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SAINT
ANDREW,
FOOL
FOR
CHRIST
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MERELY SEEKING TO PLEASE GOD

There is a category of saints who are called "FOOLS FOR CHRIST." These are the people who became a spectacle to the world because they rejected everything society values: money, power, prestige, property, clothing, food, and anything else that is sought after by carnal man. Beyond this, they endured for Christ's sake destitution, ill-treatment, and mockery from every strata of society. Among them is ST. ANDREW, FOOL FOR CHRIST, who lived an extremely ascetic life during the 10th century.

Andrew was born a Slav and was forced into slavery in Constantinople. His master sent him off to be educated, and he turned to the sacred writings. It wasn't long before he dedicated himself completely to Christ.



Pretending to be out of his mind, he roamed the streets by day, half naked in a single, tattered garment. He ate what little bread he begged for and willingly gave away the articles he received to fellow poor souls. Andrew struggled without a roof over his head, spending his nights in hours of prayer.

Andrew was blessed with clairvoyance and granted several visions. Perhaps he is best known by an incident associated with the holyday of the Protection of the Holy Virgin. As faithful Christians prayed in the Church of Blachernae, during siege, beseeching the intercession of the Birthgiver of God, Andrew saw the Virgin sheltering the people with her veil. He said to his disciple: "Do you see the Queen and Mistress of all, praying?" Epiphanius answered: "I do see, father, and I am terrified." The faithful were spared by the merciful intercession of the Virgin.

St. Mary's Orthodox Church
217 First Street – Coaldale Pa 18218-1602
Phone.....570-645-2772
OUR WEBSITE...www.stmarysnativity.org

Rector: V. Rev. James Weremedic
Retired Attached: V. Rev Paul Ropitsky
Reader Hours: Edward Pierson

Sunday, October 1, 2023

Choir Director: Wash King
Reader Epistle: Michael Ropitsky

17th Sunday after Pentecost Sunday Tone 8.

The Protection (Pokrov) of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.

Apostle of the Seventy Ananias (1st c.). Ven. Romanus the Melodist (5th c.).

Tone 8 Troparion (Resurrection)

You descended from on high, O Merciful One! You accepted the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!// O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!

Tone 4 Troparion (Protection)

Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy, illumined by your coming, O Mother of God. Beholding your pure image, we fervently cry to you: "Encompass us beneath the precious veil of your protection; deliver us from every form of evil by entreating Christ, your Son and our God,// that He may save our souls.

Tone 8 Kontakion (Resurrection)

By rising from the tomb, You raised the dead and resurrected Adam. Eve exults in Your Resurrection,// and the world celebrates Your rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

Services:

Sunday, Oct. 1	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship
Saturday, Oct 7	4:00 PM – Great Vespers & Confessions (Note: Time change)
Sunday, Oct 8	8:45 AM – Church School
Sunday, Oct. 8	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship (Parish Council Meeting)
Saturday, Oct 14	4:00 PM – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sunday, Oct 15	8:45 AM – Church School
Sunday, Oct. 15	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship
Saturday, Oct 21	3:30 PM – Parastas-Fr. Andrew Diehl, Michael & Jeanne Harb, Theodore Bogosh, Nancy Lorchak
Saturday, Oct 21	4:00 PM – Great Vespers & Confessions

We welcome all our visitors today! We want to let you know that we are so glad you came to pray with us. Please come again; join us after the Divine Liturgy in the parish hall for fellowship. If you do not have a home church, we invite you to become a part of our parish family. Only those Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves may approach the Chalice and receive Holy Communion.

Prayer List*:

Fr. James Weremedic, Matushka Lisa Weremedic

Elizabeth Brennan, Stephanie Chmel, Ilene Devine, Julia Forte, Michael & Julia Harahus, Karen & Rose Harkins, Nancy King, Olga Kushnir, Anna Marie Mantey, Dorothy & Joseph Macenka, Melissa Schmitt, Helen Sheers, Olga Sidoriak, Martha Stafiniak, Elizabeth Warcholak, Marie Yurchak

* Names will cycle off approximately every 30 days. You may request to have your name or the name of a loved one placed back on the list at any time by contacting Fr. James directly.

