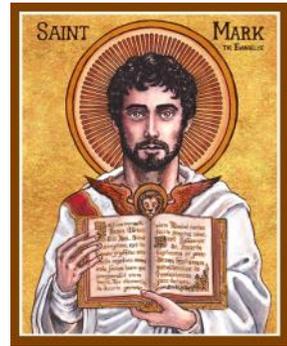


Did you know . . .

St. Mark, the Evangelist

Our knowledge of St. Mark comes largely from the New Testament and early Christian traditions and usually identified with the Mark in Acts 12:12. He was the son of Mary of Jerusalem (Acts 12:12), whose home became the meeting place of the apostles. He was the cousin of St. Barnabas (Col. 4:10).



Mark joined St. Paul and St. Barnabas on their first missionary journey to Antioch in 44 A.D. But Mark left them after the group left Cyprus and returned to Jerusalem, possibly because he missed home (Act 13:13). Paul refused to let Mark accompany him on the second journey to the churches of Cilicia and the remaining areas of Asia Minor, perhaps because Paul questioned Mark's reliability as a missionary. But when Paul was first imprisoned, they must have already reconciled because Mark, who was already in Rome, visited Paul as one of his trusted companions. (Col 4:10)

During Paul's second captivity, Paul wrote to Timothy at Ephesus telling him to "take Mark and bring him with you to Rome, for he is profitable to me for the ministry" (2 Timothy 4:11) If Mark did go to Rome at this time, he would have been present when Paul was martyred.

St. Mark lived for years in Alexandria, where he died as a martyr while being dragged through the streets.

The Gospel of Mark is the oldest and shortest of the four Gospels and emphasizes Jesus' rejection by humanity while being "God's triumphant envoy."

It was probably written between 60 and 70 A.D., and was based upon the teachings of St. Peter. It is believed Mark provided both Luke and Matthew with basic sources for their Gospel's. Like Luke, Mark was not one of the 12 apostles.

In 828, relics of St. Mark were stolen from Alexandria and taken to Venice, Italy. There they are enshrined in a beautiful cathedral dedicated to the saint.

St. Mark is the patron saint of Venice. His feast day is celebrated on April 25.

Judy Pearson