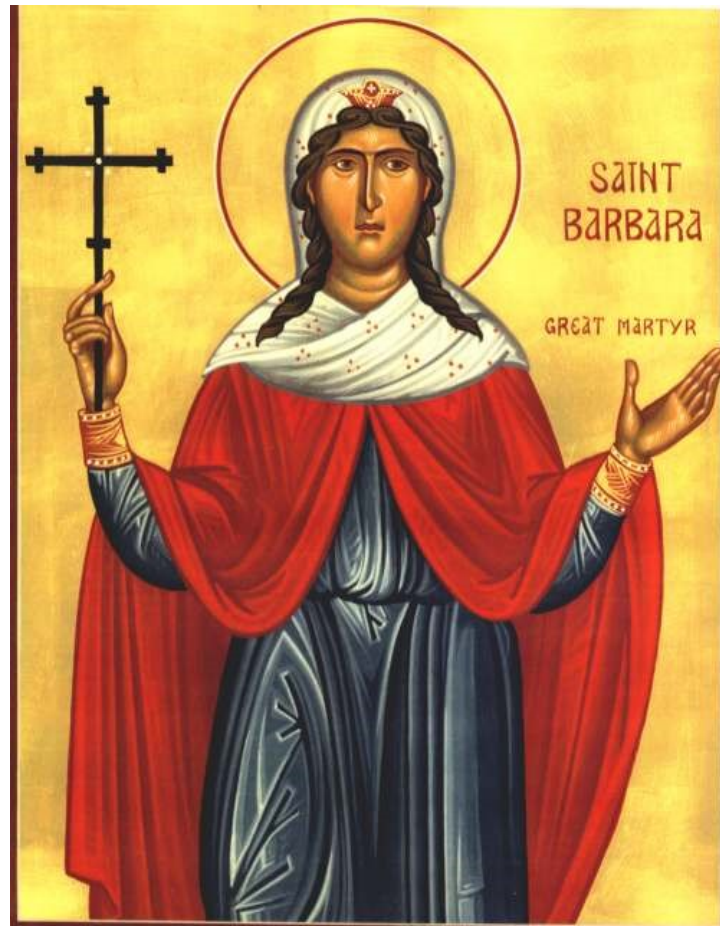


*From the Divine Office for St. Barbara (Dec. 4)*

*Let us praise the most honorable Barbara: she thwarted the Enemy's power, and through the might and strength of the Cross, she was made free in her flight to God. (Troparion)*

*Together let us venerate the memory of Barbara, whose martyrdom was united to the of Christ her Spouse; so that delivered by her prayers from sin, famine, earthquake and destruction, we may live out our lives in peace, and attain to the abode of light in the company of all the saints who were pleasing to the Lord throughout the ages. Then we shall be able to sing with her, "O Savior, You have brought about marvels of love for all Your faithful who confess, 'I adore one God in three divine Persons!'" (Ikos)*



**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS  
NOVEMBER 28, 2021**



**HOLY APOSTLE ANDREW, THE FIRST-CALLED  
NOVEMBER 30**

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Melkite Catholic Church**  
256 Hamilton St.  
Worcester, MA 01604  
Rectory: (508) 752-4174 Hall: (508) 755-2199  
Email: [olphmelkite@gmail.com](mailto:olphmelkite@gmail.com)  
Rev. Bryan McNeil, Pastor  
Email: [Brymc56@comcast.net](mailto:Brymc56@comcast.net) Cell: (978) 314-1962  
Divine Liturgy: Sunday 10:00 AM

### Antiphon (3rd)

1: Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord; let us shout with joy to God our Savior.

**O Son of God, who are risen from the dead, save us who sing to You, Alleluia**

2: Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving and let us joyfully sing psalms to Him.

***Khallisna Ya-Bnallah, Ya Man qama min baynil-amwaat, nahnu muranneemeena Laka. Haleloueya.***

3: For God is a great Lord and a great King over all the earth.

**O Son of God, who are risen from the dead, save us who sing to You, Alleluia.**

### Entrance Hymn

**Priest:** Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ.

**People:** **O Son of God, who are risen from the dead, save us who sing to You. Alleluia.**

### Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 2) pg. 38

When You descended to death, O immortal Life, You put Hades to death by the splendor of Your divinity. And when You raised the dead from below the earth, all the heavenly powers cried out to You: "O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!"

