



## Saint Andrew

Name means “Manhood, Valor”

Feast Day: November 30

Died: 62 AD

Patron: Russia, Scotland, Ukraine, Greece, diocese of Constantinople, fishermen, sailors, and U.S. Army Rangers

Saint Andrew, son of Jonah, is a Greek name, unlike that of his brother Simon whose name is Hebrew. They were fishermen in Galilee. Andrew was first a follower of John the Baptist. Upon seeing Jesus, John the Baptist revealed, “Behold the Lamb of God!” Andrew followed Jesus and stayed with him that day. Andrew became the first disciple of Jesus (Jn 1:35 - 39) and the first to call Jesus the “Messiah” as he informed his brother Simon, “We have found the Messiah!” (Jn 1:41)

There were 5,000 people gathered to hear Jesus speak. Jesus wanted to feed them all. It was Andrew who spotted a boy with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish. Even though it seemed impossible to feed so many people with so little food, Andrew felt compelled to tell Jesus. Jesus blessed the food and miraculously, everyone was fed with food left over. (Jn 6:8-9)

The Gospels list Peter, James and John as Jesus’ closest disciples. In Mark 13:3-13, Andrew joins the three in questioning Jesus on the destruction of the temple. In this private lesson, Jesus warns them that there will be signs the end is near but that the Gospel must be preached to all nations first; they will be persecuted but the Holy Spirit will help them in their hour of need.

Days before the Passion, some Greeks ask Philip if they can see Jesus. Philip consults with Andrew (whose name is Greek) and together they ask Jesus. In his lengthy response, Jesus explains that first he must die and be lifted up; and then “I will draw everyone to myself.” (Jn 12:20-26)

Andrew is considered the Apostle to the Greeks and founder of Byzantium. After Pentecost, Andrew traveled to Asia Minor, Russia, Ukraine and to Greece. While in Greece, Andrew was captured in 62 AD. He was sentenced to be crucified. He was bound to an “X” shaped cross and was tied to it instead of nailed so that his crucifixion would last longer. For 3 days, Andrew preached the Gospel from the cross until he succumbed to death.

Pope Benedict XVI points out that Peter, the brother of Andrew was Apostle of Rome, while Andrew was Apostle of Greece. “So it is that in life and in death they appear as true brothers -- a brotherhood that is symbolically expressed in the special reciprocal relations of the See of Rome and of Constantinople, which are truly Sister Churches.”

St. Andrew’s feast day is November 30<sup>th</sup> and is the first feast day of the new Church year since it occurs around the first Sunday of Advent.