

THE CALL OF CHRIST TO SAINT MATTHEW

Today we examine the transformation of Matthew, from a despised public official to evangelist. It is explained to us by an ancient Church Father:

"We have heard in the Gospel reading that Jesus felt compassion for Matthew as he sat at the tax collector's place, intent upon temporal concerns, and suddenly called him. He made a just man of a publican, a disciple of a tax-collector. As he progressively increased in grace, Jesus promoted him from the ordinary group of disciples to the rank of an apostle, and not only committed to him the ministry of preaching, but also that of writing a Gospel. Doubtlessly the reason why heavenly providence arranged for this to happen was so that neither the enormity of one's wicked deeds nor their great number should dissuade ANYONE from hoping for pardon, since one could look at this man Matthew, who had been freed from such bonds of the world and made heavenly in order to become an evangelist.

He saw him not so much by virtue of corporeal vision as by inner compassion. Jesus saw the man, and felt compassion for him because he was devoted only to human concerns and he was not yet worthy of an angelic name.

But Matthew arose and followed our Lord. We should not marvel that a publican, upon first hearing the Lord's voice ordering him, left the earthly gains that he cared about. Disregarding his property, he attached himself to the band of followers of one whom he perceived to have no riches. For the Lord Himself, Who outwardly called him by a word, taught him inwardly with an invisible impulse. Thus, Matthew received the incorruptible treasures of Heaven."

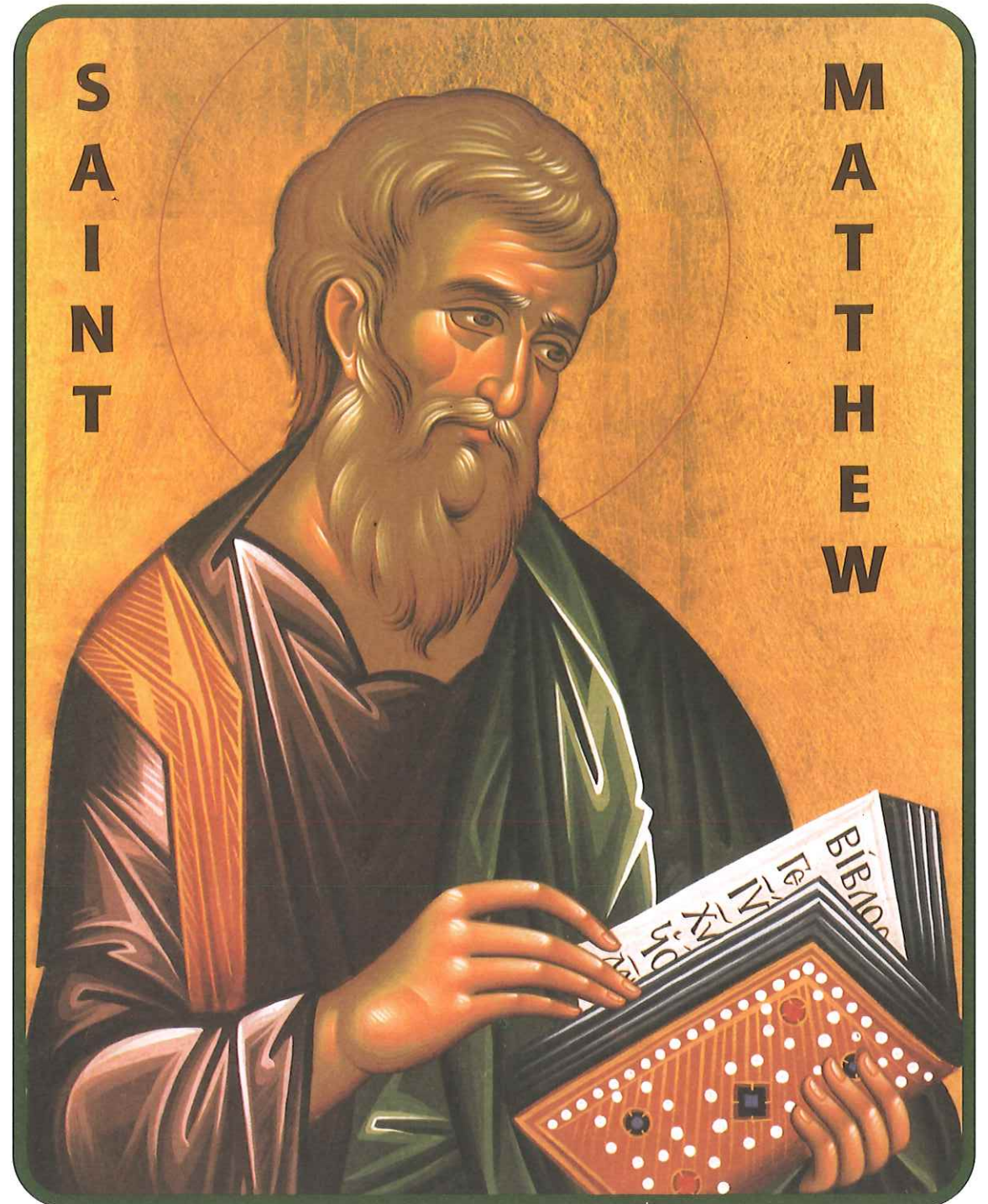
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Κοντακιον

