

St. John the Apostle

Today's saint is certainly one of the most well known figures in our tradition. St. John is also known as John the Evangelist and the Beloved Disciple. Jesus called him in the first year of His public ministry. We hear that he was called with his brother James. The two together were known as the "sons of thunder," which reveal something about their personalities. According to tradition, John was the longest living apostle and the only one not to die a martyr's death.

John was part of what is sometimes known as Jesus' inner circle. Along with Peter and James, John witnessed the raising of Jarius' daughter, Jesus' transfiguration, and Jesus' agony in the Gethsemane.

Additionally, at the Last Supper, John is the one who sat next to Jesus, leaning close to His heart. John's position at the Last Supper tells us of his close friendship with Christ. Furthermore, John was the only apostle who did not forsake Jesus in His Passion. Along with Mary, he stood close to Jesus in His agony, wherein Jesus entrusted His mother to John's care.

According to tradition, John went to Ephesus after Mary's Assumption. Moreover, according to tradition John was plunged into boiling oil in Rome and suffered no injuries under the Emperor Domitian. He was later banished by Roman authorities to the Greek island of Patmos where he wrote the Book of Revelation.

Today, John is most known for having penned the fourth gospel and four other books in the New Testament (i.e., three epistles and the Book of Revelation). John's gospel is often depicted by an eagle, which symbolizes the great heights his gospel soars in both theology and beauty. Oftentimes, John is depicted looking up to heaven as he receives inspiration for his writing.

Finally, according to tradition, John died in 98 A.D. in Ephesus. He is the patron saint of love, loyalty, and friendships. Without question, John lived up to his title of "Apostle of Charity."

Like John, may we allow ourselves to be called by Jesus anew. And like John, may we draw close to Jesus' Heart so that in receiving from Him, we can share His truth and love with others.