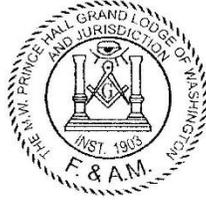


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St John the Evangelist

St. John the Evangelist, also a Disciple and Apostle, is celebrated by Masons worldwide during what is known as the Feast of St. John. This feast is held twice a year, once on June 24th, to celebrate John the Baptist, and again on December 27th, to celebrate John the Evangelist. The early Roman Catholic Church celebrated this feast, and history records that in the 17th century the 1st Grand Lodge was established on 24 June 1717. The Premier Grand Lodge of England and the Grand Lodge of Ireland favored celebrations in June, as the Grand Lodge of Ireland was formed on June 24, 1725. However, the Grand Lodge of Scotland, Grand Lodge of All of England, and the Antient Grand Lodge of England favored December 27th as they installed their Grand Masters on this date. The United Grand Lodge of England was formed on 27 December 1813.

John the Evangelist was a disciple, evangelist, and apostle. You could make the claim as a Mason that he went thru similar processes of learning as the entered apprentice, fellow craft, and master mason. He was disciplined and introduced to great knowledge as a disciple. He was shown worthy and given greater responsibility to go out into the world and preach as an evangelist. And when ready, he was found faithful and given authority to speak on behalf of the Christ, as an apostle.

St. John the Evangelist was born in 6 AD, and died in 100 AD. He is believed to have lived 93 or 94 years. He was the son of Zebedee and the brother of James. Jesus the Christ called him and James "The Sons of Thunder" because of the spirit they had in them as fisherman. He was the youngest disciple of the twelve and He is a favored patron saint of both the Church and Masonry because of the life he lived.

St. John the Evangelist was one of the closest disciples of Jesus the Christ. John wrote in first person the Gospel of St. John, wrote the letters to the Saints in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John, and wrote the revelation he received from Jesus the Christ in Revelations. St. John was not only an apostle of Jesus the Christ but was in his inner circle at some of the most revealing moments in history. St. John was there at the Transfiguration, when Jesus spoke with Moses and Elias in the spirit. St. John was there at the agony in the Garden when Jesus prayed to be spared of his death. St. John was the one that Jesus loved as he laid on Jesus's bosom during the Last Supper. During the Passion of Christ, while all others fled, it was St. John who stayed by Jesus's side. It was this same St. John who was at the Cross with Mary the mother of Jesus. Jesus told Mary to watch out for John and told John to watch out for Mary.

St. John was the last apostle to die. He was banished to the Isle of Patmos, where he wrote Revelation. Because of his extraordinary life, and the love he showcased in founding of the Church, he is honored as a Patron Saint along with John the Baptist, and celebrated on December 27th, with a feast and remembrance. If we are to glean from his example, it should be that he loved, was loyal, and was found so faithful that great secrets were exposed and revealed to him at different points of his life. We too, should be a showcase of love to the world, loyal to our beliefs and those we love, and found faithful to have that which is in the faithful breast, revealed to our attentive ear from that instructive tongue.