

## Minor Festivals: St. Andrew, November 30



November 30 is the Festival of St. Andrew, the apostle. Historically, Andrew has been called “Protokletos,” or “First-Called.” He was one of John the Baptist’s disciples. When John pointed out that Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, Andrew, along with another disciple (probably the apostle John), followed Jesus. They spent the day with our Lord, and Andrew was convinced Jesus is the promised Messiah of the Old Testament. And so he was the “First-Called” by Jesus. He couldn’t keep the news to himself. In his joy, he had to find his brother, Simon Peter. He said, “We have found the Messiah!”

Andrew and Peter, the sons of a man name John, were from the town of Bethsaida in Galilee. They moved to the city of Capernaum on the northwest shore the Sea of Galilee. There they were partners in the fishing trade. About a year after Andrew and Peter became Jesus’ disciples, our Lord gave them a more permanent call. As they were casting their net into the lake, Jesus walked up and said, “Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Immediately Andrew and Peter left everything and followed Jesus. Over the next few years the Lord Jesus picked Andrew to be an apostle—one of his specially selected messengers—training and equipping him to be his witness to the world.

Once, when Jesus was surrounded by crowds in a remote area, our Lord asked Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” Philip was skeptical, blurting out, “Eight month’s wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!” Andrew, however, held out hope. He piped up, “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?” He found out. Jesus fed five thousand men, plus women and children, from the five loaves and two fish that Andrew scraped together.

Andrew had a heart for souls. During the week of Jesus’ death, some Greeks wanted to see Jesus, and Andrew arranged a meeting. Jesus assured the Greeks that they, too, were included in his plan of salvation. Andrew continued to share the message of salvation with the world. Tradition holds that he did missionary work in the Black Sea area. Because of his testimony about Jesus, he was crucified. Supposedly, he asked to be crucified on an X-shaped cross because he didn’t want the privilege of dying on the same shaped cross as Jesus. Therefore, the cross pictured above is St. Andrew’s Cross—it is his symbol.

Like Andrew, Jesus has allowed us to confess that Jesus is our Messiah—our perfect Savior from sin. Like Andrew, we can’t keep that message to ourselves. We want to share it with our families, friends, neighbors, and all with whom we come into contact. Like Andrew, when things look bleak and we wonder how we will be provided for, we can put our trust in Jesus and his almighty power to provide—both for our families and our church family. Like Andrew, our symbol is the X. X (Chi) is the first Greek letter of the word “Christ.” In Holy Baptism, you and I have been baptized into Christ’s death and resurrection—his saving work has become our own. We are wrapped in the righteous robes of our Lord and Savior, Jesus. When our end comes—whether it is a natural or unnatural death; whether it is a peaceful or violent death—we know that we will join all of the faithful in our Lord’s presence enjoying everlasting pleasures at God’s right hand.

Pastor Zuberbier

*After sharing this devotion with your family, take the time to read Mark 1:14-20 & John 1:35-42.*