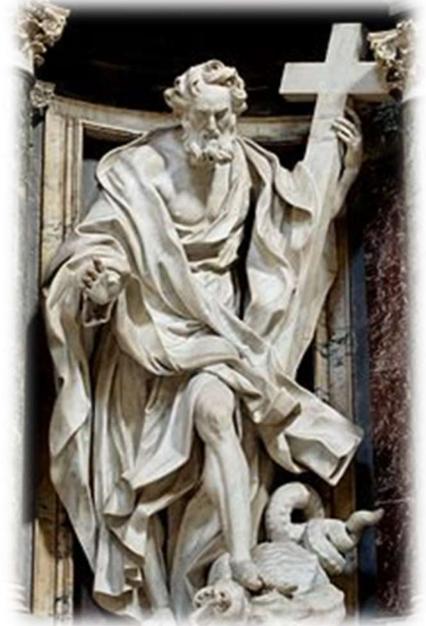


# *St. Philip the Apostle*

Roman Catholic Church



## **Wednesday, September 21, 2022**

- Wednesday of the Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time
- Feast of St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist
- Fr. Sherdel's Morning Mass Intention: ***Philip Larity***

### **First Reading: Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13**

Brothers and sisters: I, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace: one Body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

And he gave some as Apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the Body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the extent of the full stature of Christ.

### **Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 19:2-3, 4-5**

***Their message goes out through all the earth.***

The heavens declare the glory of God;  
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Day pours out the word to day,  
and night to night imparts knowledge. ***R/.***

Not a word nor a discourse  
whose voice is not heard;  
Through all the earth their voice resounds,  
and to the ends of the world, their message. ***R/.***

### **Gospel: Matthew 9:9-13**

As Jesus passed by, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the customs post. He said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. While he was at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat with Jesus and his disciples. The Pharisees saw this and said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" He heard this and said, "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, *I desire mercy, not sacrifice*. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

## **Reflection**

*Follow me. (Matthew 9:9)*

In today's Gospel, we read about the day Matthew's journey of discipleship began. Jesus called him away from his customs post, and Matthew did not delay. Abandoning his job, his livelihood, and his money, Matthew left everything and began to follow Jesus.

Matthew's wholehearted response shows us how we can react when the Lord calls us to follow him, whether for the first time or the hundredth. Leaving his station was only Matthew's first step. After spending the day with Jesus, Matthew invited him to his home to share a meal (Luke 5:29). He decided to follow Jesus, and he continued following him all the way to his passion. Then, after meeting the risen Lord and being filled with the Holy Spirit, Matthew went on to preach the good news perhaps as far away as Persia.

As we can see from the Gospel that bears his name, Matthew gradually shed the trappings of his old life and began to "live in a manner worthy of the call" he had received (Ephesians 4:1). This process of conversion took time: time spent with Jesus and time to mature. And that's just as true for us as it was for Matthew.

Jesus called us by name at our baptism, and he continues to call us to follow him each day. As he did with Matthew, he asks us to drop what we're doing and take that first step. He invites us to listen to what he's saying and discover what it means for our lives. Then, as we spend time with him, our attachments to sin and our desires for worldly comforts begin to decrease. Our love for Jesus and God's people begins to grow. And so does our desire to invite him into our "homes," our daily lives.

Jesus longs to set you free so that you can love and serve him as Matthew did. He will gladly come into your life more deeply if you invite him. Who knows how God might use you as a witness to his love? But your journey along the path of conversion begins with a simple step taken each day. So imitate Matthew's wholehearted yes, and let Jesus lead you so that you can live a life worthy of his call.

*Jesus, I want to follow you today and every day.*

## **An Act of Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus,  
I believe that You  
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament  
I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment  
receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there  
and unite myself wholly to You.  
Never permit me to be separated from You.  
Amen.

## **Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel**

St. Michael the Archangel,

defend us in battle.

Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,  
and do thou,

O Prince of the heavenly hosts,

by the power of God,

thrust into hell Satan,

and all the evil spirits,

who prowl about the world

seeking the ruin of souls.

Amen.