

WEEK 2: LIFE OF ST. MATTHEW

HIGH SCHOOL

GOALS

Learn about the life of St. Matthew

LESSON

Materials Needed: White board & markers

Extended Learning Opportunity for Teachers:

“Apostle Matthew”

https://orthodoxwiki.org/Apostle_Matthew

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

If you feel it would be beneficial to have a follow-up to last week’s activity, feel free to review everyone’s names (especially if you have new students this week) or if you feel like you need more practice remembering the students’ names.

LIFE OF ST. MATTHEW

Read the life of St. Matthew below from the Synaxarion. As a class, construct a news story on the white board (via your teacher) about the life of St Matthew from the perspective of a modern-day reporter. This activity incorporates both a knowledge of St. Matthew’s life, but also requires the ability to differentiate between how Christians and non-Christians would view his life.

THE SIXTEENTH DAY OF NOVEMBER

The holy Apostle Matthew, the son of Alphaeus, was originally called Levi. He was a publican (a tax collector) by occupation and one day, as he was sitting at the tax office, Jesus happened to pass by, followed by a crowd of people who were listening eagerly to his teaching. The Lord turned towards Matthew, looked at him and said: *Follow me!*

Whereupon the tax collector got up and followed him without a backward glance at what he was leaving behind. Before setting out as a follower of Christ he gave a great dinner at

his house, where Jesus and his disciples were present as well as many tax collectors and other public sinners. As the Pharisees were scandalized at this, the Lord said: *Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance* (Luke 5:31; Matt. 9:12; Mark 2:17).

Matthew followed Christ in all his journeys through Palestine, and was a witness of his teachings and miracles before his Crucifixion and after his Resurrection. Like the other Apostles, he was filled with the grace of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. He was then appointed to bring the Good News to his fellow countrymen the Jews, for whom it is said that, eight years after the Ascension, he set down the Gospel in writing for the first time, using the Aramaic dialect of Hebrew. The Book of the Gospel is the account of the deeds and teachings of the Saviour written for the people that He did not reach in his earthly ministry. Saint Matthew's Gospel was translated into Greek some years later by Saint James, the first Bishop of Jerusalem, and copied by the Apostle Bartholomew (11 June). This rapidly replaced the Aramaic original, of which no copy remains.

Later on, Saint Matthew left to spread the Good News in Parthia and endured many tribulations at the hands of the pagans. He went as far as Hierapolis, on the banks of the Euphrates and, through the power of his preaching, succeeded in converting large numbers of pagans to the truth. When he was very old, he fell asleep in the Lord.

According to another tradition, after being cruelly treated by the Parthians and Medes in their resistance to the truth, the holy Apostle went to live in asceticism and contemplation on the barren wastes of a high mountain. The Lord appeared to him there in the form of a child and gave him a rod that He told him to plant in the city of Myrmena near the church. Matthew was solemnly received by Plato, the bishop of the city, and his assembled clergy. As soon as he had planted the rod in the ground it put forth shoots and produced fruits from which a delicious honey fell, drop by drop, like a foretaste of the unutterable delights of Paradise. At the same time, a spring of water welled up at the foot of the tree and all who bathed there were delivered from their passions and from the darkness of idolatry. Despite all the blessings that he obtained for the Parthians and for their royal family, the holy Apostle was put to dreadful tortures, and finally burnt to death by the King. Nevertheless, through the many miracles wrought by his holy relics, Saint Matthew was able in the end to convert the tyrant to the faith. At the moment of his Baptism, the King asked to be given the name of Matthew. He cast down the idols throughout his realm and brought his entire people into Holy Church. On the death of Bishop Plato, the King abdicated in favor of his son and became bishop himself, according to the instructions left by the holy Apostle Matthew.

WEEK 2: LIFE OF ST. MATTHEW

MIDDLE SCHOOL

GOALS

Learn about the life of St. Matthew

LESSON

Materials Needed: White board & markers

Extended Learning Opportunity for Teachers:

“Apostle Matthew”

https://orthodoxwiki.org/Apostle_Matthew

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

If you feel it would be beneficial to have a follow-up to last week’s activity, feel free to review everyone’s names (especially if you have new students this week) or if you feel like you need more practice remembering the students’ names.

