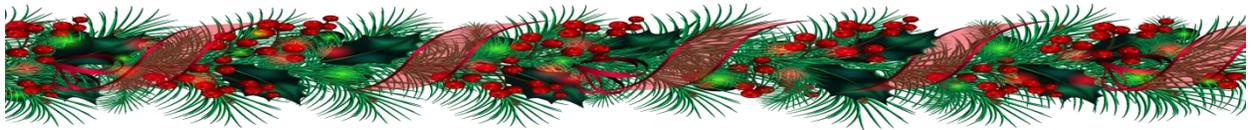


The Meditation

The Feast of St. John the Evangelist & Apostle (Comm. **First Sunday After Christmas** -A.D. 2015)



St. John the Evangelist on Patmos - (1480-1485)
By Domenico Ghirlandi (1449 - 1494)
Italian Renaissance Painter

Collect for The Feast of St. John the Evangelist and Apostle

Merciful Lord, we beseech thee to cast thy bright beams of light upon thy Church, that it, being illuminated by the doctrine of thy blessed Apostle and Evangelist Saint John, may so walk in the light of thy truth, that it may at length attain to life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Rebirth can work in many ways in those who are saved. Beside Stephen, the young and ardent deacon and first martyr, stands grey-haired John whose feasts we have honored these past couple of days. Stephen's chief quality may seem to be fervent activity bordering on urgency, but if we look deeper, we will find patience. Mystics sometimes seem unrealistic and hopelessly impractical, yet listen to St. John : *"My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth."* (St. John I; Ch. 3, Vs 18).

John can, and if necessary, speak with severity: *"If a man say, I love God, but hateth his brother, he is a liar : for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?"* (I St. John; Ch. 4, Vs. 20). John's life was one long act of divine charity. All he did or said was linked to the heavenly gifts given to him by His Master, Jesus. John, the apostle, to whom Christ conferred a brotherhood, became the Apostle of Love, whose mission became the sharing of the great inexhaustible mystery of God's love for mankind; via the good news, the radiant Gospel. Blessed is he who learned that truth and love are one. St. John, in the heart of his Lord, became the great doctor of the science of Love, of whom it is written: "his witness is truthful."

St. John leaves us a great definition: *"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."* (I St. John; Ch. 4, Vs. 10). Timeless love on earth becomes born within mankind. The soul, which is the image of God's being, becomes the bearer of eternal life. All that exists changes like a garment, eternal love alone is changeless...timeless. John is so full of divine love that he has acquired something of God's "changelessness" ; therefore, in a way he can remain until Christ returns. Peter will die on the cross, just as Christ did. John, who stood under the Cross with blessed Mary, died Christ's death with Him. Love killed John and resuscitated him at the same moment, and he rests forever in Divine love.

St. Augustine wrote: *"The Church knows a two-fold life : a life of faith and a life in contemplation, the one for the time of her pilgrimage, the other for the life of eternity, one personified by the apostle Peter, the other by John."*

Let us ask Almighty God in our prayers, on this day, to cast His gracious beams of light upon His Holy Catholic Church, enlightened by the teachings of His Apostle and Evangelist St. John, that the Church (that's us) may win those eternal gifts that are found in Jesus Christ, the new-born King, and Savior of all humanity. Amen.

3.

Collect for the Second Mass at Christmas Day

○ God, Who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thine only Son Jesus Christ; Grant that as we joyfully receive Him for our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold Him when He shall come to be our Judge, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

Priory Kalendar

**For the week of December 27th A. D. 2015 to January 3rd A.D. 2016
In the Christmas Season**

Sunday, December 27th . . . St. John; Ap. & Ev. 1st cent. Comm. 1st Sunday after Christmas.
Monday, December 28th . . . Holy Innocents; 1st cent. Judeain the Oct. of Christmas
Tuesday, December 29th . . St. Thomas of Canterbury; Bp & Myr. 12th cent.In the Oct.
Wednesday December 30thIn the Octave of Christmas.
Thursday, December 31st . . . St. Sylvester; Po. & C. 4th cent.In the Oct. of Christmas.
Friday, January 1st A. D. 2016 . . . Circumcision of Christ.
Saturday, January 2nd . . . Saturday Mass and Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
Sunday, January 3rd . . . Holy Name of Jesus Comm the Second Sunday After Christmas

NOTE:

CALENDAR KEY

Ab. = Abbot, Abs. = Abbess, Abp. = Archbishop, Anc. = Anchorite, Ancs. = anchoress, Ap. = Apostle, Bl. = Blessed, Br. = Brother, Bp. = Bishop, Card. = Cardinal, C. or Conf. = Confessor, Comm. = Commemoration, Dcn. = Deacon, Doct. = Doctor of the Church, Ev. = Evangelist, H. = Hermit, LBr. = Laybrother, LSr. = Laysister, K. = King, Mat. = Matron, M. = Monk, M.M. = Month's Mind (30 day requiem for the recently departed), Myr. = Martyr, N. – Nun, Obl. = Oblate, P. = Priest, P. or Po. = Pope, Pr. = Prior, Prs. = Prioress, R. = Recluse, RM = Requiem Mortorum, (monthly requiem of the departed) , Q. = Queen, Ven. = Venerable, Vir. = Virgin, W. = Widow.

FASTING Key: A = Abstinence, F = Fast, F & A = Fast and Abstinence
RELIGIOUS ORDERS: C.O. = Congregation of the Oratory –Oratorians, C.P = Congregation of the Passion – Passionists, C.S.J. = Congregation of the Society of Jesus – Jesuits, Er. Cam. = Camaldolese Hermits, F.P.O. = Franciscans of the Primitive Observance, O. Car. = Carmelite Order, O. Cart. = Carthusian Order, O.C.D. = Order of Discalced Friars = Carmelites, O.F.A. = Augustinian Order, O.F.M. = Order of Friars Minor – Franciscans, O.F.M. Cap. = Capuchins, O.P. = Order of Preachers = Dominicans (Blackfriars), O. Praem. = Order of Canons Regular – Norbertines (White Monks), O.S.B. = Order of St. Benedict – Benedictines, O.S.U = Ursulines, O.C.O. = Order of the Cistercian Observance – Trappists, O.C.S.O. = Cistercian Order of the Strict Observance = Trappists.



4.

Animal News from the Priory



All things come of thee O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee – I Chron. Ch. 29, Vs. 14.



Br. Chip asks a friend: “Do you think we’ll see some snow?”

