



# **Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church**

**24 BURKE ROAD**

**FREEHOLD, NJ 07728**

**Twenty Fifth Sunday After Pentecost**

**November 30, 2014**

**Father Robert E Lucas, Pastor;  
Subdeacon Daniel J. Korba and Nikitas Tsokris,  
Cantors**

**Rectory 215-862-9227; Parish Center 732-780-3158**

## **We Are A Stewardship Parish Of Time, Talent and Treasure**

The mission of our parish faith community is to teach the Gospel message in the rich tradition of the Orthodox Church; to enable people to reflect the image of Jesus Christ in every day activities of life; to offer spiritual formation through changing times; and to celebrate community among Orthodox believers in our Freehold area.

We of St. Paul the Apostle Parish dedicate ourselves to maintaining the sanctity of worship and spiritual enlightenment in a family environment that reaches and involves all ages and unifies all people.

We believe in the spirit of ecumenism in which we share our faith by word and example and extend our spiritual insights to all people.

We accept the responsibility of Christian Stewardship that through generous giving we may all experience a faith communion with Christ as the Center of our lives.

We dedicate ourselves to insuring the well-being of all people so that we may truly experience the message of Christ's salutary gospel.

We are a beacon on a hill with the eyes of many upon us; that beacon is the inspired Light of Christ which must shine brightly in our lives.

*It is not ourselves we preach but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts, that we in turn might make known the glory of God shining on the face of Christ. This treasure we possess in earthen vessels to make it clear that its surpassing power comes from God and not from us. We are afflicted in every way possible, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in us 2 Corinthians 4: 5 – 8.*

## **GLAD TIDINGS**

+++ This Saturday is the simple feast of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia. In anticipation, the vesperal Divine Liturgy will be celebrated Friday evening at 7:00 PM. Please come and join us in prayer and praise.

+++ The Annual St. Nicholas Day Luncheon will take place on Sunday, December 14 following the Divine Liturgy. Please bring a prepared food so we can enjoy a family gathering.

+++ The Nativity Pirohi Sale is this Saturday, December 6. Please secure orders and offer your helping hands for its success.

+++ The Special Offering for flowers to beautify our parish church for the coming feast of the Nativity of our Lord will be taken on Sunday, December 14.

+++ Every Monday, we have prayerful devotions before the Myrrh bearing icon at 6:00 PM. Everyone is invited to be present in praise. The Birthgiver invites us to manifest our faith in response to her first shown love, to unite our prayers with hers for the salvation of our souls. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us.

+++ Please remember we are in the Nativity Fast which began yesterday. Impose seriously on yourself the prescriptions of the Church that our hearts and souls become worthy managers of our Saviour on the feast of His Nativity. Fast from sin, meat and dairy products that your soul is enriched. Prior to all services, Confessions are heard, so come and unburden yourself from the sinful weight you carry.

+++ Please keep the intentions of these members of our parish intercession community in your daily prayers: Father George, Anna, Barbara, Betty, James, Yevlogia, Nicholas, Maria, Cynthia, Nicholas, Pani Anna Marie and Andrea.

+++ The sign-up sheet for both the Web Site and Bulletin sponsors is on the bulletin board in the kitchen. Please sign up as soon as possible. Do NOT make payment until your sign-up month has arrived. This will make it easier for Father to keep track of payments. Thanks in advance to all who support the parish in this way.

+++ We offer thanks to the Blessed Trinity for inspiring generosity in the souls of our faithful and the blessing of abundant grace in our midst with the offering received last Sunday: Tithe Offering, \$430.00; Candles, 17.00; Holyday, \$37.00; Kitchen, \$2428.00, for a total of \$3012.00. We express our profound gratitude to the parishioner communicants who offer their God-given treasure and labored for the sake of the Lord and the good of our parish. God bless and reward you good and faithful souls!

+++ As faithful believers, we intercede and associate ourselves in prayer with the following who have prayed and offered seven day lights for their intentions: Father Lucas, Maria Idronmenos, Anna Zacharyczuk, Bob Gorbich, Marilyn Korba and Pani Buletza.

+++ We make a **PENNIES FROM HEAVEN** Canister available for our faithful to bring in pennies for our altar and its appointments. We are already in receipt of **\$1818.00** from this apostolate. Even your pennies can help and are a blessing to our parish.