LIFE OF ST. MATTHEW

Provide a written copy of the life of St. Matthew to each student. Read his life aloud (the kids can read it again to themselves, if needed, but by reading it aloud, you pronounce words some of them may not be able to read correctly on their own). Then provide instructions for each student to create their own front page newspaper story about his life: Choose the name of your newspaper, write today’s date and how much your newspaper costs for this issue, write a catchy headline about St. Matthew, write a story about his life, and draw a photo for the article with a caption. You can hang their newspaper stories below the bulletin boards in the hallway.

The goal of this activity is for our kids to remember the life of St. Matthew by incorporating details of his life into their own words through a fun way of telling a story.

ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST

Saint Matthew was the son of a man named Alphaeus. His name was originally Levi, not Matthew. His name was changed later in his life and we lovingly call him Saint Matthew the Evangelist today.

Matthew was a tax collector (a publican). The people of that time *really* didn't like tax collectors. The tax collectors were mean and oftentimes took more money from the people than they were required to take from them because they were greedy.

One day, Jesus passed by Matthew's tax office, looked at him, and said, "Follow me!" And Matthew did! Before beginning his travels with Jesus, Matthew gave one last big dinner party at his house. He invited Jesus, his disciples, and his tax collector friends. Oh, the Pharisees were shocked by this! Good Jews did not have dinner with the mean tax collectors of Rome! But Jesus calmly explained to the Pharisees that he did not come to save only the people who were making good choices, but even those who were making poor choices. The Pharisees didn't listen.

Matthew traveled with Jesus everywhere and was one of His twelve disciples. Matthew saw Jesus healing the crowds of sick people that followed them, he listened to Jesus' teachings, and witnessed the many miracles that happened.

Just like the other apostles, Matthew was filled with the Holy Spirit on Pentecost and traveled far and wide to tell others about Jesus for the rest of his life. Matthew wrote his gospel to continue teaching about Jesus even after he died. That's how important it was to Matthew to teach people about Jesus! Matthew originally wrote his gospel in Aramaic and later someone translated it into Greek so that more people could learn about Jesus.

At the end of his life, Matthew was teaching the people of Parthia about Jesus. Not all of the people wanted to learn about Him and one of them was the ruler of Parthia. This ruler tortured and put Matthew to death, but even unto his death, Saint Matthew was still lovingly trying to teach about Jesus - and it worked! This ruler was baptized and became a bishop after Saint Matthew's death. He even changed his own name to Matthew to show that he had left his old way of life and it was all due to Saint Matthew's enduring love for him.

We remember Saint Matthew every year on November 16th.

Create the name of your newspaper:

HERALD OF THE APOSTLES

No. 1

Date: Sunday, September 11, 2022

Price: (How much???)

Create a catchy headline here:

Matthew Dines with Jesus!

by:

*Write your story
about Saint Matthew's life*

Draw a picture -

- *of St. Matthew in the tax collector office*
- *of St. Matthew having his dinner party*
- *of St. Matthew traveling with Jesus*
- *of St. Matthew witnessing a miracle*
- *...something from the story that you want to include with your news story*

Caption:

WEEK 2: LIFE OF ST. MATTHEW

3RD & 4TH GRADE

GOALS

Learn about the life of St. Matthew

LESSON

Materials Needed: White board & markers

Extended Learning Opportunity for Teachers:

“Apostle Matthew”

https://orthodoxwiki.org/Apostle_Matthew

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

If you feel it would be beneficial to have a follow-up to last week’s activity, feel free to review everyone’s names (especially if you have new students this week) or if you feel like you need more practice remembering the students’ names.

