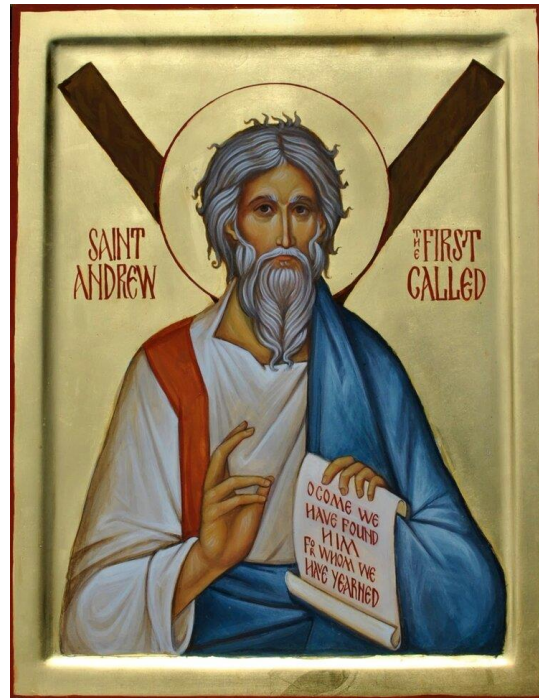


**St Ignatios of Antioch
Melkite Greek Catholic Church
1003 Merry Street
Augusta, Georgia 30904
706 364-6219**



**27th Sunday after Pentecost
3 December 2023**

27th Sunday after Pentecost



St. Andrew

ONE OF THE MOST REVERED New Testament figures in the Christian East is the Apostle Andrew the First Called. His title comes from the first mention of him in the Gospel of John: *"The next day, John stood with two of his disciples. And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, 'Behold the Lamb of God!' The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, 'What do you seek?' They said to Him, 'Rabbi' (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), 'where are You staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour). One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus"* (John 1:35-42).

As disciples of John the Baptist, Andrew and Peter were among those with a firmer faith, ready to make a deeper commitment to God in their lives. And so when they next encountered Jesus back home in their adopted home town of Capernaum (the Gospel calls Andrew a native of Bethsaida), the result should not strike us as odd. *"Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, 'Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men.' They immediately left their nets and followed Him"* (Matthew 4:18-20).

While Peter, James and John came to be the foremost of Christ's closest followers, Andrew had a prominent place as well.

In the Gospel of John he appears as a kind of go-to person for Jesus, bringing people to Him and presumably keeping the crowds at bay. It was Andrew who reported to Jesus about the lad with the five loaves and two fish. When Jesus and His disciples had arrived in Jerusalem for the Passover we are told that, *"Now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast. Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn Andrew and Philip told Jesus"* (John 12:20-22). Since both Philip and Andrew had Greek names – not unusual in Galilee since the second or third century BC – it was perhaps natural that these Greek pilgrims approached them.

St Andrew and the Early Church

After Pentecost, at which he was present, there is no further mention of Andrew in the New Testament. Our next reference to this apostle is in Eusebius' *History of the Church* 3, 1 written in the fourth century. There he quotes Origen as saying that Andrew brought the Gospel to Scythia.

The region known as Scythia in the ancient world corresponds to portions of today's nations of Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine. For this reason Churches in these nations have a particular devotion to St. Andrew. Ukrainians, for example hold that St Andrew planted a cross on the site of the future city of Kiev, prophesying that a great Christian center would be established there in time. *The Primary Chronicle* of the eleventh-century Monk Nestor added that St. Andrew's apostolic preaching took him as far as Novgorod, making him apostle to Russia as well.

Another city claiming a connection with St Andrew is Constantinople. Founded in the fourth century by St Constantine the Great, this city was built on the site of the earlier town of Byzantium. A work entitled *On the Seventy Apostles of Christ* and attributed to Hippolytus of Rome (+ 235) identified Stachys, one of the Lord's seventy disciples as the first bishop of Byzantium. Later tradition held that Stachys was given leadership of the Church at Byzantium by St. Andrew. Thus the Church of Constantinople would claim to be founded by an apostle like the other Apostolic Churches (Jerusalem, Antioch, etc.).

Death of St Andrew

According to the second-century *Acts of Andrew*, the apostle was martyred in Patras, an important center in central Greece, then capital of the province of Achaia. Seized by order of the proconsul Aegeates for converting his wife, St Andrew was condemned to be crucified. According to the Acts, St. Andrew spoke to the bystanders from the cross, saying: "Listen to us rather who hang here for the Lord's sake and are about to depart out of this body. Renounce all the lusts of the world, spit upon the worship of abominable idols and establish your minds as men believing in Christ."

