

St. Matthew the Apostle

Feast Day, September 21

The Patron Saint of Accounts, Bankers and Tax Collectors

St. Matthew was born in Galilee. He worked as a tax collector, which was a hated profession during the time of Christ.

According to the Gospel, Matthew was working at a collection booth in Capernaum when Christ came to him and asked, "Follow me." With this simple call, Matthew became a disciple of Christ.

From Matthew, we know of the many doings of Christ and the message Christ spread of salvation for all people who come to God through Him. The Gospel of Matthew is the first of the four Gospels in the New Testament.

Many years following the death of Christ, around 41 and 50 AD, Matthew wrote his Gospel account. He wrote the book in Aramaic in the hope that his account would convince his fellow people that Jesus was the Messiah and that His kingdom had been fulfilled in a spiritual way. It was an important message at a time when almost everyone was expecting the return of a militant messiah brandishing a sword.

It is believed that Matthew departed for other lands to escape persecution sometime after 42 AD. According to various accounts, he fled to Parthia and Persia, or Ethiopia. Nothing is recorded of St. Matthew's passing. We do not know how he died, if his death was natural or if he was martyred.

St. Matthew is often depicted with one of the four living creatures of Revelation 4:7, which reads, "The first living creature was like a lion, the second like a bull, the third living creature had a human face, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle."

St. Matthew is the patron saint of accountants and bankers. The Church established St. Matthew's feast day as September 21.



ST. MATTHEW VENERATED

Roman Catholic Church

Eastern Orthodox Church

Eastern Catholic Churches

Oriental Orthodoxy

Church of the East

Anglican Communion

Lutheranism