and all who pass on what they have received. It also suits anyone who feels their part is small. Tychicus shows that no faithful service is small in the eyes of God.

How to pray this novena

Each day, entrust your intention to God, read the meditation and, if possible, the Bible passage it refers to. Say the prayer of the day, then an Our Father, a Hail Mary and a Glory Be. The suggested act helps you live the prayer during the day. If you miss a day, simply continue: what matters is to keep going.

Day 1: A man from Asia

Tychicus probably came from Ephesus, a great city of temples and trade. There he met the Gospel, perhaps through Paul's preaching. Every vocation begins with an encounter.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for the people through whom I came to know you. Bless them wherever they are.

Today: Remember the person who first spoke to you about God, and pray for them.

Day 2: Chosen by the community

Tychicus was one of the delegates who traveled with Paul toward Jerusalem (Acts 20:4). The Churches trusted him with their collection for the poor.

Prayer: Lord, make me worthy of the trust others place in me. Keep me honest in small things and in great ones.

Today: Keep a promise you have been putting off.

Day 3: Going ahead

Tychicus and Trophimus went ahead and waited for Paul at Troas. Waiting is also a form of service: being there when others arrive.

Prayer: Lord, teach me patience, and help me to prepare the way for others.

Today: Prepare something in advance for someone in your family or at work.

Day 4: Beside a prisoner

Tychicus stayed near Paul when he was in chains. Faithfulness shows itself especially in hard times, when friendship costs something.

Prayer: Lord, bless all prisoners and those who visit them. Make me faithful to my friends in their trials.

Today: Write or call someone who is going through a difficult period.

Day 5: Carrying the Word

Tychicus carried the Letters to the Colossians and to the Ephesians. He held in his hands words that would become Scripture for the whole Church. He likely read them aloud to the assembled community and answered their questions. Today, every reader at Mass continues something of his service.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, give me a deep respect for the Word of God, and the joy of sharing it.

Today: Read a chapter of the Letter to the Ephesians.

Day 6: Comforting hearts

Paul sent Tychicus "that he may comfort your hearts." The messenger did not only bring information; he brought consolation.

Prayer: Lord, make me a source of comfort for those around me, not of worry or complaint.

Today: Say a word of encouragement to someone who needs it.

Day 7: Walking with Onesimus

Tychicus traveled with Onesimus, the runaway slave returning to his master Philemon. He walked beside a man taking a difficult step toward reconciliation.

Prayer: Lord, help me to accompany those who are seeking forgiveness or trying to repair a broken relationship.

Today: Take a first step toward someone with whom you are at odds.

Day 8: Sent again

Paul sent Tychicus to Crete, then to Ephesus. Each new mission took him back on the road. Availability is a quiet form of love. He did not choose his destinations; he trusted the one who sent him.

Prayer: Lord, here I am. Send me where you need me, even when it disturbs my plans.

Today: Say yes to a request for help that you would normally decline.

Day 9: Faithful to the end

In one of his last letters, Paul still writes the name of Tychicus. To the end, the apostle could count on him. That is the whole of his praise: he was faithful.

Prayer: Lord, I place in your hands the intention of this novena. Through the intercession of Saint Tychicus, keep me faithful in what you have entrusted to me. Amen.

Today: Thank God for one person who has been faithful to you over many years, and tell them so.

Closing prayer

> *Saint Tychicus, beloved brother and faithful minister of the Lord, at the end of these nine days I entrust to you the intention I have carried. Obtain for me a faithful heart, ready to serve without seeking to be seen, ready to carry good news and to comfort those who suffer. Pray for all messengers of the Gospel and for those who are far from home. Amen.*

Read the life of Saint Tychicus or the prayer to Saint Tychicus.

CREDITS

Credits and sources

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