

St. Mark



Patron saint of notaries, attorneys, lawyers, barristers, captives, prisoners, imprisoned people, glaziers, and stained glass workers.

St. Mark, also known as John Mark, was one of the four Evangelists. A member of the tribe of Levi, St. Mark was born in Northern Africa in the region of Gyrene, one of the five Western Cities of Libya, in the small village of Aberyatolos. His Jewish name, John, means “the kindness of God”, while his Roman name, Mark, means “the hammer”. As a young Levite, Mark received a thorough education and was able to read and write multiple languages, making him well-suited for his task of Evangelist. His family moved to Palestine following Barbarian raids in Northern Africa.

Mark’s family was closely associated with the Apostles. His mother was one of the “Marys” who followed Christ. The early Christians often gathered at her house and she was highly esteemed. Mark’s father, Aristopolos, was a cousin to the wife of St. Peter. There is also evidence that Mark was related to St. Thomas. Mark therefore grew up in a family that was closely associated with Christ.

Mark is also considered to be the young man who carried a pitcher signaling that his home would be used for the Last Supper (Luke 22:10-12) This same house would later be used for the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Mark’s home was the first Christian Church. When St. Peter was freed from prison he went directly to the house of Mark. It is also commonly held that Mark tasted the wine that Jesus had transformed from water at Cana.

After Christ’s Ascension, Mark accompanied Peter on his missionary trips. Mark’s first convert was his father, Aristopolos. While traveling to Jordan, Mark and his father were attacked by a lion and a lioness. Fearing an imminent death, Aristopolos requested Mark to flee, offering himself as victim to the lions. St. Mark answered by appealing to Christ saying, “Oh Christ, Save Us!” The lions immediately departed. The winged lion is the symbol of St. Mark. St. Mark was martyred in Alexandria.