

# ***SAINT OF THE MONTH: DECEMBER 27***

## **St. John the Apostle**

*Gospel Writer, Apostle of Charity, Beloved Apostle, Beloved Disciple,  
Giovanni Evangelista, John the Divine, John the Evangelist*

St. John was the son of Zebedee and Salome. He was also a fisherman, brother of Saint James the Great, and called one of the Sons of Thunder. A disciple of Saint John the Baptist, he was also a friend of Saint Peter the Apostle. Called by Jesus during His ministry, St. John traveled everywhere with Him, becoming so close as to be known as the “beloved disciple”. He took part in the Last Supper and was the only one of the Twelve not to forsake the Savior in the hour of His Passion, standing at the foot of the cross. Because of his devotion he was made guardian of Our Lady by Jesus, and he took her into his home. Upon hearing of the Resurrection, John was the first to reach the tomb. When he met the risen Lord at the lake of Tiberias, he was the first to recognize Him. During the era of the new Church, St. John worked in Jerusalem and at Ephesus. During Jesus' ministry, he tried to block a Samaritan from their group, but Jesus explained the open nature of the new Way. He worked on that principle to found churches in Asia Minor and baptizing converts in Samaria. John was imprisoned with Peter for preaching after Pentecost. He wrote the fourth Gospel, three Epistles, and possibly the Book of Revelation. St. John survived all his fellow apostles and died in Ephesus (modern Turkey) in 101AD. A church was built over his tomb which was later converted to a mosque. He is often represented by a book, cauldron, chalice, serpent, and an eagle.



### **FAMILY ACTIVITIES:**

- \* Read the story of St. John, the Apostle, in place of regular bedtime stories. Suggest that your family reflect John’s devotion to Christ and his care for Christ’s mother, Mary, as a model of responsibility.
- \* Discuss how the theological virtue of trustworthiness led St. John to conquer his fears and give him the courage to give his support to Jesus and his mother, Mary, at the foot of the cross.
- \* During the Christmas season, a time of joy, read the Gospel of John to see the great love he has for Jesus in his unique literary style, so different than the other three gospel accounts of the life of Jesus.

### **CHARACTER TRAIT:**

***Trustworthiness, Responsibility***

### **THEOLOGICAL VIRTUE:**

***Love***

### **Prayer to Saint John the Evangelist:**

O Glorious Saint John, you were so loved by Jesus that you merited to rest your head upon His breast, and to be left in care of His mother, Mary. Obtain for us an ardent love for Jesus and Mary. Let me be united with them now on earth and forever after in heaven.