

Reflection Wednesday Christmas Week St John the Evangelist 2023

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were nicknamed by Jesus “the sons of thunder.” John is involved in many of the central events of Jesus’ life, including the Transfiguration, the Crucifixion, and the discovery of the Resurrection. He is “the disciple whom Jesus loved” and the one to whom he confided the care of his mother Mary.

He is mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles; later he was exiled to the island of Patmos. He is said to have died at Ephesus. He wrote a Gospel, three Epistles, and the Apocalypse.

From a homily by Fr Martin Hogan:

We have always valued the four gospels above all other Christian literature. That is why we stand for the gospel reading, why we introduce it with the singing of the Alleluia, and why, during solemn Masses, we incense the Lectionary or Book of the Gospels. We sense that the Lord is present to us in a privileged way in and through them. Today we celebrate the feast of the author of the fourth gospel, traditionally identified with John, one of the Lord’s closest disciples. In John’s portrait, Jesus is transfigured on every page. It is appropriate then that the gospel today is an Easter gospel. John writes about three disciples, Mary of Magdala, Peter, and the disciple Jesus loved. This last disciple is unnamed but has been identified with the disciple John in the Christian tradition. At the end of the reading, it states that *‘he saw and believed’*. He believed that Jesus had risen, simply on the evidence of the empty tomb. He saw the experience more deeply and his gospel helps us see more deeply too. His gospel opens with: *‘the Word became flesh and dwelt among us’*. John encourages us to look beneath the surface of things, to recognize the presence of the Word in the flesh of life. His gospel teaches us that the fabric of life can speak to us of the Lord. Light, water, bread, vines, gates, shepherds, paths, and so much else, can be a revelation of God if we can see them with the eyes of faith and love, with the eyes of the beloved disciple!!

- What do you call a man who claps at Christmas? *Santapplause!*
- Where do Santa's reindeer stop for coffee? *Star-bucks!!*
- What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? *Frostbite!*