### Patronal Troparion (Tone 1) pg. 15

In giving birth, you have preserved your virginity, and in falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Mother of God. You have passed to life, being the Mother of Life. Through your intercession, save our souls from death.

### Kondakion of the Preparation of the Nativity of our Lord (Tone 3)

Today the Virgin is on her way to the cave where she will give birth to the Eternal Word of God in an ineffable manner. Rejoice, therefore, O Universe, when you hear this news, and glorify with the angels and the shepherds, Him who shall appear a new Child being God from all eternity.

### **Death of St Andrew**

According to the second-century Acts of Andrew, the apostle was martyred in Patras, an important center in central Greece, then capital of the province of Achaia. Seized by order of the proconsul Aegeates for converting his wife, St Andrew was condemned to be crucified. According to the Acts, St. Andrew spoke to the bystanders from the cross, saying: "Listen to us rather who hang here for the Lord's sake and are about to depart out of this body. Renounce all the lusts of the world, spit upon the worship of abominable idols and establish your minds as men believing in Christ." The tradition that St Andrew asked to be crucified on an X-shaped cross because he was unworthy of being placed on a cross like Christ's is of later origin, probably in imitation of St. Peter.

### St Andrew's Relics

The apostle's tomb soon attracted many pilgrims and quarrels arose over his relics. When the Roman Emperor Constantine, a Christian, established his new capital, Constantinople, on the site of Byzantium, he ordered that relics of the Saint be moved from Patras to Constantinople. In 357 they were taken to Constantinople by order of Emperor Constantius and interred in the Church of the Holy Apostles, built by his father, St Constantine, to house the remains of all the apostles. The saint's skull was returned to Patras by Emperor Basil I (867-886). A portion of the saint's relics were also taken by St. Regulos (or Rule), the Bishop of Patras, who was shipwrecked off the coast of Fife, in Scotland. One version of the story goes that it was at this time that St. Regulos brought some of St. Andrew's relics to Scotland, because he was warned by an angel in a dream to take the Saint's bones to "the ends of the Earth." The Scottish people adopted St. Andrew Patron Saint of Scotland and his X-shaped cross (the Saltire) as their symbol. History does not recall what became of the relics of St Andrew that were brought to Scotland, but it is likely that they were destroyed in a frenzy of religious uproar in the 16th century by Protestant reformers, who saw the veneration of such relics as idolatry, forbidden by the teachings of the Bible. The relics of St. Andrew that were in Constantinople were taken to Amalfi in southern Italy after the sack of Constantinople in 1208. They remain there, in the Cathedral of St. Andrew, to this day. In 1408 Patras passed into the hands of the Venetians. From 1429 to 1460 the city was ruled by the Despots of Mystra, the Palaiologi, and when Patras was captured by the Turks Thomas Palaiologos removed St. Andrew's head to Rome where it was kept in St. Peter's Basilica until 1964 when it was returned to Patras by Pope Paul VI, the first of many such ecumenical gestures in recent years. St. Andrew's relics, consisting of a small finger, the top of his cranium and pieces of the cross, are displayed in the cathedral at Patras. The chased gold casket containing the saint's head, was venerated in St. Peter's Rome from 1462 until 1964 when it was returned to Patras. In 1980 fragments of the cross of St Andrew, venerated in Marseilles since the Crusades, were also returned. They are enshrined together with the relics in the Cathedral of St Andrew, the largest church in the Balkans.

### **St. Andrew Today**

In recent years St. Andrew has become an important focus in the growing friendship between Rome and Constantinople. Since 1969 a delegation from the Roman Catholic Church has visited Constantinople each November to participate in the feast of St Andrew, patron of the Byzantine Church. Every June a Greek Orthodox delegation has traveled to Rome for its patronal feast of Saints Peter and Paul. Several times these delegations have been led by the Pope of Rome and the Ecumenical Patriarch.

