

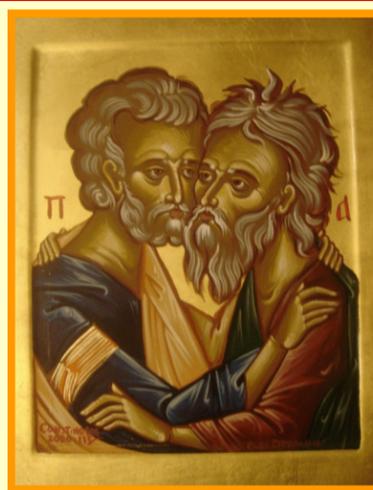
Scripture Readings

EPISTLE Romans 2:10-16 Brethren, glory and honor and peace for every one who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. All who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. When Gentiles who have not the law do by nature what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that what the law requires is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or perhaps excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL Matthew 4:18-23 At that time, as Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left their boat and their father, and followed him. And he went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.



Gospel Reflection: The Call of Discipleship—All or Nothing

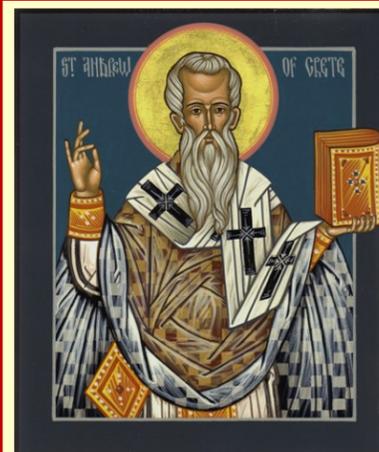


Sts. Peter and Andrew

Today's Gospel passage illustrates the radical call to discipleship. Christ finds the fishermen Andrew and Peter, James and John, as they were earning their living. Out of nowhere, He states, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." All four men immediately stopped their work and left behind their lives to follow this unknown rabbi. Without hesitation or question, they changed the course of their entire lives, to follow Jesus. How do we respond to the call of Jesus Christ to discipleship? Do we hesitate or hold back? Do we give Christ a mere part of ourselves, without surrendering our complete person to His way? Are we ready to truly change our lives and our lifestyles, to give ourselves more fully to Christ? Are we ready to remove from our lives those with whom we know we should not associate, to consider Christian discipleship more seriously? Do we embrace our faith only if it does not require too much discomfort, sacrifice, or pain? The Holy Church reminds us today that Christ wants our total person. He wants to be the center of our daily lives, and not have to fight our unbridled ego for that position. Jesus confronts our lifestyle and asks us: "Am I the one who sits on the throne of your heart, or is it your own self-satisfying ego sitting there?" For Orthodox Christians, this means that we need to literally re-organize

our life's priorities, no matter how difficult or demanding, to the life of Christ. The first-called Apostles responded right away. Though they must have wondered and worried about their living, their families, their friends, and the lives to which they were accustomed, they unflinchingly committed themselves to following the Rabbi from Nazareth. There were no guarantees given, no rewards mentioned, no plan laid out for them other than the words of the Lord: "I will make you fishers of men." Is such a personal and spiritual surrender possible for us? If we convince ourselves that we just cannot do it, it will not happen. If we worry about the risks of discipleship to what we own, to our comforts and our lives, it will not happen. If we demand in return a blueprint for what we are going to be called to do, or a reward for our effort, it will not happen. By asking His Apostles to surrender, Jesus asks us to give ourselves over in trust to Him, to change the way we are existing and to begin the wonder of true living in, for, and through Him. In the examples of the Apostles today, we have the hope that we can hear Christ's call to discipleship and offer to Him our most precious possession – ourselves. What do you offer the Lord Jesus?

St. Andrew of Crete: Archbishop, Theologian, and Hymnographer (July 4)



St. Andrew, Archbishop of Crete, was born in 650 in Damascus, into a pious Christian family. Until he was seven, he was mute and did not speak. However, after communing the Holy Mysteries of Christ, he found the gift of speech, began to speak, and then earnestly studied Holy Scripture and the discipline of theology. At fourteen, he went to Jerusalem and accepted monastic tonsure at the monastery of St. Savva the Sanctified. St. Andrew led a strict and chaste life. He was meek and abstinent, and all were amazed at reasoning of mind. As a virtuous man of great talent, he over time came to be numbered among the Jerusalem clergy and was appointed a writing clerk for the Patriarchate. In 680, the Jerusalem Patriarchate included archdeacon Andrew among the representatives of the Holy City sent to the Sixth Ecumenical Council. There, St. Andrew used his profound knowledge of Orthodox doctrine to content against heretical teachings. After the Council concluded, he was summoned to Constantinople and appointed archdeacon at the Cathedral of Hagia Sophia (Wisdom of God). During the reign of the emperor Justinian II (685-695), St. Andrew was ordained bishop of the city of

