

**Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:****For the health of:****Richie** Dantine on his new job, offered with love by his family.**Marisa**, daughter of Andrew and Maribeth, on her birthday.**For Eternal Memory of:****Kathleen**, mother of Maribeth Romanofsky

**Readings:**

- **Ephesians 4:1-6**     • 1 Corinthians 4:9-16 (Apostle Andrew)
- **Luke 13:10-17**     • John 1:35-51 (Apostle Andrew)

**BRETHREN**, I, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

**At that time**, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

**Saturday service: Vespers – 6:30 PM****Sunday service:****Hours – 9:40 AM****Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM****Private Confession – Half hour before any service.**

See Fr Matthew for other times.

**General Confession – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month****Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month****Coffee hour – after Liturgy, downstairs in the Community Room****Church School - Sunday 9:30 AM (no classes 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month)**

**We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy for Coffee hour.**

**Announcements:**

- **There will be a Council Meeting today** following Coffee Hour. The December Council Meeting will be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> due to the visit of His Grace, Bishop Michael on the 28<sup>th</sup>.
- To help make our church more beautiful for the Nativity feast, **each family is being asked to bring in one poinsettia plant by December 7<sup>th</sup>**. This will be in lieu of a collection for Nativity flowers.
- **Next Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, our parish will celebrate its annual St. Nicholas Day feast.** Children are invited to help decorate the tree downstairs after the Liturgy. Pizza will be served and a visit from St. Nicholas is expected. If you wish to have your child participate in the festivities, please see Maribeth Romanofsky.
- **The next meeting of the Sisterhood of the Protection of the Mother of God** will be held on December 14<sup>th</sup>.
- **The Sisterhood will be raffling off a Nativity gift basket** this year on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Tickets will be sold for \$1.00, and each family is asked to sell ten tickets. Items are needed to fill up the basket. Please see the posted sheet downstairs if you wish to donate an item.
- On **December 28<sup>th</sup>**, the Sunday after the Nativity, we will welcome **His Grace, Bishop Michael**. A dinner is planned in Bishop Michael's honor, to be held immediately after the Liturgy. Tickets for the dinner will be \$10.00 each. If you wish to contribute an item to the dinner, please check the sign-up sheet downstairs.

**Special Announcements:**

- **Any Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to:**  
Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org

**St. Maximus says:** If by nature the good unifies and holds together what has been separated, evil clearly divides and corrupts what has been unified. For evil is by nature dispersive, unstable, multiform and divisive.

**Holy and All-praised Apostle Andrew the First-called:**

Today the Church remembers the Holy Apostle Andrew the First-Called, who was the first of the Apostles to follow Christ, and he later brought his own brother, the holy Apostle Peter, to Christ. The future apostle was from Bethsaida, and from his youth he turned with all his soul to God. He did not enter into marriage, and he worked with his brother as a fisherman. When the holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John began to preach, St Andrew became his closest disciple. St John the Baptist himself sent to Christ his own two disciples, the future Apostles Andrew and John the Theologian, declaring Christ to be the Lamb of God.

After the Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, St Andrew went to the Eastern lands preaching the Word of God. He went through Asia Minor, Thrace, Macedonia, he reached the River Danube, went along the coast of the Black Sea, through Crimea, the Black Sea region and along the River Dniepr he climbed to the place where the city of Kiev now stands.

He stopped overnight on the hills of Kiev. Rising in the morning, he said to those disciples that were with him: "See these hills? Upon these hills shall shine forth the beneficence of God, and there will be a great city here, and God shall raise up many churches."

On his journeys the First-Called Apostle endured many sufferings and torments from pagans: they cast him out of their cities and they beat him. Through the prayers of the Apostle, the Lord worked miracles. By the labors of the holy Apostle Andrew, Christian Churches were established, for which he provided bishops and clergy. The final city was Patra, where he was destined to suffer martyrdom.

The Lord worked many miracles through His disciple in Patra. The infirm were made whole, and the blind received their sight. Few pagans remained at Patra, but among them was the prefect of the city, Aegeatos. The Apostle Andrew repeatedly turned to him with the words of the Gospel. But even the miracles of the Apostle did not convince Aegeatos. The holy Apostle with love and humility appealed to his soul, striving to reveal to him the Christian mystery of life eternal, through the wonderworking power of the Holy Cross of the Lord. The angry Aegeatos gave orders to crucify the apostle. The pagan thought he might undo St Andrew's preaching if he were to put him to death on the cross.

St Andrew the First-Called accepted the decision of the prefect with joy and with prayer to the Lord, and went willingly to the place of execution. In order to prolong the suffering of the saint, Aegeatos gave orders not to nail the saint's hands and feet, but to tie them to the cross. For two days the apostle taught the citizens who gathered about. The people, in listening to him, with all their souls pitied him and tried to take St Andrew down from the cross. Fearing a riot of the people, Aegeatos gave orders to stop the execution. But the holy apostle began to pray that the Lord would grant him death on the cross. Just as the soldiers tried to take hold of the Apostle Andrew, they lost control of their hands. The crucified apostle, having given glory to God, said: "Lord Jesus Christ, receive my spirit." Then a blazing ray of divine light illumined the cross and the martyr crucified upon it. When the light faded, the holy Apostle Andrew had already given up his holy soul to the Lord. Maximilla, the wife of the prefect, had the body of the saint taken down from the cross, and buried him with honor.

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E-Mail us at: [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org)

**Orthodox Church of the Mother of God***"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"**Founded 1966*

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**Apostle Andrew the  
First-called**

Glory to  
Jesus Christ

Glory  
Forever

*Let us praise Andrew, the herald of God,  
the namesake of courage,  
the first-called of the Savior's disciples  
and the brother of Peter.*

*As he once called to his brother, he now cries out to us:  
"Come, for we have found the One whom the world desires!"*

Kontakion — Tone 2

**Today the Church remembers:****Holy and All-praised Apostle Andrew the First-called (62)**

- St. Frumentius, Archbishop of Abyssinia (Ethiopia—ca. 380).

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**November 30, 2014**

**25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Tone 8 of the Octoechos**

Nativity Fast