### **FROM THE DIVINE OFFICE**

*You had walked in the light of the Forerunner. But when the incarnate Image of the Father's glory appeared to save mankind in His mercy, you were the first to follow after Him, O illustrious Andrew, whose spirit was illumined by the perfect splendor of His radiant divinity. Thus you were the Apostle and Herald of Christ our God: entreat Him to save and enlighten our souls.*

*Renouncing the catching of fish, you became a fisher of men with the rod of divine preaching and the hook of faith, O illustrious Apostle, who fished the whole assembly of the nations up from the depths of error. You are the brother of Peter, whose voice went out to instruct the whole world. O Andrew, do not cease to intercede for us, the faithful, who celebrate your sacred memory with their whole heart.*

## DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

- Today** **Healing of Archie Opatka**  
**+Maria Filewicz (40 Day), Stefan Filewicz, Michael Filewicz, Amelia Filewicz.**  
 Requested by Maria Filewicz and Family.
- Dec 5** **+Habib & Mariam Rahall, William & Bertha Rahall, Reeks & Rahall Families.**  
 Requested by Nick Rahall and Family
- Dec 12** **+Raymond Kalil, Louise Kalil, Charlotte Ghiz, Eva Ghiz, Louis Ghiz, Lena Kouri.** Requested by Robert Ghiz

This morning's Coffee Hour is hosted by Maria Filewicz and Family  
 Next Sunday's Coffee Hour is hosted by Nick Rahall and Family

### Last Week's Collection

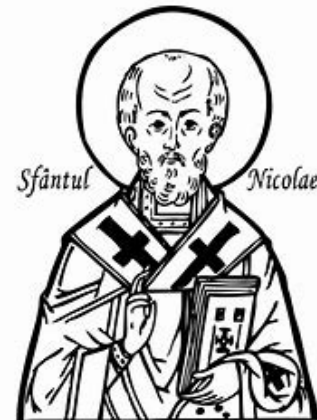
|              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| Weekly       | \$526        |
| Candles      | \$ 15        |
| Stole        | \$ 20        |
| Charity      | \$ 20        |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>\$581</b> |

God bless for your generosity!



## UPCOMING LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

- Mon 12/6 , 6PM - Divine Liturgy for the feast of St. Nicholas**
- Fri 12/17, 6PM - Service of Anointing**
- Fri 12/24, 4PM - Vesper/Liturgy of St. Basil for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ**
- Sat 12/25, 10AM—Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ**



## ST. NICHOLAS BREAKFAST

Please join us next Sunday, **December 5** after the Divine Liturgy for a St. Nicholas Breakfast. There will be French Toast and eggs along with other breakfast foods. We also hope to have a visit from St. Nicholas. This is a great opportunity to come back to the parish if you have been away for awhile! Please plan to attend.

Please go to [archiesarmy.net](http://archiesarmy.net) to see updates on Archie Opatka's battle heptoblastoma. "O Christ, Physician of our souls and bodies, heal, bless and have mercy on Your child Archie!"

I understand that over \$14,000 was raised at last week's fundraiser with donations still coming in.



We donated 22 turkeys and other ingredients to Mustard Seed Catholic Worker Community for distribution to needy families this Thanksgiving. Thanks to all who donated!



**THE BISHOP'S APPEAL:** Don't be like the Rich Young Fool in today's Gospel. Our Lord tells us not to be sad and downcast worrying about our earthly riches, but to be generous and joyful of heart, storing up treasure in Heaven and being rich in the things of God. If our Lord has blessed us with riches, He does so not only for ourselves and our families, but for the good of His Church. Offer your gratitude to God by giving a generous gift to the Bishop's Appeal today. Thank you for your generosity.



