

The Feast of St. John, Apostle

St. John, known as “the divine” or “the theologian”, was son of Zebedee, brother of James, the “Disciple beloved of the Lord.” He was a fisherman on the Sea of Genessaret before he left all to follow Jesus. He was called immediately by Christ the Lord as a Disciple, and later sent out as one of the Twelve Apostles.

John authored the Gospel that bears his name, three Epistles of the New Testament, and the Book of Revelation. He was with the Lord throughout His entire three-year “earthly ministry”, and so was witness to His miracles and to the Transfiguration. John and his brother James were given the nickname “Boanerges”, “Sons of Thunder”, by the Lord. John was among the small group that did not flee, but rather stood by with the Virgin Mary as the Lord was crucified. It was there, from the cross, that the Lord gave John to Mary, and Mary to John.

The tradition of the Church is that after the Ascension St. John went to Ephesus, taking Mary with him, and served as the Bishop of the Churches of Asia Minor. His conveyance of the Lord’s Epistles to the Seven Churches as recorded in Revelation clearly support this.

Unlike the other Apostles, St. John was not martyred. After his exile to Patmos under the Roman Emperor Domitian, although several traditions purport his death with James (using Mark 10:39 as support), or at the hand of Domitian, the paraments for St. John are white, a testimony to his death, in his old age, by natural causes.

In Christian art John is symbolized as an eagle, for the “soaring” nature of the Gospel that bears his name. Later traditions record that John was given a chalice that contained poisoned wine, and he drank from it unharmed, as the poison rose and slithered away in the form of a serpent when John blessed the cup.

Cover Art – *Stained Glass Window of St. John the Apostle*

Church of St. George Castle Way, England. Artist unknown.

The Church of St. George Castle Way is first mentioned in 1293 A.✠ D.

A church building was established on the site by at least the early 14th century. In 1807 A.✠ D. the church was completely dismantled and rebuilt.

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