

## St. Stephen



**Died 37 A.D.**

**Feast Day:**

December 26

Stephen was a Jewish man who became one of the first Christians. He was full of wisdom and faith from the Holy Spirit. He took care of widowed women who became Christian. Stephen also worked miracles in Jesus' name.

Some Jewish men who hated Christianity tried to argue with Stephen. But they could not outsmart the wisdom he received from the Holy Spirit. They paid other men to lie and say that Stephen had said bad things about the Old Testament prophet Moses.

Stephen was brought to the Jewish court. Stephen defended himself by telling the story of Moses and other Old Testament prophets. Stephen said that the Ancient Jews had betrayed every Old Testament prophet, even though those prophets had tried to tell them about Jesus. Then when Jesus came, He was also betrayed and killed, including by the men who arrested Stephen.

The Jewish men were filled with rage. Then Stephen looked up. He saw Heaven. He saw Jesus standing at the right of God the Father. Stephen told the men what he saw, but they would not listen. They dragged him out of the city and threw stones at him until he died. Stephen prayed that Jesus would show mercy to his killers.

© SOPHIA INSTITUTE FOR TEACHERS