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# St Francis



February 24, 2016

## Unnoticed

*... and the lot fell to Matthias,  
and he was numbered with the eleven apostles  
Acts 1:26*

### **Matthias**

Today is the Feast of St. Matthias. He was chosen by lot to fill the vacancy among the apostles Jesus chose left by Judas Iscariot. After his selection he is not mentioned again in the New Testament. While there is a tradition

that he was an exemplary apostle, he is nameless and faceless in Christian history after his selection as an apostle. This gives rise to many interesting explanations leading to different views on the nature of apostolic ministry. There is, however, something far more compelling about the story of Matthias. This apostle lived in a way which presents a very deep challenge to us.

### ***Following Matthias' Example Today***

The apostolic ministry of Matthias has gone completely unnoticed except for his reputation as an exemplary apostle. None of his activity, work, visits, ministry, or teaching is recorded. He had been with Jesus and the others from the beginning and would know how to do the work of ministry as well as the other apostles. Nothing, however, is recorded. That is the challenge to us. How much are we willing to do to work, pray and give for the extension of the kingdom of God without being noticed at all? To take it one step further, how many of us plan a "secret history" with God in which we try not to be noticed for following the ways of Jesus? It is important not to take that too far. We need the encouragement and accountability of others to follow Jesus. We also need to die to ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him. The balance between a secret history with Jesus and an accountable, transparent life gives us a life that looks more and more like the life of Jesus. Where does that balance lie for you?

## **Coming Attractions**

### ***February 28, 2016***

Symphony Missional Community leads worship at Symphony Manor at 9:00am. Contact Bobbie Leviness at [bobbiedrew@yahoo.com](mailto:bobbiedrew@yahoo.com)

Worship at 10:00am

***March 2, 2016*** Color Me Friends 6:30pm at St. Francis contact Carol Maher at [carolsdream@gmail.com](mailto:carolsdream@gmail.com)

***March 6, 2016*** Worship at 10:00am

### ***March 9, 2016***

Vestry Committee 4:00pm

Theology on Tap 6:30pm contact Richard Walker at [richardandhedy@yahoo.com](mailto:richardandhedy@yahoo.com)

Caregivers' Support Group at 7:00pm. Contact Susan Kidd at [sokidd@comcast.com](mailto:sokidd@comcast.com)

***Please bring non-perishable food to worship*** to be distributed to the Food Pantry of the Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services

### ***Centerville Circle of Prayer***

For State Farm Insurance, David G. Greene, Agent. That the kingdom of God would spread throughout the area, and that business would increase.

### ***Diocese of Virginia***

For the clergy and people of St. Mary's, Fleeton; St. Stephen's, Heathsville;  
St. Bartholomew's, Richmond; St. Matthew's, Richmond; St. Peter's,  
Richmond; St. Philip's, Richmond.

***Metropolitan Richmond***

For enhancement of our common life in Jesus' Name through the Holy  
Spirit, and for the resurrection of Metropolitan Richmond as a region of  
hope for the world.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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