

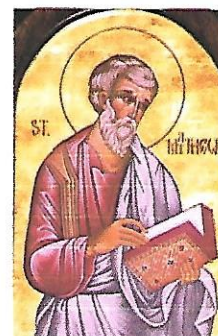


September 14 Holy Cross Day

In the Episcopal or Anglican communion, September 14th is called Holy Cross Day which commemorates the cross used in the crucifixion of Jesus. This is the day to celebrate the cross itself, as the instrument of salvation. The Cross of Jesus' crucifixion was discovered in 326 by Saint Helena, a mother of the Roman emperor Constantine the Great, during a pilgrimage she made to Jerusalem. The Church of the Holy Sepulcher was then built at the site of the discovery in 335. The lectionary of the church of England and other Anglican churches stipulates red as the liturgical color for Holy Cross Day.

September 21 Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Matthew the Apostle, also known as Saint Matthew and as Levi, was one of the twelve Apostles of Jesus and was one of the four Evangelists. Matthew was a 1st century Galilean. He was known as a tax collector and government official in Capernaum before he met Jesus and was known with contempt everywhere. Jesus said "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners" (*Mark 2:15-17*). The New Testament records that as a disciple of Jesus, he was one of the witnesses of the Resurrection and the Ascension of Jesus. His tomb is located in the crypt of Salerno Cathedral in Southern Italy. Matthew is recognized as a Saint in the Anglican church. His feast day is celebrated on September 21st. The liturgical color is red.



September 20 Saint Michael and All Angels

Michaelmas, the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel (also the Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, Uriel and Raphael, the Feast of the Archangels) is the day in the Western Christian liturgical year that occurs on September 29th. The liturgical color is white. In Christianity, the Archangel Michael is the greatest of all the Archangels and is honored for defeating Lucifer in the war in heaven. He is one of the principal angelic warriors, seen as a protector against the dark of night and the administer of cosmic intelligence.



In medieval England, Michaelmas marked the ending of the farmers year, when the harvest was over and the help would be paid. *Folklore* in the British Isles suggests that Michaelmas day is the last day that blackberries can be picked. It is said that when St. Michael expelled the devil from heaven, the devil fell from the skies and landed in a prickly blackberry bush. Satan cursed the fruit, stamped and spat on them so that they would be unfit for eating. It is ill-advised to eat them after Sept. 29th, so Michaelmas pie is made from the last of the season. Michaelmas has defined time and seasons for secular purposes as well. Because it falls near the equinox, it is associated in the Northern hemisphere with the beginning of autumn and shorter days. The U.S. Supreme Court was known to follow the tradition of convening each new term the first Monday in October after Sept. 29th. St. Michael is the patron saint of police officers and is known as a Blue Mass in observance of Michaelmas.