

Saintly Notes

The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew (November 16)

Matthew, son of Alphaeus, was a tax collector when the Lord saw him in Capernaum and said: *Follow Me. And he arose, and followed Him* (Matthew 9:9). After that, Matthew prepared a reception for the Lord in his home and thus provided the occasion for the Lord to express several great truths about His coming to earth.

After receiving the Holy Spirit, Matthew preached the Gospel to the Parthians, Medes and Ethiopians. In Ethiopia he appointed his follower Plato as bishop, and withdrew to prayerful solitude on a mountain, where the Lord appeared to him. Matthew baptized the wife and the son of the prince of Ethiopia, at which the prince became greatly enraged and dispatched a guard to bring Matthew to him for trial. The soldiers returned to the prince saying that they had heard Matthew's voice, but could not see him with their eyes. The prince then sent a second guard. When this guard approached the apostle, he shone with a heavenly light so powerful that the soldiers could not look at him; filled with fear, they threw down their weapons and returned. The prince then went himself. Matthew radiated such light that the prince was instantly blinded. However, the holy apostle had a compassionate heart; he prayed to God, and the prince was given back his sight. Unfortunately, he saw only with physical eyes and not spiritual eyes. He arrested Matthew and subjected him to cruel tortures. Twice, a large fire was lighted on his chest, but the power of God preserved him alive and unharmed. Then the apostle prayed to God and gave up his spirit. The prince commanded that the martyr's body be placed in a lead coffin and thrown into the sea. The saint appeared to Bishop Plato and told him where the coffin bearing his body could be found. The bishop retrieved the coffin with Matthew's body from the sea. Witnessing this new miracle, the prince was baptized and received the name Matthew. After that, the prince left all the vanity of the world and became a presbyter and served the Church in a God-pleasing way.

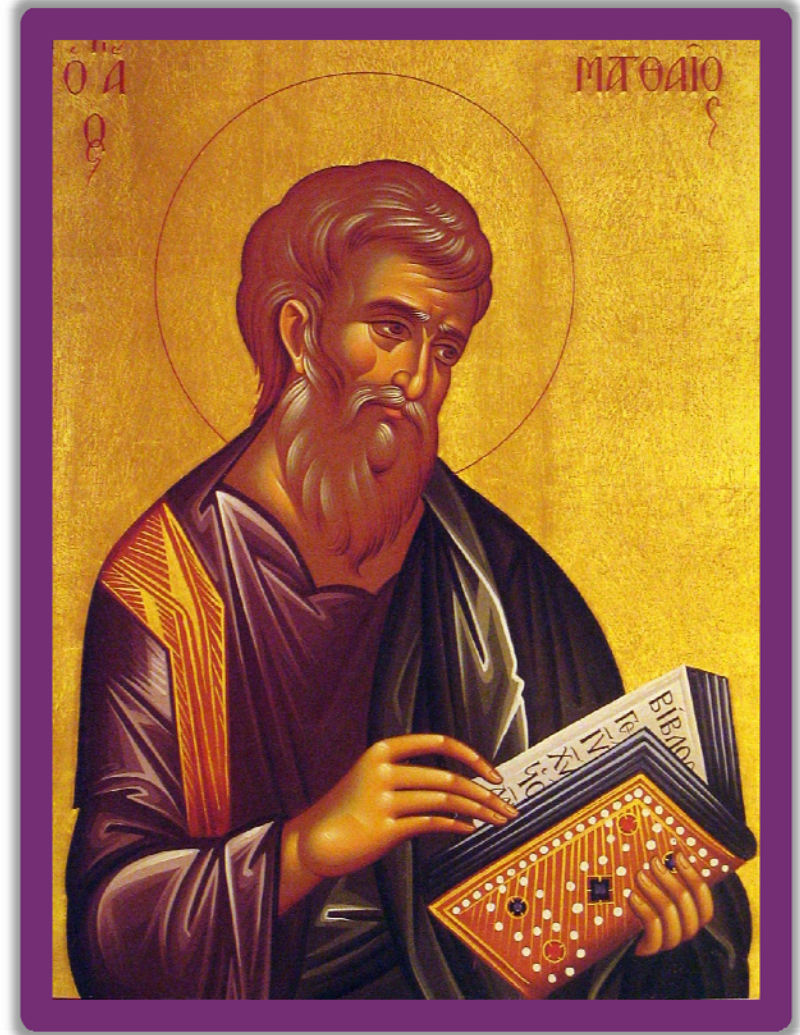
When Plato died, the Apostle Matthew appeared to the presbyter Matthew and counseled him to accept the episcopacy. He accepted the bishopric and, for many years, was a good shepherd until the Lord called him to His Immortal Kingdom.

St. Matthew the Apostle wrote his Gospel in the Aramaic language. It was soon after translated into Greek and the Greek text has come down to us, while the Aramaic text has been lost. It is said of this evangelist that he never ate meat, but only vegetables and fruit.

