



**JOURNEYS OF ST. PAUL**

**First missionary journey:** Antioch in Syria to Seleucia, Cyprus (Salamis and Paphos) and modern-day Turkey (Perga, Antioch of Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe, back to Lystra, Iconium, Antioch of Pisidia, and Perga, then Attalia), returning to Antioch.

**Second missionary journey:** Antioch in Syria to modern-day Turkey (Tarsus, Derbe, Lystra, Phrygia, Galatia, Mysia, Troas) and Greece (Samos, Neapolis, Philippi, Amphipolis, Apollonia, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, Corinth, Cenchrea), back to Turkey (Ephesus), then Caesarea and Jerusalem, before returning to Antioch.

**Third missionary journey:** Antioch, through modern-day Turkey (Galatia, Phrygia, Ephesus) and Greece (Macedonia, Achaia, back to Macedonia, Philippi), back to Turkey (Troas, Assos, Mitylene, Chios, Samos, Miletus, Cos, Rhodes, Patara), then to Tyre, Ptolemais, Caesarea and Jerusalem.



**ON THE WAY TO DAMASCUS**

St. Paul, originally a Pharisee named Saul, went through a radical conversion on the road to Damascus. Formerly a persecutor of Christ's followers (he guarded the robes of those who stoned St. Stephen and was involved with the cruel persecution of the Church), he was on his way to Damascus to imprison believers when "a light from the sky suddenly flashed around him." He fell to the ground and heard a voice: "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" (Acts 9:3-4). He was then instructed to get up, go into the city and listen for what he must do. When he got up, he was blinded — possibly from the light — so his traveling partners led him by the hand to Damascus. He couldn't see for three more days.

After his encounter with Christ, he was baptized by Ananias and spent several years in Arabia in prayer and meditation.

Source: "Encyclopedia of Saints" (OSV, \$39.95)

# THE GREAT EVANGELIZER

**YEAR OF ST. PAUL IS PART OF LONG TRADITION OF JUBILEES**

Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed June 28, 2008-June 29, 2009 to be a special jubilee year dedicated to St. Paul. The Pauline year commemorates the 2,000th anniversary of the saint's birth.

Jubilees, or holy years, are a tradition drawn from the Old Testament, which describes years of jubilee that occurred every seven years. Just as the seventh day of the week was reserved for rest in honor of the Lord, so was the seventh year (see Lv 25:1-13 and Ex 23:10-11). Special jubilee

celebrations also took place every 50 years, during which debts were forgiven and land was returned to its ancestral owners.

Since the 14th century, the Church has celebrated holy years every 25 years. They are special times dedicated to pilgrimage and prayer to help Catholics become closer to God.

There are many liturgical moments unique to jubilee years, including the opening of the Holy Door, a large bronze door to the right of the main entrance of St. Peter's

Basilica in Rome that remains open only during the holy year.

In addition, popes can decree the observance of other holy years dedicated to a particular person, sacrament or theme, such as the Marian Year of 1987-88 and the Year of the Eucharist in 2004-05. The Year of St. Paul is such a year.

Sources: *The Catholic Parent* (January/February 2000 issue) and the *Catholic Encyclopedia*.

**TO LEARN MORE ON THE APOSTLE OF THE GENTILES, VISIT [WWW.OSV.COM/STPAUL](http://WWW.OSV.COM/STPAUL)**

**ST. PAUL'S FEAST DAYS**

- The Conversion of St. Paul on Jan. 25 celebrates the events on the road to Damascus that led to Paul's conversion.
- St. Paul Shipwrecked on Feb. 10 commemorates the time when Paul was shipwrecked on the island of Malta, where he evangelized the people of the island.
- Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul on June 29 takes this day to honor the two great apostles and leaders of the early Church.
- Nov. 18 is the Dedication of the Basilicas of St. Peter and St. Paul Outside the Walls. Reconstruction of the present St. Peter's began in the 14th century. It was dedicated Nov. 18, 1626. After its predecessor was destroyed by fire in 1823, construction of St. Paul Outside the Walls on the Via Ostiense started. The basilica was consecrated Dec. 10, 1854, by Pope Pius IX, who joined together the celebration of the basilicas.

**HOW YOU CAN CELEBRATE THE PAULINE YEAR**



**READ ST. PAUL'S WRITINGS**

Select a book about St. Paul for spiritual reading. Invite others to celebrate the life of Paul through a group Bible study.



**MAKE A MINI-PILGRIMAGE**

Travel to churches and other places of pilgrimage dedicated to St. Paul in your area (see [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org)). Visit your diocesan website for special events.



**PRAY IN FAITH AND THANKSGIVING**

Pray a novena to St. Paul. Pray for each of the countries to which Paul traveled. How are the Christians in that area of the world living out their faith? Pray for the unity of all Christian churches. Obtain the plenary indulgence offered for this Year of St. Paul.



**SPREAD THE GOSPEL**

Volunteer to be a catechist in your parish. Volunteer to serve your parish in some capacity. Tell parish staff you would like to sponsor someone for RCIA. Participate in local ecumenical discussions. Donate to a missionary order and pray for their ministries.

— Adapted from *Our Sunday Visitor's Year of St. Paul* pamphlet. To obtain a free copy of the pamphlet, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to St. Paul pamphlet, *Our Sunday Visitor*, 200 Noll Plaza, Huntington, IN 46750.



**DID YOU KNOW...**

- St. Paul was descended from Benjamin, the youngest of Jacob's 12 sons (Phil 3:5).
- When the king of Damascus tried to kill him, St. Paul's friends had him climb into a basket, then lowered him from a window in the city walls to safety (2 Cor 11:32-33).
- St. Paul studied with a prominent rabbi, Gamaliel, in Jerusalem when he was a teenager (Acts 22:3).
- St. Paul had at least one sister who lived in Jerusalem. When Paul's enemies planned to ambush and murder him, his sister's son warned him and the Roman authorities (Acts 23:16-17).
- St. Paul's first convert was Lydia, a business-woman who sold purple cloth (Acts 16:13-15).

**SYMBOLS OF ST. PAUL**

**THE SWORD** symbolizes St. Paul's martyrdom in Rome around A.D. 67. As a Roman citizen, Paul could not be crucified nor stoned, but rather was accorded the "honor" of beheading by sword.

**THE BOOK** represents St. Paul's epistles, which make up one-third of the New Testament. It is sometimes depicted as a scroll.



ST. PAUL PORTRAIT BY POMPEO BATONI, NATIONAL TRUST/ART RESOURCE, NY

**PLENARY INDULGENCE**

Pope Benedict XVI has authorized the granting of a plenary indulgence during the Pauline Year, which runs June 28, 2008 to June 29, 2009.

In addition to the normal requirements for all indulgences (going to confession, receiving the Eucharist, praying for the intentions of the pope), the Vatican decree explained specific requirements for the indulgence:

- Those visiting the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome in the form of a pilgrimage must offer personal prayers before the Altar of the Most Blessed Sacrament and must recite the Our Father and the Creed in front of the Altar of the Confession, adding invocations to honor Mary and St. Paul.
  - The Catholic faithful in any local church can obtain the indulgence by participating with devotion in a liturgy or other public event dedicated to St. Paul — in any sacred place on the opening and closing days of the jubilee year, and on other days in places designated by the local bishop.
  - Catholics impeded by sickness or other serious cause, as long as they have the intention of fulfilling the other conditions as soon as possible, can obtain a plenary indulgence by joining spiritually in a jubilee celebration in honor of St. Paul and offering their prayers and suffering for Christian unity.
- Individuals may obtain more than one indulgence during the holy year, but not more than one per day.