



Saint Matthias

Feast Day: May 14th

Today we celebrate Saint Matthias, who stepped in as the twelfth disciple in Judas Iscariot's place.

Early historians and Church archives verify that Matthias was one of the 72 disciples sent out two-by-two by Jesus in the Gospels. Saint Matthias is actually only mentioned once in the entire New Testament – in the Acts of the Apostles, which records Matthias being elected by the casting of lots. He was picked over another disciple, Barsabbas, to be counted as a witness to Christ's resurrection with the other Eleven after Judas betrayed Jesus and hung himself. The book of Acts notes that Matthias “accompanied [the apostles] the whole time the Lord Jesus came and went among [them], beginning from the baptism of John until the day He was taken up” (Acts 1:21-22).

Tradition holds that Matthias was a missionary to Judaea and other areas and that he was martyred either by crucifixion or mutilation – resulting in his symbol being a cross or halberd. The last to be picked, Matthias gave up his old lifestyle – and even his very life – to continue the work of Christ alongside the other apostles. Even though there is a seeming lack of recognition for Matthias in the Bible, this does not subtract from the substantial role he played in spreading the love and hope of Jesus wherever he went.

St. Matthias, pray for us!

Question for Reflection:

Maybe you have been unrecognized or the last-picked in some area of your life; have you let that undermine what God wants to do through you?

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