

Daily Parish Communication

September 21, 2022

Good Morning All,

~On Monday, we sent information regarding St. Januarius. The attached article was posted on the National Catholic Register website.

~Adoration following the morning Mass until 4:00pm

1. Today's Readings: [Feast of Saint Matthew, Apostle and evangelist | USCCB](#)
2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus: St. Matthew was both an apostle and an evangelist. Since he is well known to all, our article is a homily about St. Matthew from the Office of Readings. Also included is an article about St. Matthew's "yes."
3. Quote of the Day: Meditation from [mycatholiclife.com](#)

*Saint Matthew, you made the right decision at the right time and so changed your life and those of millions of others who know Christ because of you. Help us to recognize when a pivot point arrives in our own life, when we must change direction, and help us to choose that direction well.*

***St. Matthew, Pray for Us!***  
***St. Joseph, Pray for Us!***

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## Blood of St. Januarius Liquefies in Naples on Feast Day

*Courtney Mares CAN/ World/September 19, 2022*

Archbishop Domenico Battaglia of Naples held up an ampoule containing the relic of the third-century martyr-saint's blood in Naples Cathedral on Sept. 19, revealing the liquefaction to shouts and cheers. The reputed miracle usually occurs up to three times a year.



*(photo: Screenshot from Chiesa di Napoli YouTube channel. / via CNA)*

The blood of St. Januarius liquefied on Monday at a Mass in Naples, where the archbishop sharply condemned the city's "cancerous mafia culture."

Archbishop Domenico Battaglia of Naples held up an ampoule containing the relic of the third-century martyr-saint's blood in Naples Cathedral on Sept. 19, revealing the liquefaction to shouts and cheers.

“Today the sign of Bishop Januarius’ blood, shed for the sake of Christ and his brethren, tells us that goodness, beauty and righteousness are and always will be victorious,” the archbishop said.

“Here is the meaning of this blood, which, united with the blood shed by Christ and that of all martyrs of every place and time, is a living testimony that love always wins.”

More than 2,000 people gathered in Naples’ Cathedral of the Assumption of Mary for the feast of St. Januarius, the city’s patron saint, known as San Gennaro in Italian. The third-century bishop is believed to have been martyred during the Christian persecution of Emperor Diocletian.



Mass is underway at Naples Cathedral on Sept. 19. Screenshot/Chiesa di Napoli YouTube Channel

In Neapolitan lore, the failure of the blood to liquefy signals war, famine, disease or other disasters. The reputed miracle usually occurs up to three times a year: Sept. 19, the saint's feast day; the first Saturday of May; and Dec. 16, the anniversary of the 1631 eruption of nearby Mount Vesuvius.

In his homily, the archbishop of Naples cautioned against reducing the veneration of the city's saint to mere superstition.

"It matters little, my brothers and sisters, whether the blood liquefies or not: Let us never reduce this celebration to an oracle to be consulted," Archbishop Battaglia said.

"Believe me, what really matters to the Lord, what our bishop and martyr Januarius strongly asks of us, is the daily commitment to stake on love," he added.



*Archbishop Battaglia holds the liquefied blood of St. Januarius on Sept. 19. | Screenshot / YouTube channel, Chiesa di Napoli*

Archbishop Battaglia also underlined the need to confront the southern Italian city's "mafia culture." He said that the "cancerous evil of the Camorra and mafia

culture, educational poverty and unemployment” are like a “plague” for the young people in Naples, often forcing them to emigrate.

The archbishop appealed to Catholics to contribute to the “educational pact” he launched in Naples last year, with the aim of reaching young people with constructive opportunities before they are drawn into organized crime.

He said: “People of Naples, what makes you magnificent is your ability to love; what can make you so even more is to draw from the source of love, which is Christ himself: Do not be afraid to follow him and magnify the Lord for what he will work in you, in your little ones, among your poor, for those who sit on the margins of society.”

*Source: ncregister.com*



## From a Homily by St Bede the Venerable, Priest

Jesus saw him through the eyes of mercy and chose him.

*Jesus saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax office, and he said to him: Follow me.* Jesus saw Matthew, not merely in the usual sense, but more significantly with his merciful understanding of men.

