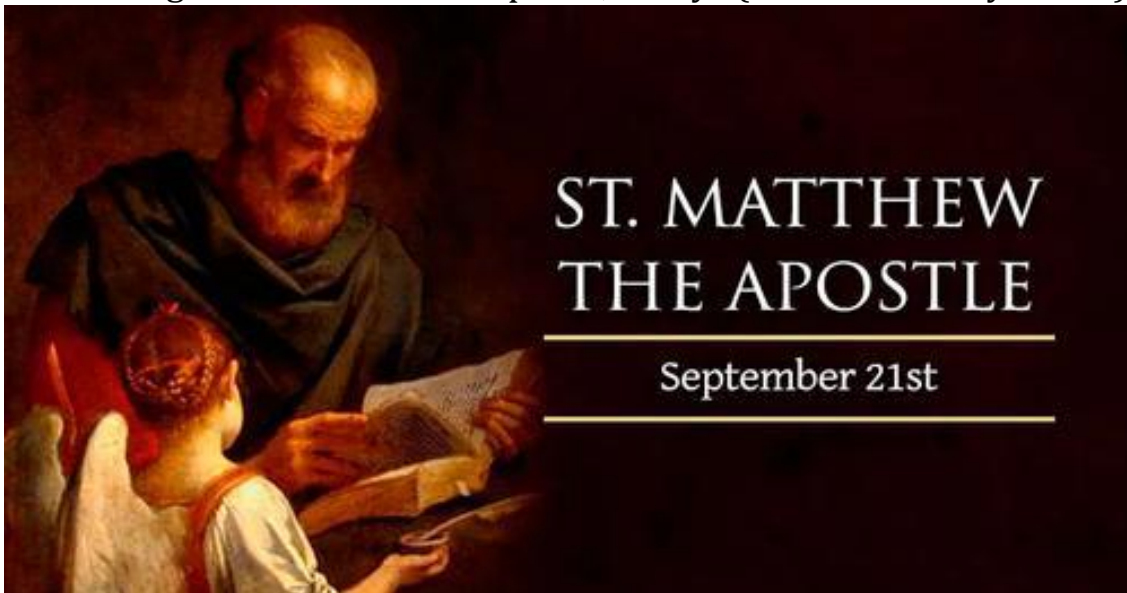


The Calling of St Matthew The Apostle, Martyr (died 1st century 68 AD)



<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/saint/st-matthew-apostle-601>

"Matthew, or Levi, the Apostle and [the human] author of The first Gospel [inspired by The HOLY SPIRIT], met CHRIST while he was collecting taxes at Capernaum. Half a verse tells the story: "He said to him, 'Follow Me.' And he got up and followed Him" (MATTHEW 9:9).

This moment of encounter between our Lord and Matthew, the sinner, has captured the imagination of many artists, most notably Caravaggio. Others have depicted Matthew's generous response [to JESUS]: He "gave a great banquet for Him in his house" (LUKE 5:29).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MWdBnE-4QPE>

Matthew can also be recognized in The Church's art by his symbols: The Book of The Gospel, the winged man, and the sword – the... instrument of his Martyrdom."*

<https://aleteia.org/2019/08/20/ox-eagle-lion-man-why-and-how-are-these-evangelists-associated-with-these-creatures/>

Saint Matthew begins his Gospel with the genealogy of JESUS The CHRIST, documenting to his primarily fellow Jewish audience that The MESSIAH has come as GOD promised to take The Throne of The Kingdom, "The book of the generation of JESUS CHRIST, The son of David, the son of Abraham." (MATTHEW 1:1)

MATTHEW 9:9-13

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ytf_TlujPw&list=RDsBPrt2Pnp9Y&index=10

9 And as JESUS passed forth from thence, He saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and He saith unto him, Follow Me. And he arose, and followed Him.

10 And it came to pass, as JESUS sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples.

11 And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto His disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners?

12 But when JESUS heard that, He said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.

13 But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have Mercy, and not sacrifice: for I AM not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

"O GOD, Who with untold Mercy were pleased to choose as an Apostle Saint Matthew, the tax collector, grant that, sustained by his example and intercession, we may merit to hold firm in following You. Through our Lord JESUS CHRIST, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You in The Unity of The HOLY SPIRIT, GOD, for ever and ever."* AMEN.

* ["Saint Matthew." The Magnificat, 9/21/2021. Feast of Saint Matthew, p 298-299. Collect, p 299.]