

# 4

## Synoptic Gospels

**Sandali :** Mother, Rebecca of our class has written a beautiful poem about Lord Jesus and it is in the Children's corner of the Catholic Messenger. Look, it is very nice.

**Mother :** What a good thing.

**Sandali :** Mother, I too like to know about Lord Jesus. I want to know teachings of Lord Jesus, how He healed the sick, etc.

**Mother :** If so, you have to read the Gospels. It is the best way to know about Lord Jesus.

**Sandali :** Will I be able to finish it?

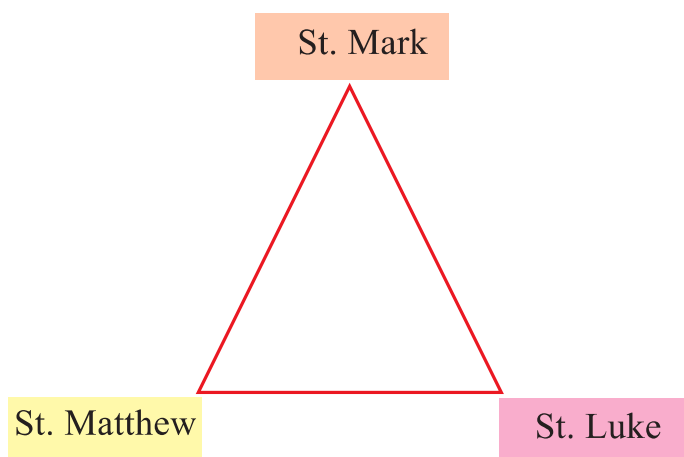
**Mother :** Why not? First read the synoptic Gospels.

**Sandali :** What do you mean by "Synoptic Gospels?" I have not heard such a word.

**Mother :** Well, I will tell you, what "Synoptic Gospels" are.

There are three synoptic Gospels. They are:

1. The Gospel of St. Matthew
2. The Gospel of St. Mark
3. The Gospel of St. Luke



These Gospels are called by that name, because there are many similarities among them. These three evangelists present information about Lord Jesus in a more or less similar manner.

The synoptic Gospels present Lord Jesus' baptism in a similar manner. The following quotations testify to that fact:

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

(Matthew 3:17)

And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

(Mark 1:11)

And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

(Luke 3:22)

We learnt about the Gospel of St. Luke in grade eight. From this lesson, let's learn about another two Gospels, St. Matthews and St. Mark.

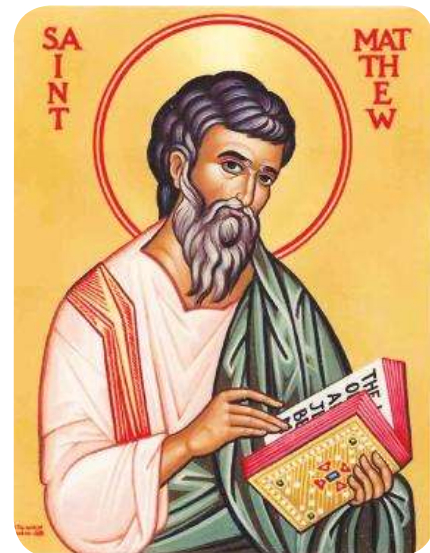
## The Gospel of St. Matthew

**Author :** St. Matthew, the apostle.

**Time :** 80-90 A.D.

**Purpose :** Jesus is the New Moses and the New Messianic Teacher.

**Other Names:** The Gospel of the Kingdom of God.  
The Gospel of the Church.



Picture 4.1 - St. Matthew

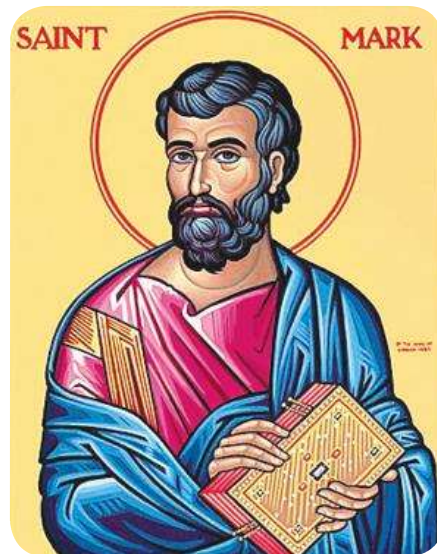
## The Gospel of St. Mark

**Author :** St. Mark.

**Time :** 64-66 A.D.

**Purpose :** To strengthen the faith of the first Christians, who were persecuted under the Roman emperor, Nero.

**Other Names :** The Gospel of Passion.



Picture 4.1 - St. Mark

In the same way, we should be courageous to witness to Lord Jesus Christ in the face of various challenges. We have to imitate St. Mark's Christian community who were faithful to their faith in the face of persecutions, launched by the Roman emperor. Daily we must respond to the challenges that come in our way.

God has given us so many talents. For them, we should be grateful to Him. Like the evangelists, we should make use of our talents to spread the Good News.

### Activity



1. Name the synoptic Gospels.
2. Write two other names, used to the Gospel of St. Matthew.
3. Write the purpose of writing the Gospel of St. Mark.



### For Life

Let us witness to Lord Jesus Christ in the face of challenges.