## November 30 – St Andrew the First-Called

ONE OF THE MOST REVERED New Testament figures in the Christian East is the Apostle Andrew the First Called. His title comes from the first mention of him in the Gospel of John: “The next day, John stood with two of his disciples. And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, ‘Behold the Lamb of God!’ The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, ‘What do you seek?’ They said to Him, ‘Rabbi’ (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), ‘where are You staying?’ He said to them, ‘Come and see.’ They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour). One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (which is translated, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus” (Jn 1:35-42). The New Testament states that Andrew was the brother of Simon Peter, by which it is inferred that he was likewise a son of Jonah (Mt. 16:17; Jn. 1:42) He was born in Bethsaida on the Sea of Galilee (Jn. 1:44). Both he and his brother Peter were fishermen by trade, hence the tradition that Jesus called them to be his disciples by saying that he will make them "fishers of men" (Greek: ἀλιεῖς ἀνθρώπων, halieĩs anthrōpōn). At the beginning of Jesus' public life, they were said to have occupied the same house at Capernaum (Mk. 1:21-29). As disciples of John the Baptist, Andrew and Peter were among those with a firmer faith, ready to make a deeper commitment to God in their lives. And so when they next encountered Jesus back home in their adopted home town of Capernaum (the Gospel calls Andrew a native of Bethsaida), the result should not strike us as odd. “Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, ‘Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men.’ They immediately left their nets and followed Him” (Mt 4:18-20). Their undying faith in a difficult world is an inspiration to all Christians.

While Peter, James and John came to be the foremost of Christ’s closest followers, Andrew had a prominent place as well. In the Gospels Andrew is referred to as being present on some important occasions as one of the disciples more closely attached to Jesus. In the Gospel of John he appears as a kind of go-to person for Jesus, bringing people to Him and presumably keeping the crowds at bay. It was Andrew who reported to Jesus about the lad with the five loaves and two fish. When Jesus and His disciples had arrived in Jerusalem for the Passover we are told that, “Now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast. Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’ Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn Andrew and Philip told Jesus” (Jn 12:20-22). Since both Philip and Andrew had Greek names – not unusual in Galilee since the second or third century BC – it was perhaps natural that these Greek pilgrims approached them.

### St Andrew and the Early Church

After Pentecost, at which he was present, there is no further mention of Andrew in the New Testament. Our next reference to this apostle is in Eusebius’ History of the Church 3,1 written in the fourth century. There he quotes Origen as saying that Andrew brought the Gospel to Scythia. The region known as Scythia in the ancient world corresponds to portions of today’s nations of Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine. For this reason Churches in these nations have a particular devotion to St. Andrew. Ukrainians, for example hold that St Andrew planted a cross on the site of the future city of Kiev, prophesying that a great Christian center would be established there in time. The Primary Chronicle of the eleventh-century Monk Nestor added that St. Andrew’s apostolic preaching took him as far as Novgorod, making him apostle to Russia as well. Another city claiming a connection with St Andrew is Constantinople. Founded in the fourth century by St Constantine the Great, this city was built on the site of the earlier town of Byzantium. A work entitled On the Seventy Apostles of Christ: and attributed to Hippolytus of Rome (+ 235) identified Stachys, one of the Lord’s seventy disciples as the first bishop of Byzantium. Later tradition held that Stachys was given leadership of the Church at Byzantium by St. Andrew. Thus the Church of Constantinople would claim to be founded by an apostle like the other Apostolic Churches (Jerusalem, Antioch, etc.).

### Prokimenon

**Reader:** My strength and my courage is the Lord, and He has been my Savior.

**People:** My strength and my courage is the Lord, and He has been my Savior.

**Verse:** The Lord has chastised me through His teaching, yet He has not delivered me to death.

**People:** My strength and my courage is the Lord, and He has been my Savior

**Reader:** My strength and my courage is the Lord,

**People:** And He has been my Savior.

**Epistle:** Eph. 6:10-17

### Alleluia Verses

The Lord shall hear you on the day of distress; may the name of the God of Jacob defend you.

**Verse:** O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance.

**Gospel:** Lk. 18:18-27

### ORDER OF SAINT NICHOLAS

**Bishop Nicholas is reactivating the Order of Saint Nicholas. The Order has done much to support the work of the Eparchy over the years. Please see the flyers in the back of the church for the bulletin boards for more details. Please prayerfully consider joining the Order.**

### NATIVITY FAST

**The traditional Nativity Fast began on November 15. In the Melkite usage, it begins on December 10. That is the date we will begin the Fast as a parish. Of course, if you began the Fast on November 15, that is fine. While not quite as strict as the Lenten Fast, this fast period prepare us to receive God Incarnate. Fasting is a tool to help us in our spiritual lives. It is a means to an end: that end being communion with God! Exactly how you fast is between you and your spiritual father. If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to reach out to me.**

**Fr. Bryan**