+++ Please be certain to see a member of the Parish Council if you would like to help our parish by using **Shop Rite Food Coupons** available in \$20.00 denominations. We invite **ALL** to be caring and supportive and use Grocery Coupons for food shopping as we have gratefully realized \$5750 on this project to date!





### Believers Righteous In God's Sight

*By faith Noah, warned about things not yet seen, revered God and built an ark that his household might be saved. He thereby condemned the world and inherited the justice which comes through faith Hebrews 11:7.*

*Stand fast with the truth as the belt round your waist, justice as your breastplate Ephesians 6:14.*

*At your name they rejoice all the day, and through your justice they are exalted Psalm 89:17.*

*Saying, "Only in the Lord are just deeds and power. Before him in shame shall come all who vent their anger against him" Isaiah 45:24.*

*How, then, shall we put it? That the Gentiles, who were not seeking justice, attained it - the justice which comes from faith - while Israel, seeking a law from which justice would come, did not arrive at that law? Romans 9:30, 31.*

*When Christ our life appears, then you shall appear with him in glory. Put to death, whatever in your nature is rooted in earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desires, and that lust which is idolatry Colossians 3:4, 5.*

*The lesson is that if a person will but cleanse himself of evil things he may be a distinguished vessel, dedicated and useful to the master of the house and ready for every noble service. So, turn from youthful passions and pursue integrity, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord in purity of heart 2 Timothy 2:21, 22.*

*As obedient sons, do not yield to the desires that once shaped you in your ignorance. Rather, become holy yourselves in every aspect of your conduct, after the likeness of the holy One who called you; remember Scripture says, "Be holy, for I am holy" 1 Peter 1:14-16.*

Even The Fallen World Is  
Offended

## Tactless Boors

He has the manners of a gentleman. Obviously, they don't belong to him.

He's a rarely well-mannered person—very rarely.

We've all heard soup gargled and siphoned, but he yodels it.

The way he drank his soup in a nightclub, ten couples got up and danced.

He eats with his fingers and talks with his fork.

He has a nose that is not only seen but heard.

He's as refined as a cabbage.

He's as at home in refined company as a pig in a parlor.

The greatest points of interest in his life are 7 and 11.

He's such a lowbrow that when he gets a headache, he puts the aspirin in his shoe.

The only way he can live up to his ideal of himself is from a hole in the ground.

When he drops cigar ashes on a host's rug, he spills his Scotch and soda on it to prevent a fire.

As a tourist, his slogan is: "Stop, Look, and Litter."

He's a contact man—all con and no tact.

He would walk into an antique shop and ask, "What's new?"

He's tactless enough to tell a woman that something is as plain as her face.

The only high thing he's ever concerned with is the cost of living.

He's completely bald, but that still doesn't make him a high-brow or a polished individual.

He can talk louder than a TV commercial.

He's a real gentleman—he'll never strike a woman with his hat on.

He's lower than a horse's hoof or a baboon's forehead.

He's disappeared from his usual hangouts and hasn't been obscene since.

He thinks he's refined because he knows which fingers to put in his mouth when he whistles for the waiter.

He has dirty fingernails, and a mind to match.

He's never troubled by improper thoughts—in fact, he enjoys them.

He has one of those mighty minds—mighty dirty.

He's a fast eater. He starts on his dessert before the echo of his soup has died away.

He has an approach like a dentist's drill.

He smokes the kind of cigars that hold you smellbound.

He is very class-conscious. He has no class and everyone is conscious of it.

He has a laugh like the screech of a rusty door.