Gortineia, on the island of Crete. In his new position, he excelled as a true luminary of the Church. A theologian, teacher, and hymnographer, he was considered a great hierarch. His discourses are known for their dignified and harmonious phraseology, for which he is considered one of the foremost ecclesiastical orators of the Byzantine epoch. St. Andrew also wrote many liturgical hymns, and he created a new liturgical form - the canon. His masterpiece is the Great Canon of Repentance, the longest canon ever composed, with sections. Written primarily in the first person, as a dialogue between St. Andrew and his soul, it draws chronologically on hundreds of positive and negative references from the Old and New Testaments to convince himself to repent for his sinful soul and to humbly return to God. Its other distinguishing features are a spirit of mournful humility, hope in God, and complex and beautiful Trinitarian Doxologies and hymns to the Theotokos in each ode. It is read in portions in the service of Compline the first four nights of the First Week of Lent, and again on Thursday of the Fifth Week at the All-night Vigil during Matins, when the entire life of St. Mary of Egypt is also read. St. Andrew of Crete gained renown with his many praises of the All-Pure Virgin Mary. To him are also ascribed the Canon for the feast of the Nativity of Christ, three odes for the Compline of Palm Sunday, and in the first four days of Holy Passion Week, as well as verses for the feast of the Meeting of the Lord, and many other church hymns. His hymnographic tradition was continued by the churchly great melodists of following ages: Sts. John of Damascus, Cosma of Maium, Joseph the Melodist, and Theophan the Written-upon. St. Andrew died in 740 in Mytilene, and his relics were transferred to Constantinople. Holy Father Andrew, pray to God for us.



For Their Blessed Repose

Konstantinos "Takis" Dinos
(1 year)
Gus J. Anagnostopoulos
(2 years)

May they rest in peace and rise
in glory and may their memory
be eternal!



During the Summer Heat

With the arrival of the hot and humid weather, please remember to dress appropriately for Divine Worship in this House of God during the months ahead. "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:2)

Save and Protect, O Lord, These Thy Servants

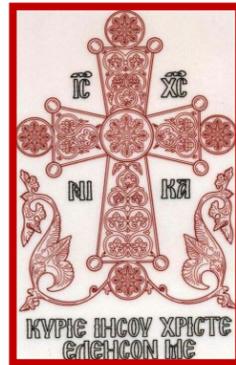
His Eminence Metropolitan Panteleimon of Antinoes, His Eminence Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia, Abbess Christophora, Anatoly Seraphim, Megan, Patrick, Paul, Doris, Shelika, Nicole,

Prayer on July 4 — Independence Day



Almighty God, you rule all the peoples of the earth. Inspire the minds of all women and men to whom you have committed the responsibility of government and leadership in the nations of the world. Give to them the vision of truth and justice, that by their counsel all nations and peoples may work together. Give to the people of our country zeal for justice, and strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with Your gracious will. For-

give our shortcomings as a nation. Purify our hearts to see and love the truth. God of justice and Lord of all, You guide all of creation with fatherly care. On this Independence Day, we recall the day when our country secured its place among the family of nations. You reveal that those who work for peace will be called Your daughters and sons. Continue to send Your Spirit to touch the hearts and minds of all who cherish the rights you have bestowed upon us to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. As You have called us to be one nation, grant that under Your providence, our country may share Your blessings with all the peoples of the earth. Father, the crown of Your Creation was the gift of human freedom, without which we cannot be whole or complete. Heal our nation of the scourge of divisiveness, violence, and the specter of evil that delights in the pain among our fellow citizens. May each of us respect the freedom of others, so that each of us may draw closer to one another in hope, humility, and respect. For this gift of human freedom, we praise You and render thanks to You. Protect this God-saved nation and grant that she remain faithful to your promises. For all glory and honor are due unto You - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen!



Parish Ministries

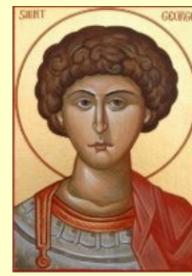
BIBLE STUDY: The Bible Study sessions will continue until the Epistle to the Romans has been completed. It is held on Thursdays at 10:30 AM and 7:00 PM. Sessions are on ZOOM. All are welcome to join this important study! Please bring your Bibles to each session.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Every Monday at noon, fifteen-minute reflections live-streamed through the Orthodox Christian Network at <https://www.facebook.com/MyOCN/>.

Parish Activities

LIGHT A CANDLE: Please make wax and red glass candle offerings and tray offerings at <https://stgeorge.org/livestream/> - thank you for your continued love and generous support!

ST. GEORGE MISSION TEAM: July 18 car wash fundraiser to help children in need in Greece. We are purchasing book bags, packing them with school supplies, and working with International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) for delivery this summer. Please consider participating and be part of an organization that puts your Orthodox faith to work. Students can earn service hours for this and other summer projects. For information, contact Athena Kaiser at avmail@verizon.net or call/text at (240) 498-0870.



THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE

Rev. Fr. Dimitrios J. Antokas, Presiding Priest
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SECOND SUNDAY OF ST. MATTHEW

ST. ANDREW, ARCHBISHOP OF CRETE

JULY 4, 2021

Resurrectional Apolytikion Mode 1

Although the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers guarded Your most pure body, You arose on the third day, O Savior, giving life to the world. For this reason, the heavenly powers cried out to you, O Giver of Life: Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Your kingdom! Glory to Your dispensation, only Lover of Mankind!

Apolytikion of Saint George

Ὡς τῶν αἰχμαλώτων ἐλευθερωτῆς, καὶ τῶν πτωχῶν ὑπερασπιστῆς, ἀσθενούντων ἰατρός, βασιλέων ὑπέρμαχος, Τροπαιοφόρε Μεγαλομάρτυς Γεώργιε, πρέσβευε Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ, σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

O Trophy-Bearer, Great Martyr George, who freed captives, supported the poor, healed the sick, was a champion of kings, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved!