

# I SPY IN MY LITTLE ICON



By Kim Fritzes

## ST ANDREW THE FIRST CALLED

This month's icon is of Saint Andrew. He was the first Apostle of Jesus, he is often called the Protokletos which means first called. This is an icon written by Fr. Vladimir Lysak, an iconographer who has generously provided us with many of his icons. We see St. Andrew holding a rolled up scroll and a tall, thin rod topped with a cross. In some of Andrew's icons the scroll is open and on it is written: I have found the Messiah". His hair and beard are gray, with his hair having the wild, untamed look of St John the Baptist.

Andrew was born in Bethsaida. He and his brother Peter were fishermen. Andrew was a disciple of St. John the Baptist before he knew Jesus. Matthew 4:18-20 reads: "And 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."

After Christ's Ascension, Andrew began his missionary work preaching across many nations including: Asia Minor, Macedonia, Crimea, and into Ukraine. It is here he said looking at the hills that a city would be built there with many churches, this is now the city of Kiev. He went further east where Novgorod is now. He founded the Church of Christ in a small Byzantine village that would become Constantinople.

The last city Andrew went to was Patra in 62AD. Andrew converted most of the residents in Patra. Many healings took place through his prayers. However the prefect of Patra was a pagan and ordered Andrew to be crucified. Andrew accepted his fate with joy. He was tied onto an X shaped cross, known as a saltire cross. and died after suffering for two days.

St. Andrew is known as a patron saint of fishermen, singers, and maidens. He is patron saint of Scotland, Romania, and Ukraine.

His feast day is celebrated on November 30.



*Troparion (Tone4)*

As the first-called of the Apostles  
And brother of the foremost disciple,  
Andrew, entreat the Master of all  
To grant peace to the world  
And to our souls great mercy.

*Kontakion (Tone2)*

Let us praise Andrew, the herald of God,  
The namesake of courage,  
The first called of the Savior's disciples  
And the brother of Peter,  
As he once called to his brother,  
he now cries out to us:  
"Come, for we have found the One  
whom the world desires!"