## **Servanthood and Obedience**

**St. Paul the Apostle rightfully takes a great deal of spiritual satisfaction and fulfillment in describing himself as a servant. "Greetings from Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle and set apart to proclaim the gospel of God" Romans 1:1. At the present time subservience or any kind of service or obedience and submission to spiritual authority is eyed with suspicion. The role of the servant is unfortunately regarded as an affront to human dignity. Obedience is necessary not only because without it there is disorder and chaos, but because by submitting to it, we avoid unhappiness and discontent and even assured perdition. When we attempt to erroneously imagine ourselves being in a superior position, not a servant, thinking we are like God Himself that there is no one above us and no authority to submit to and lead us. "I will not serve" are the words Satan cried out before man was even created. That is precisely what we do when we sin. We too shout, "I will not serve." It is precisely for this reason our Lord came to earth and put aright this disobedience found in the devil and communicated to the heart and soul of the first of God's creation, Adam and Eve. St. Paul says in one of his letters, "Christ emptied himself and took the form of a slave, being born in the likeness of man. He was known to be of human estate and it was thus that he humbled himself obediently accepting even death on the cross" Philippians 2: 7, 8. In the Old Covenant book of Isaiah, we further read, "Through his sufferings my servant shall justify many, and their guilt he shall bear" Isaiah 53: 11. The prophecy of the "Suffering Servant" was never properly nor fully understood by the contemporaries of Isaiah nor by their succeeding descendants, even until the time of Christ. Our Lord taught us, "The Son of man has not come to be served, but to serve, to give his life as a ransom for many" Mark 10: 45. The whole life of**



the Lord was completely dedicated serve his Father and the cause of our salvation. In St. John's gospel, we had reference to this, "I cannot do anything of myself. I judge as I hear and my judgment is honest because I seek not my own will, but the will of him who sent me" John 5: 30. How many times have we witnessed the sincere service in the life of a faithful shepherd, a devoted priest, but yet balk at it because it does not meet what we perceive are our needs? Because we refuse the vocation of servant, we fail to recognize it being lived in others. In the gospel of St. Luke, we further see corroborated, "What in fact is greater, he who reclines at table or he who serves the meal? Is it not he who reclines at table? Yet, I am in your midst as one who serves" Luke 22: 27. So, we can only ask you once again, permit us to be your servants of redemption. Believers have no problem in serving others. Our parish can be called an eager society of servants of the lord. We do not find it irksome or offensive, "Can I help?" "May I be of service?" should always eagerly fall from our lips as an indication and even an identification of our fundamental vocation of following Christ. It would indicate we wish to assume both the attitude and spirituality of our Lord who passes it on to St. Paul for our benefit. The Apostle to the Gentiles is eager to be the conduit for us as priests while we hope you as pious faithful take our example to heart. We say to you with the same seriousness and sincerity which St. Paul relays to us all, "Be followers of me as I am of Christ!" 1 Corinthians 4: 16. Our created nature is such that we do in fact find fulfillment and complete satisfaction in serving the legitimate needs of others for the sake of Jesus Christ, our common Saviour. In his letter to the Roman believers, St. Paul speaks of a dedicated servant whose name is Phoebe. "I commend to you our sister, Phoebe...please welcome her in the Lord, as saints should. If she needs help in anything, give it to her, for she herself has been of help to many,



including me” Romans 16: 1. Who is this Phoebe, you may ask and why is she being recognized by the illustrious Apostle? St. Paul happened to be in Corinth, apparently on his way to Rome, but some urgent matters required his presence in Jerusalem. He had not yet visited the imperial capital although he longed to meet its citizens. Being prevented from going to Rome, he wrote an important and valuable letter which begins, “Greetings from Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus...” Romans 1: 1. To deliver the message, he enlisted the gracious service of Phoebe who became for all intents and purposes, St. Paul’s mail person. The least she could do was assume a serious responsibility and deliver its contents to believers there. She made littler of her privations and many hardships. She experienced a serious joy as servant of both St. Paul and the Lord. Now we are remind so many devoted souls when we read and think about Phoebe. We are thus called to servant hood whether it be the first or the second strings of an orchestra, whether we are St. Paul or Phoebe, or Mary, or Susie, or Annie or Johnny or Billy today, in our parish. What we do with our ability to serve, with our vocation of servanthood for our Lord, only He will see and know and accept our sacrificial offering, will ultimately bless us. How many times we hear of complaints about workers in a parish. “It is always the same people working for the parish, regardless what it is we do.” It is also, the very same people, I assure you, who will be blessed with their families for serving the cause of Jesus Christ. It is our God who takes note of the serious and sincere effort, made without pretense or excuse, but simply in response to an opportunity to serve. In our servanthood, may our God always be pleased with all that each of us offers Him in genuine response to his first shown love to each of us!





