



St. Matthias (First Century)
Patron Saint of Alcoholism

The Acts of the Apostles 1:15-26 tells us that the eleven apostles decided to replace the traitor Judas (who had hanged himself on Good Friday) so that their number would be twelve again. One of the Lord's disciples, Matthias, was chosen.

According to tradition, St. Matthias preached the Gospel in Ethiopia and was martyred there. He may have written one or more letters, but none have survived the centuries. Yet a third-century Egyptian theologian, St. Clement of Alexandria, quotes a single sentence attributed to Matthias: "We must combat our flesh, set no value on it, and concede to it nothing that can flatter it." [*Editor's note: Those who fight the disease of alcoholism know well the strength that it takes, and the desire to "concede nothing."*]

Feast Day: May 14

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