LIFE OF ST. MATTHEW

Provide a written copy of the life of St. Matthew to each student. Read his life aloud (the kids can read it again to themselves, if needed, but by reading it aloud, you pronounce words some of them may not be able to read correctly on their own). Then provide instructions for each student to create their own front page newspaper story about his life: Write a story about Saint Matthew and then draw a photo for the article with a caption. Their drawing can be about Matthew in his office, Matthew’s dinner party, traveling with Jesus, etc. Finally, hang their newspaper stories on the empty bulletin boards in the hallway after class.

The goal of this activity is for our kids to remember the life of St. Matthew by incorporating details of his life into their own words through a fun way of telling a story.

ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST

Saint Matthew was the son of a man named Alphaeus. His name was originally Levi, not Matthew. His name was changed later in his life and we lovingly call him Saint Matthew the Evangelist today.

Matthew was a tax collector (a publican). The people of that time *really* didn't like tax collectors. The tax collectors were mean and oftentimes took more money from the people than they were required to take from them because they were greedy.

One day, Jesus passed by Matthew's tax office, looked at him, and said, "Follow me!" And Matthew did! Before beginning his travels with Jesus, Matthew gave one last big dinner party at his house. He invited Jesus, his disciples, and his tax collector friends. Oh, the Pharisees were shocked by this! Good Jews did not have dinner with the mean tax collectors of Rome! But Jesus calmly explained to the Pharisees that he did not come to save only the people who were making good choices, but even those who were making poor choices. The Pharisees didn't listen.

Matthew traveled with Jesus everywhere and was one of His twelve disciples. Matthew saw Jesus healing the crowds of sick people that followed them, he listened to Jesus' teachings, and witnessed the many miracles that happened.

Just like the other apostles, Matthew was filled with the Holy Spirit on Pentecost and traveled far and wide to tell others about Jesus for the rest of his life. Matthew wrote his gospel to continue teaching about Jesus even after he died. That's how important it was to Matthew to teach people about Jesus! Matthew originally wrote his gospel in Aramaic and later someone translated it into Greek so that more people could learn about Jesus.

At the end of his life, Matthew was teaching the people of Parthia about Jesus. Not all the people wanted to learn about Him and one of them was the ruler of Parthia. This ruler tortured and put Matthew to death, but even unto his death, Saint Matthew was still lovingly trying to teach about Jesus - and it worked! This ruler was baptized and became a bishop after Saint Matthew's death. He even changed his own name to Matthew to show that he had left his old way of life and it was all due to Saint Matthew's enduring love for him.

We remember Saint Matthew every year on November 16th.

THE APOSTLE TIMES

No. 1

Sunday, September 11, 2022

Price:

Extra! Extra! Read all about it!
**Matthew is Invited by
Jesus to be a Disciple**

by:

Caption:

WEEK 2: LIFE OF ST. MATTHEW

1ST & 2ND GRADE

GOALS

Learn about the life of St. Matthew

LESSON

Materials Needed: White board & markers

Extended Learning Opportunity for Teachers:

“Apostle Matthew”

https://orthodoxwiki.org/Apostle_Matthew

CLASS ROUTINE

Continue routine - move photo, light candle, venerate icon, prayer before beginning

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

If you feel it would be beneficial to have a follow-up to last week’s activity, feel free to review everyone’s names (especially if you have new students this week) or if you feel like you need more practice remembering the students’ names.

LIFE OF ST. MATTHEW

Tell a summary of the story of Saint Matthew to your class.

Ask your students to re-tell the story back to you. Remind them that this is how people learned at the time of Jesus. They would listen to stories and then re-tell them over and over again until they were memorized. Ask your students to re-tell the story to their parents during the car ride home.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Sing “Lord, have mercy” in English and Greek and then learn it in Arabic

ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST

Saint Matthew was the son of a man named Alphaeus. His name was originally Levi, not Matthew. His name was changed later in his life and we lovingly call him Saint Matthew the Evangelist today.

Matthew was a tax collector (a publican). The people of that time *really* didn't like tax collectors. The tax collectors were mean and oftentimes took more money from the people than they were required to take from them because they were greedy.

