



St. John the Evangelist

December 27

St. John the Evangelist

Biblical Figure

John was the beloved disciple, the youngest of the Twelve. Jesus always called John to accompany Him in special moments: he was one of three disciples, along with Peter and James, to witness Jesus' Transfiguration, and he was called to watch with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

During the Last Supper, when Jesus changed bread and wine into His Body and Blood for the first time, John rested his head against Jesus' chest and heard Jesus' heart beating with love for the whole world.

John was the faithful disciple who never abandoned Jesus when He was in trouble. When Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, John did not run away. Instead, he followed the guards to where they held Jesus. He was there at Jesus' feet during the Crucifixion, and comforted Mary, Jesus' Blessed Mother. From the Cross, Jesus said to Mary, "Behold, your son," and to John, "Behold, your mother." Jesus was giving Mary to John to be his Mother, and so John cared for Mary as would a son.

The third day after Jesus died, Mary Magdalene proclaimed joyfully to all the gathered disciples that Jesus was risen and that she had seen Him! John raced to Jesus' tomb (Peter running close behind him) to see if it was true. When John reached the open tomb, he looked inside, but he let Peter enter the tomb first, since Peter was the leader of the Apostles. Then, John went inside and saw that the tomb was empty and the burial cloths put aside. He believed Mary Magdalene's words. Jesus had risen from the dead. When Jesus passed through the locked doors to visit the disciples, John's heart was radiant with joy.

Soon after, John, Peter, and the other disciples went fishing, but no matter how long and hard they tried, they could not catch any fish. Then, a stranger on the shore called out to them and instructed them to cast their nets one more time into the deep. This time, the fish rushed into the nets, which became so heavy that they were close to breaking. John looked at the stranger on the shore, and his heart recognized that it was Jesus. "It is the Lord!" John cried out.

John lived into old age on the island of Patmos. He wrote the fourth Gospel, which describes Jesus as the Son of God and flies to such heights of wisdom that John is symbolized with the eagle. He also wrote three letters and the final book of the Bible, Revelation. You can read all that John the beloved disciple wrote in the Bible. St. John the Evangelist, help me remain always faithful to Jesus!