If anyone is in need of a priest, please call Father James Weremedic at 570-645-2772. Visitation of the Sick and Infirm: If you are going into the hospital for any reason, please inform Fr. James at the Rectory. Emergency Calls: Please call the Rectory (570-645-2772) anytime (day or night) in an emergency.

Nominations for Church Council and Officers are now open.

Please see Father James, Anastasia (Nancy) Babinetz or Barbara Birosik if you would like to be considered for a position on council.

Candles (October 1)

7-day Vigils-Altar... In memory of **Mary & Andrew Yelsh** offered by William Yelsh

Altar Candles... In memory of **Andrew Chmel** offered by Stephanie Chmel

Eternal Lamp... In memory of **Andrew & Mary Bybel & family** offered by family members

7-day Vigils-Tetrapod... In memory **Marion Pickenheim** offered by William Yelsh

Decorated Candles/Tetrapod- In memory **Olga Scarloss** offered by Michael & Natalie Bolinski

Vigil Crosses... In memory **Peter, Harry & Kathlean Harhush** offered by Terri & David Bogosh

Flowers/Tetrapod... In health of **Odess & Claire Remington** offered by children & grandchildren

October Birthdays: 3- Fr. James Weremedic, 5- Barbara Teno, 7- Michael Harahus, 19- Ixsaiah Bracero, 20- Martha Stafiniak, 23- Emmanuel Andrades, 27- Fr. Paul Ropitsky

October Anniversaries: 17- John & Ann Yaroma, 20- Michael & Wendy Kulick
1- Odess & Claire Remington, 3- John & Mary Evetushick

Financials 9/24/2023: Operating Acct: Weekly Envelopes \$308, Non-Envelope \$175, Holy Day \$20, Candles \$52, Donation \$195, Building Fund \$11, Spaghetti \$974

Fellowship Hour Hosts:

October 1 John Evetushick October 8 OPEN October 15 OPEN

If you have any Redner receipts, please call or get them to Helen King. Please use your Boyer's card when shopping at Boyers; if you need one call Helen King.

17th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Tone 8.

The Protection (Pokrov) of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.

Apostle of the Seventy Ananias (1st c.). Ven. Romanus the Melodist ("Sweet-singer"—5th c.). Ven. Savva (Sabbas), Abbot of Vishera (Novgorod—1461). Martyr Domninus of Thessalonica (4th c.). Martyr Michael, Abbot in Armenia, and 36 Fathers with him (780-790). Ven. John (Koukouzelis) the Hymnographer of Mt. Athos (Albanian—12th c.). Ven. Gregory of Lavra (Mt. Athos—12th c.).

Tone 4 Troparion (St. Romanus)

You gladdened Christ's Church by your melodies/like an inspired heavenly trumpet.
You were enlightened by the Mother of God/and shone on the world as God's poet.//
We lovingly honor you, righteous Romanus.

Tone 8 Kontakion (St. Romanus)

You were adorned from childhood with the godly virtues of the Spirit;/you were a precious adornment of the Church of Christ, all-wise Romanus,/for you made it lovely with beautiful hymnody./Therefore we entreat you, grant your divine gift to those who desire it,//that we may cry out to you: "Rejoice, all-blessed Father, beauty of the Church!

2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1 (Epistle)

And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people." Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you." "I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty." Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Silent Prayer before the Gospel:

Illumine our hearts, O Master Who lovest mankind, with the pure light of Thy divine knowledge. Open the eyes of our mind to the understanding of Thy gospel teachings. Implant also in us the fear of Thy blessed commandments, that trampling down all carnal desires, we may enter upon a spiritual manner of living, both thinking and doing such things as are well-pleasing unto Thee.

