



Saint Andrew

the first Apostle to follow Christ

Feast Day Nov. 30th

When Saint John the forerunner began to preach, Andrew became his closest disciple.

St John Baptist sent Andrew and John, known now as the "St John the Theologian," to declare that Christ was the lamb of God.

From his youth, St Andrew turned to God and dedicated his life to God; and did not even get married. He worked with his brother as a fisherman until he was called by Christ.

St Andrew brought his brother, Apostle Peter, to Christ as well.

After Christ's resurrection Saint Andrew preached along a route up to modern-day Kyiv in Russia and Ukraine. This is why today he is still a big Saint in the Churches and has a special recognition. When he arrived there, he said, see these hills; here there will be great cities, and on them, God shall raise up many churches. Then he blessed them, set up a cross, and continued his journey north toward Rome. Then back down to Trace (a city) in the small area of Byzantium where Constantinople was eventually established. This is where he founded the church of Christ.

This is how **Constantinople connected with Russia** before it became part of the **Orthodox Church Church**.

On his journey, he **endured many afflictions** from the **pagans when trying to set up churches and teach about Christ**.

The **pagans would throw rocks** at the Apostle, and he would stay unharmed from the **prayers to Christ**, and through him, **Christ worked many miracles**.

Through the labors of the Apostle Andrew, **many Christian churches were established**, and he provided **bishops**.

He finally ended up in the **city of Patra**, where he eventually **suffered martyrdom on a cross**. While in Patra, he **healed the sick and suffering through prayer and converted many to Orthodoxy**.

After preaching in Patra, **nearly the entire city was converted to Christianity**. Few pagans remained, but **one pagan was Ageotos**, who **ordered** Saint Andrew to be **crucified**, not by nailing him to the Cross but **by hanging him on the Cross using ropes to suffer longer before death**.

Saint Andrew **excepted the Cross with joy and prayer to the Lord** and **went willingly** to the Cross to die.

For two days, St Andrew **continue to teach while hanging on the Cross**, and the people converted to Christianity and began to try to take him down.

Fearing the crowd, Ageotos **ordered Saint Andrew to be taken down** and stop the execution, but Saint Andrew **prayed to the Lord to grant him death on the Cross**.

Just as the guards attempted to take St Andrew down, **a light appeared around him**. When the light faded, the holy Apostle had already given his soul to the Lord.

Then the Ageotos's **wife buried the saint with honor**.