

St. Matthias the Apostle

Feast Day, May 14

The Patron Saint of Alcoholics, Carpenters and Tailors

Saint Matthias was not one of the original 12 Apostles, even though he was known to Jesus personally. Matthias was present with Jesus as a disciple, from his baptism to His Ascension.

In Acts of the Apostles (1:24-25) St. Peter, now as the head of the Apostles and Church, recommends that Judas be replaced from among the approximately 120 disciples of Jesus.

They cast lots in order to discover God's will and Matthias was chosen. He became the twelfth apostle, and the group was whole again as they waited for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

One remarkable note about Matthias' appointment is that he was chosen after the Ascension of the Lord, but before the descent of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost). He is the only Apostle to be chosen during this time.

It should be noted that Matthias is not mentioned further in the bible. Like the other apostles, he may be known by other names; Zacchaeus, Tolmai, and Barnabas, or even Nathaniel. This is because people spoke different languages and translated names differently, and they also had nicknames, by which people also called them.

According to the Greeks, St. Matthias preached the faith in Judea, then in Cappadocia, and around the Caspian Sea, living most of his time near the port of Issus. He may have also preached in Ethiopia.

We are unsure of the location of his martyrdom. There are several competing claims. One is that he was martyred in Georgia and may be buried in Adjara. Another says he was martyred in Sebastopolis, which is today a town in central Turkey. St. Matthias may also have been stoned and beheaded in Jerusalem.

St. Matthias' feast day is celebrated on May 14. He is the patron saint of alcoholics, carpenters and tailors.



ST. MATTHIAS IN ART

St. Matthias is often depicted with an axe or a spear.

Sometimes he is holding a book or a scroll.