

St. Matthew the Apostle

Saint of the Month

September 2008

Feast Day – September 21



Patron Saint of : accountants, bookkeepers, bankers

Profile: Son of Alphaeus, he lived at Capernaum on Lake Genesareth. He was a Roman tax collector, a position equated with collaboration with the enemy by those from whom he collected taxes. Jesus' contemporaries were surprised to see the Christ with someone that was a tax collector, but Jesus explained that he had come "*not to call the just, but sinners.*"

Represented by: winged man, an angel holding a pen, man holding a money bag

Character Trait: Citizenship

Virtue: Love

Family Activity:

Talk with family – Do we ever make assumptions about other people without knowing all the facts?

St. Matthew, one of the twelve Apostles, is attributed to the first Gospel. This has been the constant tradition of the Church and is confirmed by the Gospel itself. He was the son of Alphaeus and was called to be an Apostle while sitting in the tax collectors place at Capernaum. Before his conversion he was a publican, i.e., a tax collector by profession. He is to be identified with the "Levi" of Mark and Luke.

Matthew 9:9

As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the customs post.

He said to him, "Follow me." and he got up and followed him.

Prayer:

O Glorious Saint Matthew, in your Gospel you portray Jesus as the longed-for Messiah who fulfilled the Prophets of the Old Covenant and as the new Lawgiver who founded a Church of the New Covenant. Obtain for us the grace to see Jesus living in his Church and to follow his teachings in our lives on earth so that we may live forever with him in heaven. Amen.