

## **Reflections for Novena of Saint James 2020**

### **Text Study - James 1:1-12**

**Theme:** “Blessed are those who persevere in time of trial (James 1:12).”

**NOVENA DAY 1:** James, a *slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ*, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.

**July 16, 2020**

#### **Easy does it**

We begin our Saint James' Novena with today's readings that promise both a smooth path (the first reading) and a light yoke (the gospel). But Christianity does not promise comfort and ease. Rather, our faith is founded on the idea that Christ conquered death *through* suffering. One of our primary symbols is the crucifix, an ongoing reminder that Christ first experienced trials and sufferings with patience even as he offers victory over suffering and death. Ultimately, our rough paths, our trials and burdens do find rest in Christ.

Trials have an end, a purpose, a reason why. So, hold on to who you are and what you know as you go through them daily. James' introduction to his letter ultimately tells us why he writes the letter and the reason to persevere as he says: “James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings. In other words, this is who I am, who I belong and to whom I write trials we suffer because of who we are and whose we are. So we suffer trials because we are humans, because we belong to God and because we live in a fallen world in need of salvation. Try to look at your trial through this vision and all things will begin to make sense and have more meaning.

**Today's readings for mass:**

**Isaiah 26:7-9, 12, 16-19; Matthew 11:28-30:** “*Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.*”