

St. Mark the Evangelist



*Since we're learning about our beautiful church,
it's only right that we talk about the father of our church, St. Mark the Evangelist!*

St. Mark was one of the Disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ. His house became the first Christian church in the world. It is where Our Lord Jesus Christ gave the first Holy Communion, where He appeared after His resurrection and where the Holy Spirit came down on the Holy Apostles. After the Pentecost, St. Mark went on missionary trips with St. Peter, St. Barnabas and St. Paul. Eventually, we went to spread Christianity in Africa. He performed many miracles as he traveled through Egypt and eventually went to Alexandria in the year 61 A.D.

When he entered Alexandria, the strap of his sandal was loose. He went to a cobbler to mend it. When the cobbler - Anianos - took an awl to work on it, he accidentally pierced his hand and cried aloud "O One God". At this utterance, St. Mark rejoiced and after miraculously healing the man's wound, took courage and began to preach to the hungry ears of his convert. The spark was ignited and Anianos took St. Mark home with him.

He and his family were baptized, and many others followed. (Eventually, Anianos became the second Pope of the Coptic Church!) St. Mark spent two years in Alexandria, preaching and performing miracles, ordaining bishops and priests, and winning more converts. When St. Mark returned to Alexandria, the people there disliked him because he was turning others away from worshipping traditional Egyptian gods. In AD 68 they killed him, and tried to burn his body. St. Mark won the crown of martyrdom!

Have you ever wondered why St. Mark is always pictured with a lion in many icons? Well here is the story...

Once a lion and lioness appeared to John Mark and his father Arostalis while they were traveling in Jordan. The father was very scared and begged his son to escape, while he awaited his fate. John Mark assured his father that Jesus Christ would save them and began to pray. The two beasts fell dead and as a result of this miracle, the father believed in Christ.

May his prayers be with us all and Glory be to God forever. Amen.