

Holy Heroes: St. Andrew the Apostle

Feast day: Nov 30

Patron saint of Russia, Scotland and fishermen

At first, Saint Andrew was a follower of Saint John the Baptist. Saint John was Jesus' cousin, son of Elizabeth. He preached and baptized people proclaiming "make way for the One Who is coming! Repent and prepare!" One day, Saint John pointed to Jesus and said "See, the Lamb of God!" Andrew looked over and saw Jesus, and wondered why John was calling him 'the Lamb of God.' Did he mean that this was the One Who was coming, the Messiah? So he went over to listen to Jesus, and followed him for a few days listening and learning.

Soon, he realized that Jesus was the Messiah, the promised One Who would lead them all to a new Kingdom of God. This is why Andrew is called the first disciple of Christ. Saint Andrew couldn't wait to share the news with his brother and cousins. He ran to Simon Peter saying "Come and see! I have found the Messiah!" and brought his brother to meet Jesus. Simon Peter became Peter, our first Pope.

After that, and after Jesus had taught His Apostles, been crucified, given us Easter by rising from the dead, and ascended into Heaven, Andrew spent his whole life telling that he had found the Messiah and urging them to 'come and see.' He wanted everyone to share in the happiness and salvation that he had found by following Jesus. Eventually, Andrew was crucified for his preaching, but even on the cross he didn't stop telling people to leave their old gods and their old ways to follow the New Covenant in Jesus.

~PRAYER TO SAINT ANDREW~

O GLORIOUS SAINT ANDREW, YOU WERE THE FIRST TO RECOGNIZE AND FOLLOW THE LAMB OF GOD. WITH YOUR FRIEND ST. JOHN YOU REMAINED WITH JESUS FOR THAT FIRST DAY, FOR YOUR ENTIRE LIFE, AND NOW THROUGHOUT ETERNITY. AS YOU LED YOUR BROTHER ST. PETER AND MANY OTHERS TO CHRIST, DRAW US ALSO TO HIM. TEACH US TO LEAD OTHERS TO CHRIST AS YOU DID.

