



*"After these things, I looked and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was... speaking with me saying. Come up here and I will show you things which must take place after this." (Rev 4:1)*

# St. John the Apostle

## His Life



St. John was the son of Zebedee and Salome, and the younger brother of James. He was one of the twelve Apostles. John received his call to serve Jesus as he and his brother, were in their father's fishing boat mending their nets. They promptly responded, and followed Jesus to spend their lives as fishers of men.

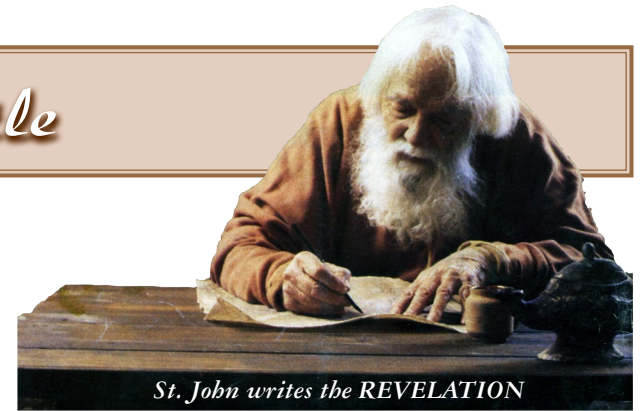
As for his mother Salome, she was one of the women who followed Jesus and served Him from their substance. Salome followed Jesus to the cross, and

came with the other women to the grave on the early morning of the Resurrection.

In his Gospel, John refers to himself as the disciple whom Jesus loved. The strongest evidence is provided by the incident at Calvary, just before Jesus died. As John, was the only disciple present, stood near his dying Master, Jesus committed his mother to John's care. (John 19:25-27) According to his disciple Polycarp, St. John was around ten years younger than the Lord Jesus.

## His Ministry

His Ministry during the early days of the church's foundation, was in Jerusalem and the surrounding areas, and



*St. John writes the REVELATION*

continued until the departure of the Saint Virgin Mary. After that he went to Asia Minor and its famous cities. He resided in Ephesus, and continued the ministry of St. Paul the Apostle (Acts 18:24-28 & 19: 1-12). St. John oversaw the big cities like Sardis, Philadelphia, Berghamis etc. These cities were referred to in the Book of Revelation.

## His Departure

St. John was arrested for his religious activities during the reign of Emperor Dometian (81-96 A.D.) He was sent in shackles to Rome, where he was cast into a cauldron of boiling oil but came forth unhurt which angered Dometian, who banished him to Patmos island. John stayed in that rocky and barren island around a year and a half during which he wrote the Book of Revelation around the year 95 A.D.

St. John was then pardoned by Emperor Nerva (96-98 A.D.) who followed Dometian. He returned to Ephesus where he continued his ministering activities. He departed around the year 100 A.D. after writing his Gospel, the three Epistles carrying his name and the great Book of Revelation.

## An Insight



In his old age, St. John, used a single theme in his teaching; "My children, love one another." When asked why he only preached about "Love" and nothing else, he told them that Love is the Lord's commandment, once love is fulfilled, it is sufficient. That is why he is often called the Apostle of Love. A kind of Love that is deep, strong and able to withstand the storms of life. Love is unselfish, always ready to make sacrifices for the loved ones. Above all, love is founded on the love of God, from which it draws its strength and wide-ranging goodness.

## Patmos Island



Patmos is a small Island measuring about 6 by 10 miles on the Aegean Sea. It lies southwest of Ephesus, and about 30 miles from the coast of Greece. Its houses are white and adjacent to each other, and its streets are narrow. There are beaches and shops that accommodate the needs of the tourists. Also, there are ports for commercial and cruise lines. The main source of income for its inhabitants comes from tourism especially in summer.

Tourists come to the island to visit, among other sites, a monastery built by St. Christodulos in 1088 A.D., on the highest summit of the island, and surrounded by a high fence. It contains ancient manuscripts and remains of some saints.

During the Roman Empire Patmos was used as an exile for political agitators and Christians who rejected idol worship.