## Prayer For Wandering Shepherds

Eternal Father, Creator of all things, we reverence your continued grace and presence in the priesthood of your only-begotten Son, now shared by him with weakness of our mortal nature. In the weakness which You know, some of those called to participate in the grace of the priesthood of the Eternal High Priest, have fallen from the height to which they were summoned. Do, not, we implore You, as You did with the rebellious angels, cast them forever from your sight. Be mindful, rather, of their hearts as they were touched by your grace in the beginning of their priesthood and restore to them by a flood of grace that generosity which they knew in the morning of life.

Dear Lord, Jesus Christ, Great High Priest of the new and everlasting Covenant, be mindful of your brother priests who have wandered from truth and rightness. They have strayed because they have withdrawn in their soul from contemplation of You and your Cross. As in your humanity, You are truly brother of all priests, may we implore the divinity conjoined in You to grant them every needful impulse to return to the love of your heart and service of your Spouse, the Church.

Holy Spirit of God, Lord and Lifegiver, restore to divine friendship the souls of priests now dead in sin. Your special mark, indelible through all time and eternity, was sealed on them on the day of ordination. However stained and soiled and all but forgotten by them, it remains at once the reason for your love and the cause of every fear if they do not die in the holy service of Almighty God.

Holy Birthgiver of God, enfold with your protective mantle in compassion and love the troubled hearts of your priest sons who have forgotten their dignity and ministry. They once knew the tenderness of your intercessory protection. Renew in their hearts the sense of dedication which made them one with the Saviour and instruments for the salvation of mankind. Show yourself a mother to them and join our prayers that they return in contrition and love to the uncreated Love for which they alone were made.  
Amen.



# He is *Revealed* by many Names...



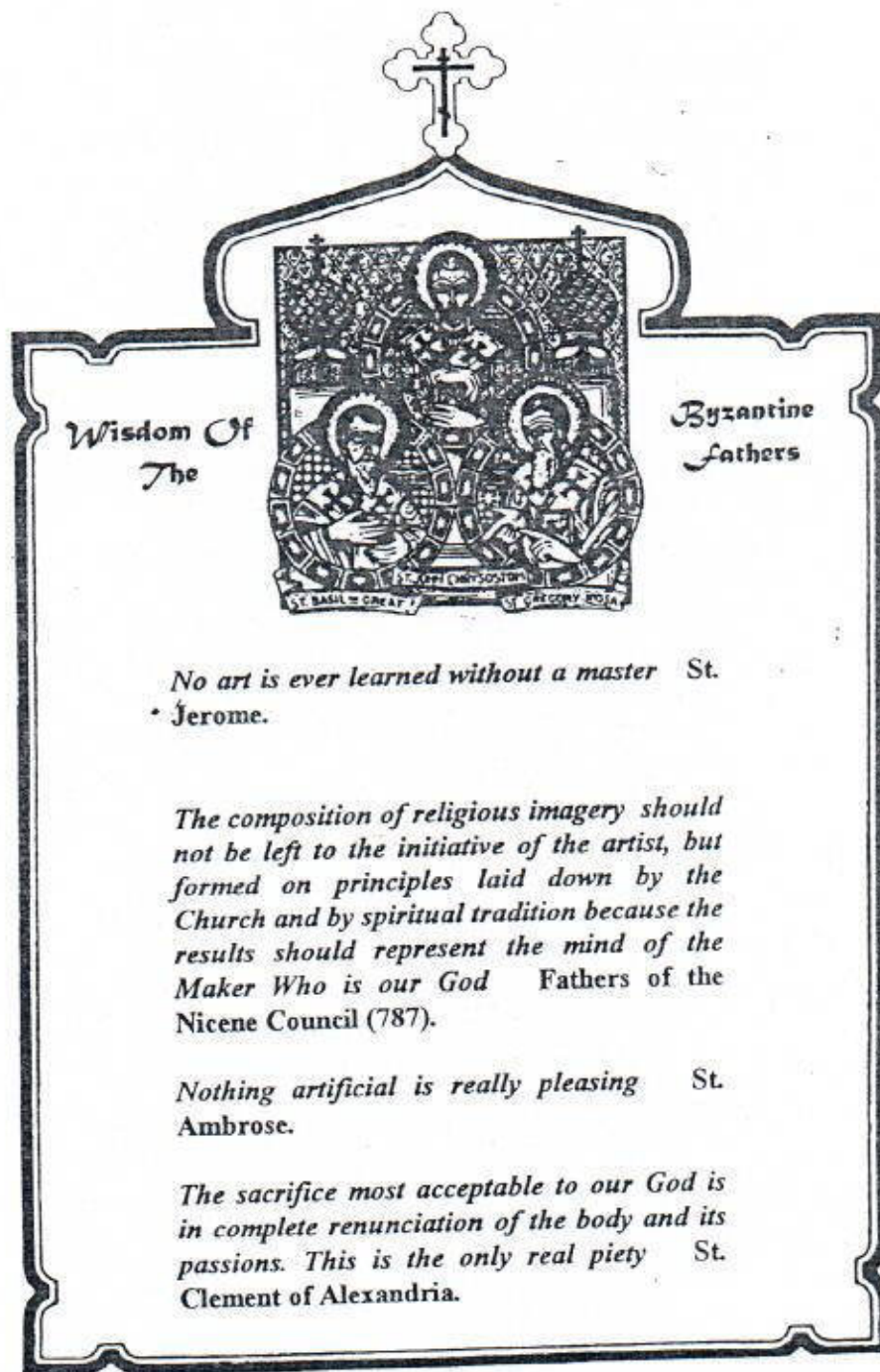
*"...and His name shall be called..."* Isaiah 9:6.