For Thou art the illumination of our souls and bodies, O Christ our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, together with Thy Father, Who is from everlasting, and Thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Luke 6:31-36 (Gospel)

And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

Evening Prayers

Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us; for laying aside all excuse, we sinners offer to Thee, as to our Master, this supplication: Have mercy on us. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. O Lord, have mercy on us, for in Thee have we put our trust. Do not be angry with us, nor remember our iniquities, but look down on us even now, since Thou art compassionate, and deliver us from our enemies. For Thou art our God, and we are Thy people; we are all the work of Thy hands, and we call on Thy name. Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O blessed Theotokos, open the doors of compassion to us whose hope is in you, that we may not perish but be delivered from adversity through you, who are the salvation of the Christian people.

TO THE FATHER:

O Eternal God, King of every creature, Who hast enabled me to attain to this hour, forgive me the sins which I have committed this day by thought, word and deed. Cleanse my humble soul, O Lord, from every defilement of flesh and spirit. Grant me, O Lord, to pass through the sleep of this night in peace, that I may rise from my humble bed and please Thy most Holy Name all the days of my life, vanquishing the enemies both fleshly and bodiless that contend against me. Deliver me from vain thoughts that defile me, O Lord, and from evil desires. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

TO JESUS CHRIST:

O Almighty Word of the Father, Jesus Christ, Who art Thyself perfect: Because of Thy great mercy, do not ever depart from me, Thy servant, but always abide in me. O Jesus, Good Shepherd of Thy sheep, let me not fall into the disobedience of the serpent, nor leave me to the will of Satan, for the seeds of corruption are in me. O Lord God adorable, O Holy King Jesus, guard me while I sleep with the unfading light, Thy Holy Spirit, through Whom Thou didst sanctify Thy disciples. Grant even to me, Thy unworthy servant, O Lord, Thy salvation upon my bed. Enlighten my mind with the light of the understanding of Thy Gospel; my soul with love of Thy Cross; my heart with the purity of Thy word; my body with Thy passionless passion; preserve my thought in Thy humility, and raise me at the time proper for Thy glorification. For Thou art most glorified with Thy Father, Who is without beginning, and Thy Most Holy Spirit, unto the ages. Amen.

TO THE HOLY SPIRIT:

O Lord, Heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, be compassionate and have mercy on me, Thy sinful servant. Remit and forgive me, the unworthy one, all the things which I have sinned as a man, both voluntary and involuntary, in knowledge and in ignorance: from my youth, from learning of evil, and from emptiness or despair. If I swore with Thy name, or stained it in my reasoning; or dishonored someone; or cursed someone with my anger; or saddened him; or if I have become angry over something; or lied; or slept unfittingly; or if a poor man came to me and I despised him; or if I saddened my brother; or frustrated or judged someone; or became puffed up and proud; or if while standing in prayer my mind was moved by the evil of this world; or contemplated suicide; or over ate and over drank, or laughed without reason; or thought of evil; or if I saw another's good and was bound by it in my heart; or spoke in an unseemly manner; or laughed at my brother's sin; forgive me, for my sins are countless in number. If I have forsaken prayer, or done anything evil - I do not remember, for I have committed even more! Have mercy on me, O Master my Creator, Thine unworthy and unprofitable servant. Forgive, remit, and loose my sins, for Thou art gracious and lovest mankind; that I may rest in peace and sleep, though a prodigal, sinful and wretched, so that I may adore and praise and glorify Thy most honorable Name, together with the Father and His only-begotten Son, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

TO THE VIRGIN THEOTOKOS:

Rejoice! O Virgin Theotokos! Mary, full of Grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, for you have borne the Savior of our souls!

O victorious leader of triumphant host! We, your servants, delivered from evil, sing our grateful thanks to you, O Theotokos! As you possess invincible might set us free from every calamity so that we may sing: Rejoice! O unwedded Bride!