The tradition that St Andrew asked to be crucified on an X-shaped cross because he was unworthy of being placed on a cross like Christ's is of later origin, probably in imitation of St. Peter.

The relics of St. Andrew were preserved by the Christians in Patras. In 357 they were taken to Constantinople by order of Emperor Constantius and interred in the Church of the Holy Apostles, built by his father, St Constantine, to house the remains of all the apostles. The saint's skull was returned to Patras by Emperor Basil I (867-886).

The relics remaining in Constantinople were taken to Italy when the city was sacked by the Crusaders in 1204. When the present St Peter's Basilica was constructed in the sixteenth century they were encased in one of the great columns surrounding the altar. In 1964 Pope Paul VI had the relics removed and returned to Patras, the first of many such ecumenical gestures in recent years. In 1980 fragments of the cross of St Andrew, venerated in Marseilles since the Crusades, were also returned. They are enshrined together with the relics in the Cathedral of St Andrew, the largest church in the Balkans.

St. Andrew Today

In recent years St. Andrew has become an important focus in the growing friendship between Rome and Constantinople. Since 1969 a delegation from the Roman Catholic Church has visited Constantinople each November to participate in the feast of St Andrew, patron of the Byzantine Church. Every June a Greek

Orthodox delegation has traveled to Rome for its patronal feast of Saints Peter and Paul. Several times these delegations have been led by the Pope of Rome and the Ecumenical Patriarch.

You had walked in the light of the Forerunner. But when the incarnate Image of the Father's glory appeared to save mankind in His mercy, you were the first to follow after Him, O illustrious Andrew, whose spirit was illumined by the perfect splendor of His radiant divinity. Thus you were the Apostle and Herald of Christ our God: entreat Him to save and enlighten our souls.

Renouncing the catching of fish, you became a fisher of men with the rod of divine preaching and the hook of faith, O illustrious Apostle, who fished the whole assembly of the nations up from the depths of error. You are the brother of Peter, whose voice went out to instruct the whole world. O Andrew, do not cease to intercede for us, the faithful, who celebrate your sacred memory with their whole heart.

Seeing the God you loved walking in the flesh on earth, O first-called of His eye-witnesses, you cried out to your brother, full of joy: "Simon, we have found the One whom we love!" Then you spoke to the Savior in the words of David: "Like the deer that yearns for living streams, so my soul is thirsting for You, O Christ our God!" Loving Him ever more deeply, you joined Him by means of the Cross, as a true disciple imitating His passion; since you share His glory, ceaselessly pray to Him for our souls.

WE HAVE RECEIVED A VERY GENEROUS OFFER – during the season of the Christmas Fast (beginning 15 November) an anonymous parishioner has offered to match any donations we receive two to one. This is a wonderful opportunity to make your generosity to the parish count even more!

Sunday Collections

Attendance	Date	Collection
39	8 October 2023	\$1,192.00
40	15 October 2023	\$451.00
38	22 October 2023	
37	29 October 2023	
37	5 November 2023	\$459.00
39	12 November 2023	\$375.00
35	19 November 2023	\$35.00
25	26 December 2023	\$3,360.00

Divine Liturgy Intentions:

For the Living:

Bishop Francois, Fr. John Azar, Fr. James Graham, Fr. Michael Copenhagen, David Mangelsdorf, Brian Frank, Nookid Graham, Ali de la Vega, Dn. Kent & Diana Plowman, Mandie, Nick Baiad, Charlie & Kathleen Barnette, Alfonso de la Vega, Michael A Skrocki, Medical Personnel and First Responders

For the Dead:

Announcements

We are live-streaming on our Facebook page at the following days & times:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 8:00AM, The Third Hour

Friday – 6:00 PM Weekday Vespers

Saturday – 6:00PM Great Vespers

Sunday – 9:00AM Orthros & 10:00AM Divine Liturgy

JOIN US IN PRAYING the 3rd Hour on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8am. This is a short prayer service from our version of the Liturgy of the Hours. It lasts less than 20 minutes or so. Come join us!

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES AROUND TOWN – Most Holy Trinity parish will be hosting a Men's Holy Hour every Friday morning from 6-7am. There will also be a coffee hour and reflection time afterwards – Men from all parishes are invited to attend for whatever portion of the time they are available. For the Ladies – St. Joseph's will be hosting a Women's Holy Hour on the first Monday of each month at 7pm.

Resurrectional Troparion

(Tone 2)



When you des - cend - ed to Death, O Im - mor - tal



Life, You put Ha-des to death by the splen - dor of



Your Di - vin - i - ty, and when You raised the dead



from be - low the earth, all the Hea - ven - ly Po - wers



cried out to You: O Gi - ver of Life, Christ our God,



glo - ry to You!