The Holy Name of our Lord, God and Saviour was revealed by the angelic visitor. Throughout salvation history, He is referred to in a variety of ways, each of which make known more and more of the enduring love of our Heavenly Father for each of us.

## *Restorer*

*"He restores my soul. He guides me in right paths for his name's sake"* Psalm 23: 3.

We wander aimlessly away from our Heavenly Father and from the path of righteousness, from following Christ beside still waters, until we gradually lose the way, lose our joy, lose the sound of His voice. But He never gives up on us. He is eager we remain intimate with Him. Regardless how many times we sin, regardless how many times we renounce Him by our actions and thoughts, regardless how often we avoid worshipping Him at the Divine Liturgy, He is eager to renew and restore us to our destined place with Him. Just as the Prodigal Son finally "came to his senses," (Luke 15: 17) so we must also recognize we are our Heavenly Father's sons. Thus, just as God's wisdom teaches us, "...a wise son makes his father glad," (Proverbs, 15: 20) so, the believer, when he strays recognizes it is only the *Restorer* upon Whom he can call in the sacramental Mystery of Reconciliation. No one else can restore our rightful destiny when we lose it and separate ourselves from its security. Certainly no other created thing or person can fulfill and complete us His choice creation. Only our God can satisfy our soul. Without Him we are simply caricatures of ourselves and caricatures are not destined for heaven, but the genuine human being. Our daily spiritual devotion ought be, "O gracious *Restorer*, bring back my wandering soul as a straying sheep, and lead me on the path of righteousness for Your Name's sake."



Wisdom Of  
The

Byzantine  
Fathers

*No art is ever learned without a master* St.  
• Jerome.

*The composition of religious imagery should  
not be left to the initiative of the artist, but  
formed on principles laid down by the  
Church and by spiritual tradition because the  
results should represent the mind of the  
Maker Who is our God* Fathers of the  
Nicene Council (787).

*Nothing artificial is really pleasing* St.  
Ambrose.

*The sacrifice most acceptable to our God is  
in complete renunciation of the body and its  
passions. This is the only real piety* St.  
Clement of Alexandria.



# Types of Crosses



**JERUSALEM (or CRUSADER):** This Cross has four small crosses between the arms, symbolizing the five wounds of Christ. It also stands for missionary work, the small crosses indicating the four corners of the earth.



**MALTESE:** This consists of four spearheads with points together. The eight points represent the Beatitudes (Matt. 5:3-10). This Cross is named for the island of Malta (the place where St. Paul was shipwrecked—Acts 27:14-44), since it was the headquarters of one of the Crusader group that utilized this Cross.



**CROSS PATEE:** This is often confused with the Maltese Cross. The former is made up of straight lines, while the Cross Patee has curved arms.



**CROSS BARBEE:** This Cross has ends like fish hooks, suggesting the Christians as *fishers of men* (Matt. 4:19).



**FLEUR-DE-LIS:** This is French for *flower of the lily*. It symbolizes the Holy Trinity.



**CROSS TREFFLEE:** This is another form of the Cross Bottonnee, with arms of equal length, with each end formed as a trefoil.



