

Today is the Feast of St. Matthias, the “thirteenth” Apostle.

Matthias was, as we heard in the first reading, chosen by lot from the disciples who were with Jesus from John’s Baptizing in the Jordan until the Ascension.

Matthias is held by tradition to have gone to the area that is now the eurasian country of Georgia (not to be confused with the US state) which is bordered by the Black Sea, Russia, Turkey, Armenia, and Azerbaijan ... where he is said to have preached the Gospel to the cannibals there.

Another tradition holds that he was stoned and beheaded in Jerusalem.

According to an old tradition, St. Matthias's Day is said to be the luckiest day of the year, because he was chosen by lot to become an Apostle. I suppose this could make today a good day to buy a lottery tickets or go to the casino.

The Gospel provides us with a portion of Jesus’ farewell discourse, where he tells the disciples to “remain in [His] love.” It is important that we realize that we are to remain, or abide in Christ’s love. Human nature often takes over and leaves us on the outside ... yet His grace and mercy can allow us to abide in God’s love.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, let us pray for an outpouring of grace in this Eucharist so that we might more and more remain in ... and abide in ... the love of Jesus Christ.