Pre-Christmas Kondakion

(Nov. 26 - Dec. 24)

(Tone 2)

To - day the Vir - gin is on her way to the cave where she
will give birth to the E - ter - nal Word of God in an
in - ef - fa - ble man - ner. Re - joice there - fore,
O U - ni - verse when you hear this news, and
glo - ri - fy with the an - gels and the shep - herds,
Him who shall ap - pear as a new Child be - ing God from
all e - ter - ni - ty.

Prokimenon

Reader: My strength and my courage is the Lord, and he has been my Savior.

All: My strength and my courage is the Lord, and he has been my Savior.

Reader: The Lord has chastised me through his teaching, yet he has not delivered me to death.

All: My strength and my courage is the Lord, and he has been my Savior.

Reader: My strength and my courage is the Lord,

All: And he has been my Savior.

Readings for the Week:

Monday:	2 nd Timothy 2:20-26	Mark 8:11-21
Tuesday:	2 nd Timothy 3:16-4:4	Mark 8:22-26
Wednesday:	2 nd Timothy 4:9-22	Mark 8:30-34
Thursday:	Titus 1:5-14	Mark 9:9-15
Friday:	Titus 1:15-2:10	Mark 9:32-40
Saturday:	Ephesians 1:16-23	Luke 14:1-11

Saints of the Week:

Dec. 3: Holy Prophet Zephaniah
Dec. 4: Holy Great-Martyr Barbara and our Father John of Damascus
Dec. 5: Holy Father Sabas the Sanctified
Dec. 6: Holy Father Nicholas the Wonderworker Archbishop of Myra in Lycia
Dec. 7: Holy Father Ambrose, Bishop of Milan
Dec. 8: Preparation for the Feast of the Maternity of Ann and our Father Patapius
Dec. 9: Feast of the Maternity of Ann
Dec. 10: Holy Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes & Eugephus

Word Search

R	G	D	W	A	M	K	M	C	J	L	O	U	D	E	R
H	Q	W	B	E	Z	E	P	A	S	I	G	H	T	U	Z
Q	J	O	J	S	V	H	R	B	S	A	V	E	D	B	J
B	C	R	F	C	T	V	V	C	C	E	A	U	Z	V	Z
E	C	C	R	G	K	L	B	Q	Y	A	V	Q	V	Z	E
E	R	D	E	D	N	A	M	M	O	C	X	T	X	F	C
U	D	J	K	J	Y	Q	Y	C	B	E	G	G	I	N	G
S	X	I	J	G	L	O	R	I	F	Y	I	N	G	X	V
H	I	A	S	B	L	B	V	D	J	H	V	H	X	I	R
B	N	L	L	Y	P	C	N	C	J	I	T	W	F	E	U
D	G	O	E	N	A	I	F	E	T	E	C	A	C	P	V
I	C	R	S	N	L	W	R	M	R	D	I	E	I	C	J
V	A	F	S	B	C	I	R	A	J	T	I	R	J	E	S
A	K	Z	M	M	C	E	Z	W	H	V	E	E	S	C	O
D	H	X	J	H	X	A	Z	M	E	U	Q	U	G	M	G
W	P	Q	O	C	N	B	M	M	E	X	S	J	M	C	T

Begging
Blind
Commanded
Crowd
David
Faith
Glorifying
Jericho
Jesus
Louder

Mercy
Nazareth
Receive
Saved
See
Sight
Silence
Son
Wayside

Parish Information:

Rt. Rev. Michael Skrocki, JCD
Pastor

abounamike@aol.com

Knights of Columbus
JFK Council

1st Wednesday of the month, 7pm
Most Holy Trinity

4th Degree Assembly
2nd Wednesday of the month, 7pm
St. Ignatios

Publicans Prayer Group
Postponed until Further Notice

New Parishioners:
Please register with Fr. Michael.

Mystery of Holy Confession
Please contact Fr. Michael to set up a convenient time.

Mystery of Christian Initiation
Expectant parents should notify Fr. Michael prior to the birth of the child. Adult converts should contact Fr. Michael so arrangements may be made for any necessary instruction and sacraments.

Mystery of Holy Crowning
Those planning to marry should notify the Fr. Michael
at least six months prior to the desired Wedding date.

Mystery of Holy Anointing
Please notify Fr. Michael when you or a family member is in need of anointing.

To report sexual abuse by clergy, parish personnel or volunteers of the Eparchy of Newton, please call the **Victim Assistance Coordinator** at 1-800-479-5910.