

St. John the Evangelist ~ Commemorated on May 21st

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. 1John 4:7

If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? 1 John 4:20



St. John taught about the love of God and Christ. He loved Christ and was loved by Christ.

St. John and his brother St. James were followers or disciples of St. John the Baptist. When Jesus Christ saw them fishing with their father He said, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men". St. John, St. James and St. Peter were the three disciples who were closest to Christ. They were the disciples Christ chose to bring with Him when He went to Mt. Tabor and He was transfigured or changed so all could see He was truly God.

St. John was the youngest of the disciples however, he was also the boldest and most loving to Christ. Throughout all of Christ's sufferings; His arrest by the Jews, His judgement by Pontius Pilate, and His crucifixion on the Cross. St. John was the disciple chosen by Christ to

take care of His mother after His death.

After the Mother of God died, St. John began his teachings. The Emperor sent him to the Island of Patmos in an attempt to make him stop teaching about Christ. St. John was there with his disciple St. Prochorus. St. John told St. Prochorus what to write about the Second Coming of Christ, the book of Revelations.

St. John lived longer than any of the other Apostles. When he wrote his Gospel he read the other ones first and then tried to include anything they may have forgotten. In his Gospel he writes about all teachings of Christ.

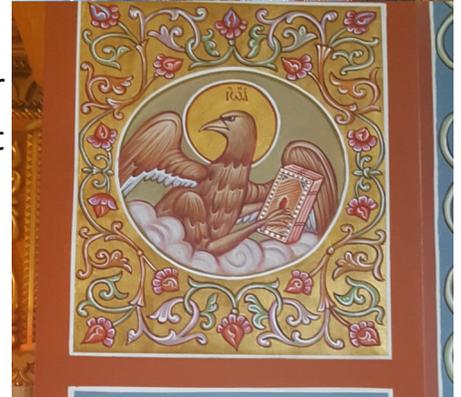


Icons in our Church



On the pillar near front of church

Near the altar on the right



Icon Description

The icon shows the Apostle John in his later years, as the elder “Theologian”. In his hands he holds the Gospel, with the words: *“In the beginning...”* (John 1:1). To his left, an angel is shown whispering the Gospel into John’s ear, yet the Apostle does not look to him, but casts his eyes down in contemplation. The Saint’s right hand is raised up, making the sign of the cross over his mouth, guarding it to make sure he does not say something from his own imagination: the great Evangelist is reduced to silence.

The inspiration for the image could be the words of St. John himself when he writes: *And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.* (John 21:25).

In some icons, St John is dictating his Gospel account to his young disciple, Prochorus, who is writing the first phrase, “In the beginning was the Word”, on a papyrus scroll.

Evangelist Symbol for St. John ~ eagle. An eagle has very good eyesight and flies very high. St. John could see and explain believes differently from others. This is why his Gospel is about the teachings of Christ.