In Patmos there is St. John's cell with a small church. He spent around a year and a half there, during which he wrote The Book of Revelation, in about 95 A.D.

One might think that Patmos was an exile or prison, but for St. John it was a place for meditation and worship. The Great apparition he witnessed helped him to pay no heed to the pain and frustration he experienced in that desolate, barren island.

St. John saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem coming down from God out of heaven" (Rev. 21:2) where the Lord dwell with His people, and he heard the Lord's encouraging promise; "I am coming quickly and my reward is with me, to give every one according to his work." (Rev. 22:12)

### \*Reminder

Date	Occasion	Remarks
Thursday June 2nd.	Ascension feast	Divine Liturgy from 8:30 to 11:00 A.M.
Sunday June 12th	Pentecost	Divine Liturgy from 8:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. then "Sagda" Prayers from 2:00 to 4:30 P.M.
Monday June 13th.	Apostles' Fast	lasts for 29 days
Monday June 20th.	Summer Club Starts	Ends August 10
Tuesday July 12th.	Apostles' Feast	Lakkan, Divine Liturgy from 8:30 A.M. to 12:00 Noon

\*For more information refer to the church's website. [www.stmarychicago.com](http://www.stmarychicago.com)

## CHURCH NEWS

### Sunday May 8th.



Our church was blessed by H.G. Bishop Makarios' visit. H. G. presided over the Divine Liturgy service, then we celebrated;  
 -The Feast of the Martyrdom of St. Mark the Apostle.  
 -The 20th anniversary of H.G. becoming a Bishop.  
 -Mothers' Day, every mother was presented with a beautiful rose.

### Friday, May 20th. to Sunday, May 22nd.



Rev. Fr. Marcos Gabra, priest of El-Morkossia church in Alexandria, visited our church. He lead the Bible Study session on Friday, and the Vespers prayers on Saturday. On Sunday, Fr. Marcos participated in the Divine Liturgy service, with Rev. Fr. Michael, priest of St. George and Anba Rewais in Toronto, Canada. Fr. Michael was accompanied by a youth group from his church.

### Wednesday, May 25th., & Friday May 27th.



Rev. Fr. Tadros Malaty and Tasony Mary visited our church.  
 Fr. Tadros participated in the Divine Liturgy service on Wednesday, and conducted the Bible Study session on Friday evening. We enjoyed that long awaited visit.

### Fridays June 24, July 1st & July 8th.



We are pleased to welcome Dr. Rasmy Abd El Malek Rostom, professor of Management & Educational Planning at the National Center for Educational Research & Development, and the previous Dean of the Institute of Coptic Studies.  
 Dr. Rostom will give three lectures titled "Your Relation with God, Yourself and Others", on three successive Fridays from 7:00-9:00 p.m., starting on June 24, 2011. Our deep thanks and appreciation for Dr. Rostom.

## Congratulations To:



**Reve. Fr. Samuel T. Samuel:**  
 for the 35th anniversary of his blessed ordination. May the Lord grant him health to continue his successful and fruitful service.



**Rev. Fr. Isaac B. Tanius:**  
 for the 23rd anniversary of his blessed ordination. We are eternally grateful for the tireless efforts and diligent service, which he and Tasoni Nadia have provided through the years. May the Lord grant them health and keep them for many years to come.

❖ **Michael Mikbail & Jackie Bebaury**  
 For their engagement, may the Lord guide them and crown their undertaking with happiness.

## CONDOLENCES



### Reposed in the Lord:

❖ **Mr. Fouad Shaker**, brother of Mrs. Nelly Khalil and uncle of Fr. Daniel Hanna and his sister Mrs. Eva Agaiby.  
 ❖ **Mrs. Margaret Anis**, mother of Mrs. Fifi Farag, grandmother of Marriette, Michelle, and Steven Farag.  
 ❖ **Mrs. Imtisal Henry**, mother of Mrs. Mobga Elias, grandmother of Mrs. Mobga Helmy and Youssef Elias.  
 ❖ **Mr. Elia Shenouda**, brother of Mr. Raafat and Mr. Wassim Shenouda.

May the Lord repose the souls of the deceased and console their grieving families.