

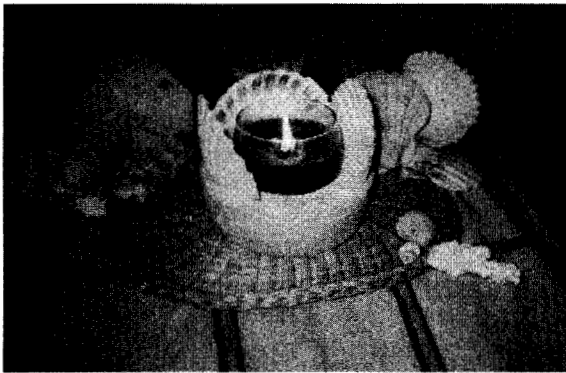
July 25

ST. JAMES

The body of St. James the Apostle, martyred for the Faith in Jerusalem, was later taken to Spain and buried at Compostela, where his shrine became a great center of pilgrimage. The symbol of a successful pilgrimage became a cockleshell, which returning pilgrims wore on their coat or hat. To raise money to help poorer pilgrims, it

became a tradition to build small grottos of scallop shells. People would pay a penny, light a candle in the grotto, and say a prayer for the pilgrim. Later, English children took over the custom and as late as the Second World War, small grottos in honor of St. James were made, especially near the coast.

MAKE ST. JAMES'S GROTTO



Note: This is an outside project; plaster in your water pipes calls for a plumber!

In a throwaway container, mix enough plaster according to package directions to pour about 2" high in the bottom of your butter tub mold. The plaster should be about the texture of a thick cake mix. Center the glass candle in the plastic, allowing it to sink down slightly in the plaster. Arrange a few seashells decoratively around the candle. If your plaster is too

You can make a simple St. James's Grotto to decorate a summer table and remind you of the custom adapted by the English children.

You will need:

- plaster of Paris
- seashells
- small candle in glass container
- old butter tub or other disposable plastic container

thin, the shells will sink in too far. In this case, pull them out and rinse them off. Jiggle the plaster to smooth the top and wait about 15 minutes before trying to place the shells again. When the shells are arranged, let the entire project dry completely for several hours before carefully unmolding it. Display your candle on a patio table; arrange other shells around it if you like.