One day, Jesus passed by Matthew's tax office, looked at him, and said, "Follow me!" And Matthew did! Before beginning his travels with Jesus, Matthew gave one last big dinner party at his house. He invited Jesus, his disciples, and his tax collector friends. Oh, the Pharisees were shocked by this! Good Jews did not have dinner with the mean tax collectors of Rome! But Jesus calmly explained to the Pharisees that he did not come to save only the people who were making good choices, but even those who were making poor choices. The Pharisees didn't listen.

Matthew traveled with Jesus everywhere and was one of His twelve disciples. Matthew saw Jesus healing the crowds of sick people that followed them, he listened to Jesus' teachings, and witnessed the many miracles that happened.

Just like the other apostles, Matthew was filled with the Holy Spirit on Pentecost and traveled far and wide to tell others about Jesus for the rest of his life. Matthew wrote his gospel to continue teaching about Jesus even after he died. That's how important it was to Matthew to teach people about Jesus! Matthew originally wrote his gospel in Aramaic and later someone translated it into Greek so that more people could learn about Jesus.

At the end of his life, Matthew was teaching the people of Parthia about Jesus. Not all the people wanted to learn about Him and one of them was the ruler of Parthia. This ruler tortured and put Matthew to death, but even unto his death, Saint Matthew was still lovingly trying to teach about Jesus - and it worked! This ruler was baptized and became a bishop after Saint Matthew's death. He even changed his own name to Matthew to show that he had left his old way of life and it was all due to Saint Matthew's enduring love for him.

We remember Saint Matthew every year on November 16th.

WEEK 2: LIFE OF ST. MATTHEW

PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN

GOALS

Learn about the life of St. Matthew

LESSON

Materials Needed: White board & markers

Extended Learning Opportunity for Teachers:

“Apostle Matthew”

https://orthodoxwiki.org/Apostle_Matthew

CLASS ROUTINE

Continue routine - move photo, light candle, venerate icon, prayer before beginning

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

If you feel it would be beneficial to have a follow-up to last week’s activity, feel free to review everyone’s names (especially if you have new students this week) or if you feel like you need more practice remembering the students’ names.

LIFE OF ST. MATTHEW

Tell a summary of the story of Saint Matthew to your class.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Sing “Lord, have mercy” in English and then learn it in Greek

ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST

Saint Matthew was the son of a man named Alphaeus. His name was originally Levi, not Matthew. His name was changed later in his life and we lovingly call him Saint Matthew the Evangelist today.

Matthew was a tax collector (a publican). The people of that time *really* didn't like tax collectors. The tax collectors were mean and oftentimes took more money from the people than they were required to take from them because they were greedy.

One day, Jesus passed by Matthew's tax office, looked at him, and said, "Follow me!" And Matthew did! Before beginning his travels with Jesus, Matthew gave one last big dinner party at his house. He invited Jesus, his disciples, and his tax collector friends. Oh, the Pharisees were shocked by this! Good Jews did not have dinner with the mean tax collectors of Rome! But Jesus calmly explained to the Pharisees that he did not come to save only the people who were making good choices, but even those who were making poor choices. The Pharisees didn't listen.

Matthew traveled with Jesus everywhere and was one of His twelve disciples. Matthew saw Jesus healing the crowds of sick people that followed them, he listened to Jesus' teachings, and witnessed the many miracles that happened.

Just like the other apostles, Matthew was filled with the Holy Spirit on Pentecost and traveled far and wide to tell others about Jesus for the rest of his life. Matthew wrote his gospel to continue teaching about Jesus even after he died. That's how important it was to Matthew to teach people about Jesus! Matthew originally wrote his gospel in Aramaic and later someone translated it into Greek so that more people could learn about Jesus.

At the end of his life, Matthew was teaching the people of Parthia about Jesus. Not all the people wanted to learn about Him and one of them was the ruler of Parthia. This ruler tortured and put Matthew to death, but even unto his death, Saint Matthew was still lovingly trying to teach about Jesus - and it worked! This ruler was baptized and became a bishop after Saint Matthew's death. He even changed his own name to Matthew to show that he had left his old way of life and it was all due to Saint Matthew's enduring love for him.



www.pemptousia.ro