## The Old Country Priest says...

A team of giants needs giant pitchers who throw good and salutary ideas. But every great pitcher needs an outstanding catcher. Without giant catchers, the ideas of giant pitchers may eventually disappear.

### Focusing

"I'm not returning until you fix it," bandleader Count Basie told a club owner whose piano was always out of tune. A month later Basie got a call that everything was fine. When he returned, the piano was still out of tune. "You said you fixed it!" an irate Basie exclaimed. "I did," came the reply, "I had it painted." In your spiritual life, are you attempting to solve the *right* problem?



"Christ is risen from the dead, conquering death by death and to those in the tomb bestowing life." *Troparion of Easter.*

The Resurrection of Christ is the crowning point of human history and of the divine plan. We honor the Cross because of the Resurrection. If Jesus did not rise, there would be no honor of the Cross. The Resurrection of Christ was a real event. We are given in Scripture names of persons that saw the risen Christ. At the time of St. Paul and his writings it was possible to seek out those persons and verify the reality of the proclamation for oneself.

("Blessed are they who have not seen and have believed.")

Other religions can point to the place where founders are buried. Abraham is buried here and Muhammad is buried there, but all a Christian can say reiterating the words of the angel, "He is not here. He has been raised from the dead."

We honor the myrrh-bearing women because they were the first to proclaim the Good News, "The Lord has risen, indeed, and has appeared to Simon." (Lk. 24:34). Peter, the women and the others to whom Christ revealed Himself became the foundation of the Church. The doubt that some had like Thomas prove that the resurrection was not something that the apostles created, but in fact was a reality.



# Did You Know That ...

...no one can help everyone, but everyone can help someone?

...practice does not make perfect; practice makes permanent; perfect practice makes perfect?

...no brain is stronger than its weakest think?

...it is more important to commit the Golden Rule to living, not just memory?

...in the game of life, heredity deals the hand, our God makes the rules, but you still can play your own cards?

...only the mediocre are at their best at all times?

...success is the result of good planning and prayerful execution?

...no one ever drowned in their own sweat?

...there is no sense in being pessimistic because it wouldn't work anyway?

...we should avoid people who belittle our spiritual ambitions?

...people of integrity make you feel that you, too, can become great in the sight of God?

...a champion is the one who gets up, even when he can't?

...it is far better to forgive and forget than to resent and remember?

...believing in something greater than ourselves is placing our faith in our Creator?

...the funny thing about human beings is that we tend to respect the intelligence of, and eventually to like, those who listen attentively to our ideas even if they continue to disagree with us?

...researchers have determined it is impossible to develop eyestrain from looking on the bright side of things?

## ST. ANDREW: FIRST-CALLED APOSTLE

**S**urely one of the unheralded heroes of the Early Christian Church was **ST. ANDREW**. While much is made of some of the Apostles, Andrew seems to have preferred the background; but a careful study of his life will reveal his great dedication to Christ and Church.

Andrew was the first of the Twelve Apostles to be selected by Our Lord. This has earned for him the title "**First Called**." He had initially been a disciple of St. John the Baptist, but when John pointed to Christ proclaiming: "*Behold the Lamb of God*," Andrew then followed Jesus and was called to be an Apostle.

One of the first things Andrew did was go to his brother, Peter, and tell him the wonderful news: "*We have found the Messiah, which is the Christ*." Then Andrew brought Peter to Jesus and the Lord made him an Apostle, too.

It is the missionary work of St. Andrew that deserves acknowledgement. He spread the Gospel of Christ in Asia Minor, in Greece, and along the Black Sea. He is said to have brought the Light of Christianity to ancient Byzantium, later called Constantinople. And Andrew is said to have planted the seed of the Christian Faith in Scythia - setting the Cross on a highpoint in Kiev and proclaiming: "*See these hills? On these mounts shall hereafter shine forth the grace of God . . .*"

His conversion of countless in Patras, Greece, enraged the heathen officials of the area. An official had him arrested and brought before him, but Andrew preached to him, too. Finally the death sentence was pronounced upon him. After being scourged and whipped, Andrew was tied to an X-shaped Cross and on it suffered and died for his faith in Jesus Christ. That particular shaped Cross is known by his name to this day.

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