

St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

AKA: John the Apostle/John the Evangelist/John of Patmos/
John the Elder/Beloved Disciple

Dates: 6 AD – 100 AD

Location: Bethsaida

Feast Day: December 27

John the Apostle, younger brother of Saint James the Great, was born around 6 AD to Zebedee and Salome. Both John and James were fishermen and were two of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus Christ. John was called to be an Apostle in the first year of our Lord's public ministry. Jesus referred to the brothers as "Boanerges" meaning sons of thunder because when their patience was pushed to its limits, their anger became wild and thunderous, causing them to speak out like an untamed storm. John and Peter were the only two disciples sent into the city to make preparation for the Last Supper. It is said that John was the only one of the twelve disciples who did not forsake Jesus in the hour of His Passion. He stood faithfully at the cross and Jesus bestowed the honor of guardianship of His mother to him shortly before His death.



John, along with Peter and James, were the only witnesses to the miracle of the raising of Jairus' daughter, the Transfiguration of Jesus, and were the closest witnesses to the Agony in Gethsemane (the place where Jesus prayed the night before his crucifixion). After the Assumption of Mary, John spent time in Jerusalem and at Ephesus. During the reign of the Roman Emperor Domitian, after being boiled in oil (which resulted in no injury to John), he was banished to the Greek Island of Patmos for a year. When John was an aged man, he trained Polycarp (later the Bishop of Smyrna); this was important because Polycarp would carry John's message to future generations. John founded many churches in Asia Minor and wrote the fourth Gospel, the Book of John, and three Epistles, and the Book of Revelations. St John is called the Apostle of Charity, a virtue he had learned from Jesus and he constantly demonstrated. St. John is the patron saint of love, loyalty, friendships and authors and is believed to be the longest living apostle and the only one not to die a martyr's death. John died at Ephesus about the year 100 where a church was erected over his tomb. It was later converted into a Mohammedan mosque.

John became known as the "Beloved Disciple" and his feast day is celebrated on December 27.