

“A Great Cloud of Witnesses”

A Historical Series of the Murals on the Walls of Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian Church

Saint Matthew

First Century Ethiopia



St. Matthew is also known in the Gospels as Levi. He was a tax-gatherer at Capharnaum, collecting custom duties there. Although a Jew, he was despised by the Pharisees who hated all those who collected taxes for the Roman government.

Jesus summoned St. Matthew while he was seated at his customs post (Mt 9:9). St. Matthew was also the one who hosted a dinner for Jesus, inviting other tax-collectors and sinners to eat with them. The Pharisees protested Jesus' eating with these people, but Jesus famously replied: "I came

not to call the just, but sinners" (Mt 9:12-13).

We don't hear much about St. Matthew again in the Gospel, but tradition says he preached to the Jews and wrote the Gospel of Matthew. Ancient writers are not as one as to the countries evangelized by Matthew, but almost all mention Ethiopia to the south of the Caspian Sea (not Ethiopia in Africa), and some Persia, which includes present-day Iran, and Syria. St. Matthew is the patron saint of accountants, bookkeepers, customs officials, stockbrokers, tax collectors and security guards. **His Feast day is September 21.**

This series will feature the murals painted on the walls of Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian Church along with history and commentary. You can also find this series on our website at www.hcscchurch.org.
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