



ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S

Liturgical Year A: The Gospel according to Matthew

The new Liturgical Year begins in Advent; this year is Year A and the focus throughout the year is on Matthew's Gospel. As we listen to this Gospel proclaimed throughout our liturgies this year, let's reflect a little on some of the key understandings about Matthew's Gospel.

There is no clear agreement on the author or date when this Gospel was compiled. Tradition has it that the author was Matthew (Levi) a disciple of Jesus.

However, this Gospel seems to have used almost all of Mark's Gospel and has much in

common with the Gospel of Luke. The majority of scholars date this Gospel between 80 and 100 AD. Matthew's Gospel is thorough; it contains much of Mark and Luke and is well organized that it became one of the most widely used and popular used Gospel in the life of the early Church.

The writer of the Gospel of Matthew, like each of the Gospel writers, gathered all the stories and traditions about Jesus into a coherent understandable story for the early Christian communities. Each Gospel was responding to the needs of a particular Christian community and audience in a particular location and a particular time. Matthew's Gospel is well organized and well written. There is clear indication that the writer particularly addresses the Jewish community to show that Jesus was the long awaited Messiah according to Jewish tradition. Jesus' life is shown as the fulfillment of the promises God made to the Jewish people throughout their history. Jesus is often shown to be a true teacher of the Jewish Law. The Gospel describes Jesus' teaching in a simple effective way.

This would indeed be very helpful for those becoming early Christians.

Particularly, Matthew connects the continuity between Judaism and Christianity.*

**A good resource for more on the Gospels: Zanzig, Thomas(1982): Jesus is Lord, A Basic Christology for Adults. Winona: St. Mary's Press.*