(The Prologue from Ochrid, Lazarica Press, 1985)

The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew

November 16, 2008



St. Matthew

The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew

All Saints Orthodox Church, Raleigh NC
(www.allsaintsnc.org)
919-859-1332

The V. Rev. Nicholas R. A. Sorensen, Archpriest
The Rev. Philip Pelikan, Priest
The Rev. David Keim, Deacon

November 16, 2008

The Saints Whom We Remember

Martyr Ephygenia

This Week's Schedule

Today: 8:00a Orthros; 9:00a Church School; 10:00a Divine Liturgy;
12:00p Annual Voters' Meeting
Monday: Church Office Closed; 8:00a Baklawa Baking
Tuesday: 12:00noon Planning Committee
Wednesday: 8:00a Baklawa Baking; 9:15a Third Hour Prayers; 6:30p Daily
Vespers.
Thursday: 6:30p Eve. Div. Liturgy for the Presentation of the Theotokos;
8:00p Potluck Supper
Friday: 8:00a Baklawa Baking; 6:30p Advent Paraklasis
Saturday: 5:30p Great Vespers
Sunday: 8:00a Orthros; 9:00a Church School; 10:00a Divine Liturgy

Third Antiphon

for the Resurrection—Tone 5

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Entrance Hymn

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

Troparion

of the Resurrection—Tone 5

See above.

Troparion

for St. Matthew—Tone 3

O holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew, intercede with the merciful God, to grant our souls forgiveness of sins.

Troparion

for All Saints—Tone 4

As with fine porphyry and royal purple Thy Church has been adorned with Thy martyr's blood shed throughout all the world. She cries to Thee, O Christ God, send down Thy bounties on Thy people, grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls.

Kontakion

for Entrance of Theotokos—Tone 2

The all-pure temple of the Savior, the most precious bridal chamber and Virgin, the treasure-house of the glory of God, today enters the Temple of the Lord, bringing with her the grace which is in the divine Spirit: whom also the angels of God do celebrate in song; for she is the heavenly tabernacle.

The Trisagion

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal . . .

Epistle and Gospel

Today and Next Sunday

Today: (See insert)

Next Sunday:

Epistle: Eph. 2:4–10

Gospel: Luke 12:16–21

Alegalyrnarion

Tone 8

It is truly meet and right to bless thee . . .

Communion Hymn

Tone 8

Praise ye the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest. Alleluia.

After Communion

We have seen the true light . . .

Parish Notes

Altar Servers Today

Steven Wynne, Matthew Wynne, Del Dillard, Noah Keim, Micah Keim, Johannes Kibret, Nicholas Kliewer.

Special Attention

- **Annual Voters' Meeting Today.** Our annual All Saints' Voters'

Meeting will convene at 12:30pm today in the church nave. This year the plans for the new church extension and remodeling project will be presented in addition to hearing the reports from our various committees and organizations. The budget for 2009 and election of 2 new members of the parish council will conclude our agenda. Everyone is invited to this meeting, but only those who are official voters will be able to vote. If you would like to become an official voting member of All Saints, please see Fr. Nicholas.

- **Advent Has Begun.** The Advent Fast has begun as of Saturday, November 15th. You may want to use the Advent Family Activity books that are available in the bookstore. If you are unable to get a copy please talk to Fr. Nicholas.
- **Offering for Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration.** Next Sunday (Nov. 23) we will be taking an offering for Sister Mary's (Nancy French) monastery. This is in response to the Monastery's Annual Appeal. Please give generously.
- **Can Good Drive for Raleigh Food Bank.** Our Teen SOYO group is collecting non-perishable food items all during the months of November and December. Please bring items you wish to donate to the church and place in the container located in the Narthex.
- **Baklawa is Coming.** Dear Members of All Saints: There are only 1 1/2 weeks till Thanksgiving. Please turn in your orders, so we can fill them, and know how much we need to bake. We need your support in order to make this project a success. Ladies we are baking in the morning Nov. 17 also Nov.19 and 21. Please, be at the church at 9:00 and don't forget your brown bag lunch. SELL SELL SELL SELL. Remember the contest is to see what man, woman, and child can sell the most orders.

Mary Elizabeth Bassett

Epistle and Gospel Readings

Prokeimenion:

His voice has gone out into all the earth.

The heavens declare the glory of God.

†Epistle: 1 Cor. 4:9–16 (RSV)

Brethren, God has exhibited us Apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off-scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the Gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

†Gospel: Matthew 9:9–13 (RSV)

At that time, as Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax office; and He said to him, "Follow Me." And he rose and followed Him. And as He sat at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Jesus and His disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to His disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when Jesus heard it, He said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Epistle and Gospel Readings

Prokeimenion:

His voice has gone out into all the earth.

The heavens declare the glory of God.

†Epistle: 1 Cor. 4:9–16 (RSV)

Brethren, God has exhibited us Apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off-scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the Gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

†Gospel: Matthew 9:9–13 (RSV)

At that time, as Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax office; and He said to him, "Follow Me." And he rose and followed Him. And as He sat at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Jesus and His disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to His disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when Jesus heard it, He said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

**A Word
from Our Fathers**

“Strive so that inner humility agrees with your outward acts of humility. Consider yourself the worst and least of all, not just by saying it, but securing the thought in your heart; it will bring you peace.”

“Let the following be for you signs of humility or pride: the latter scorns everyone, reproaches them, and sees darkness in them, while the former sees only his own faults and does not dare to judge anyone.”

(St. Marcarius of Optina)

**A Word
from Our Fathers**

“Strive so that inner humility agrees with your outward acts of humility. Consider yourself the worst and least of all, not just by saying it, but securing the thought in your heart; it will bring you peace.”

“Let the following be for you signs of humility or pride: the latter scorns everyone, reproaches them, and sees darkness in them, while the former sees only his own faults and does not dare to judge anyone.”

(St. Marcarius of Optina)