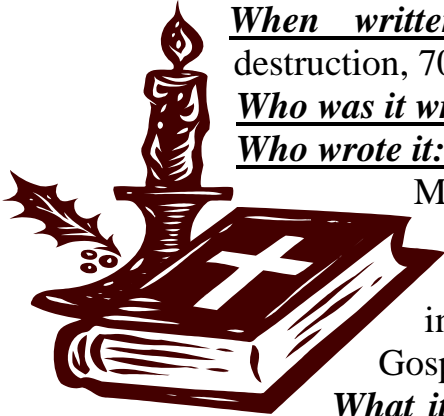


Dear friends, inspired by Pope Francis's recent designation of the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time being the "Sunday of the Word of God," which is meant to deepen our hunger to know, reflect on, and live out God's Word from the Bible, here is bulletin insert #2 to help understand Holy Scripture better. Since Matthew is the source for most Gospel passages used at Sunday Masses in 2020 (Matthew is used for Year A of the 3-year Lectionary Cycle at Sunday Masses), it's only fitting to give a brief overview of this Gospel, which will hopefully inspire you to take more time with it during the course of this year. Enjoy! (from Fr. Steve)

Introducing the Gospel of Matthew (by Fr. Steve Lape)



When written: c.80-85 A.D.(It alludes to Jerusalem's destruction, 70 A.D. (22:7), so,after 70.)

Who was it written for: Jewish Christians

Who wrote it: author unknown--Many have believed St. Matthew (apostle) wrote it. Yet, if it were truly Matthew, then why not rely on his own recollections of being with Jesus, instead of relying extensively on Mark's Gospel when Mark never met Jesus?)



What its sources were: 3-main sources: Mark's Gospel, plus a source that Mt & Lk both used (known as the Q source), plus a source only Mt used (known as the M source).

Its main themes: Jesus fulfills Jewish law & the prophets (see 1:22-23), gives it new life & meaning (as shown in his teachings on the Sermon on the Mount, ch. 5-7.) He's the greatest prophet, the kingly Messiah who is in the long line of the Jewish forefathers, in the same family tree as Abraham and King David. He is the Savior, not only of the Jews, but of all people, the One foretold who offers freedom in His love. He is Healer of body, mind & spirit, casting out demons, curing physical afflictions & forgiving sins. This news is to be shared to all nations, making disciples of all peoples and baptizing them (Mt 28:19-20)

Its History, Contents & Structure: Mt is the longest of the 4 Gospels, with 28 chapters (24 in Luke, 21 in John, & 16 in Mark). In the Bible, it's the 1st "book" in the New Testament section & among the Gospels, mainly because early Christians, especially going back to the late 2nd century, believed it was the first Gospel written. It was also the Gospel seemingly given the highest importance, quoted more in other literature in the early church years than any others, which shows the highest reverence accorded then to this Gospel. (Scholars now say that Mark was written first.) The main sections of Matthew include: Ch. 1-2—Infancy narrative//Ch. 3-7—Jesus proclaims the Kingdom//Ch. 8-11:1—Jesus' Ministry & Mission in Galilee (northern-most region of ancient Palestine)//Ch. 11:2-13:53—Opposition from Israel//Ch.13:54-Ch.18—Jesus, the Kingdom, & the Church//Ch. 19-25—Ministry in Judea & Jerusalem//Ch.26-28—Jesus' Passion and Resurrection. Matthew is 2nd to Luke with the most parables from Jesus, with about 10 that are only found in Mt. Five discourses of Jesus are here: Sermon on the Mount (ch. 5-7), missionary words (10:5-42), parables (13:3-52), "church order" (18:3-35), and end of times (eschatological words) (24:4-25:46). They all end with: "When Jesus finished these *words* (or *commands* or *parables*)..."