Ο καθαρώτατος ναός τού Σωτήρος, η
ῥολυτίητος ῥαστάς καί Παρθένος, τό
Ιερόν θησαύρισμα τῆς δόξης τού Θεοῦ,
σή ερον εισάγεται, εν τώ οίκω Κυρίου,
τήν χάριν συνεισάγουσα, τήν εν
Πνευματι θείῳ, ἤν ανυ νοῦσιν Ἄγγελιοι
Θεοῦ, Αὐτή υ᾽ ἄρχει σκηνή ε᾽ ουράνιος.

Kontakion in the Fourth Mode

The all-pure temple of the Savior, the most precious bridal-chamber and Virgin, the treasure-house of the glory of God, today entered 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.



BULLETIN OF ST GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH CAPE COD

For the period of November 15th - November 21th

Orthros 8:30 - Divine Liturgy 9:45

Rev. Fr Timothy Curren, Proistamenos

Office Hours 10-4 M-T-W-F phone: 978-238-0544 frtimothycurren@gmail.com

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS



8th Sunday of Luke

November 15: Thomas, Archbishop of Constantinople
Guria, Shamuna, and Habib, Martyrs and Confessors of Edessa

November 15 Nativity Fast Begins

The Nativity Fast is one of four main fast periods throughout the ecclesiastical year. Beginning on November 15 and concluding on December 24, the Nativity Fast gives individuals the opportunity to prepare for the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior in the Flesh on December 25. By abstaining from certain food and drink, particularly

from meat, fish, dairy products, olive oil, and wine, as well as focusing more deeply on prayer and almsgiving, we can find that the primary aim of fasting is to make us conscious of our dependence upon God.

Guria, Shamuna, and Habib, Martyrs and Confessors of Edessa

Of these most illustrious Martyrs of the city of Edessa in Syria, Guria and Shamuna contested during the reign of Diocletian, in 288; after many tortures, they were cast into prison, then beheaded. Saint Habib, a deacon, contested in the days of Licinius, in the year 316, and was burned alive; he was buried with Saints Guria and Shamuna. The three have one common feast, and it is always together that they are portrayed in icons and invoked by the faithful. On account of a renowned miracle they worked, they are invoked for help in marital difficulties. A certain Goth had come with the Roman army to Edessa and was quartered in the house of a pious widow named Sophia. The Goth asked Sophia for the hand of her daughter, Euphemia; after resisting for a long time, Sophia at last agreed. When it was time for the army to return home, Sophia made the Goth vow by the power in the holy Martyrs Shamuna, Guria, and Habib, to keep Euphemia as the apple of his eye. As he was nearing his home, however, the treacherous man revealed to Euphemia that he already had a wife. Euphemia was compelled to serve the Goth's wife, who dealt with her mercilessly. After extreme sufferings, which included being sealed alive in a tomb and left there to die, Euphemia was miraculously conveyed to Edessa, to the very shrine of the holy Martyrs whose surety they had taken, and was reunited with her mother through their holy prayers.

Saturday, November 21st Entrance of the Theotokos

Orthros 8:30 Divine Liturgy 9:45

EPISTLE & GOSPEL READINGS FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH

Ephesians 2:4-10

Brethren, God who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God; not because of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Luke 8: 41-56

At that time, a lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered right; do this, and you will live."

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But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed mercy on him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

A table is set up outside of the library with pastries for sale. You can purchase your pastries on the way out .

We will also be having a Community-wide Pastry Sale on Saturday November 21st 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. open to the community. Tell your family and friends