He saw the tax collector and, because he saw him through the eyes of mercy and chose him, he said to him: *Follow me*. This following meant imitating the pattern of his life – not just walking after him. St. John tells us: *Whoever says he abides in Christ ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.*

*And he rose and followed him.* There is no reason for surprise that the tax collector abandoned earthly wealth as soon as the Lord commanded him. Nor should one be amazed that neglecting his wealth, he joined a band of men whose leader had on Matthew's assessment, no riches at all. Our Lord summoned Matthew by speaking to him in words. By an invisible, interior impulse flooding his mind with the light of grace, he instructed him to walk in his footsteps. In this way Matthew could understand that Christ, who was summoning him away from earthly possessions, had incorruptible treasures of heaven in his gift.

*As he sat at table in the house, behold many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Jesus and his disciples.* This conversion of one tax collector gave many men, those from his own profession and other sinners, an example of repentance and pardon. Notice also the happy and true anticipation of his future status as apostle and teacher of the nations. No sooner was he converted than Matthew drew after him a whole crowd of sinners along the same road to salvation. He took up his appointed duties while still taking his first steps in the faith, and from that hour he fulfilled his obligation and thus grew in merit. To see a deeper

understanding of the great celebration Matthew held at his house, we must realize that he not only gave a banquet for the Lord at his earthly residence, but far more pleasing was the banquet set in his own heart which he provided through faith and love. Our Savior attests to this: *Behold I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into him and eat with him, and he with me.*

On hearing Christ's voice, we open the door to receive him, as it were, when we freely assent to his promptings and when we give ourselves over to doing what must be done. Christ, since he dwells in the hearts of his chosen ones through the grace of his love, enters so that he might eat with us and we with him. He ever refreshes us by the light of his presence insofar as we progress in our devotion to and longing for the things of heaven. He himself is delighted by such a pleasing banquet.

*Source: liturgies.net*

## St. Matthew the Apostle



*St. Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist*

*First Century*

### ***A lover of money becomes greedy for God***

People leave their jobs for all sorts of reasons: more pay, better opportunity, a shorter commute. Today's saint left his job for a better boss. Matthew was at work in the city of Capernaum, a bustling town with a customs house. It was just another day, and Matthew was going about his job of collecting taxes. Nearby, Jesus was

doing his job too, curing a paralyzed man. It was an ordinary day for both of them. But after performing His miracle, Jesus walked down the main street of Capernaum, saw Matthew outside of the customs house, and then...the normal day ended. Jesus said to Matthew, simply, directly, and with force, "Follow me." And then something astonishing happened. Matthew followed Him. Fistfuls of Roman coins may have spilled from his hands, or he may have swallowed a gulp in his throat, quickly adjusted his tunic, and then scurried to walk in the small clouds of dust that puffed up behind Jesus as His sandals slapped the dry ground. In an instant, Matthew's life changed forever and always. He had become a follower, a joiner, of the most important man in the history of the world.

The Gospel of Matthew nowhere mentions that it is written by a man named Matthew. But it was attributed to him very early in the life of the Church. It was compiled by 80 A.D., at the latest. Matthew's Gospel is clearly written by a Jew and for Jews. It references the Old Testament repeatedly and notes how Jesus fulfilled those ancient Scriptures. Matthew's Gospel is the only one which identifies him as a tax collector. Mark and Luke refer to him as Levi, which may have been his birth name, while Matthew ("gift of Yahweh") was his post-conversion name. Because it begins with a genealogy, Matthew's Gospel, but not Matthew himself, is in art represented by a man or by a man's face. After his big moment in Capernaum, Matthew's name consistently appears in the Gospels' lists of Apostles, but little more is said about him, apart from a feast he hosts in honor of Jesus. It is not known where he evangelized or where or how he died. Four churches in France alone claim to have Matthew's head, implying that no one has his head.

Christ passes by in every life. Everyone has their chance to say "Yes" or "No," to stay or follow, to change or remain the same. That moment may come only once and never return. Sudden callings, and sudden conversions, are rare, but they do happen. A life is more likely to plot gradually up or down like a line on a graph than to take a sharp right angle in either direction. Matthew's life angled sharply when his personal trajectory intersected with Christ's. The moment is captured in all of its drama by the painter Caravaggio in his *Calling of Saint Matthew*. A broad shaft of light beams through the room from above Christ's head. His bony finger points to a well-dressed man at a table with his hands over a pile of coins. The scene unfolds not in the street but in a darkened room. Light and darkness play. Sin and virtue tussle. Past, present, and future hang in the balance. Christ seems to say,

“Will you take and eat, will you go and sell, will you come and follow me?” Difficult, challenging questions. But Matthew gave the difficult, generous answer in response, and we remember him today due to that one moment.

*Liturgical Color: Red*

*Patron Saint of bankers, accountants, and money changers*

*Source: [mycatholic.life](http://mycatholic.life)*