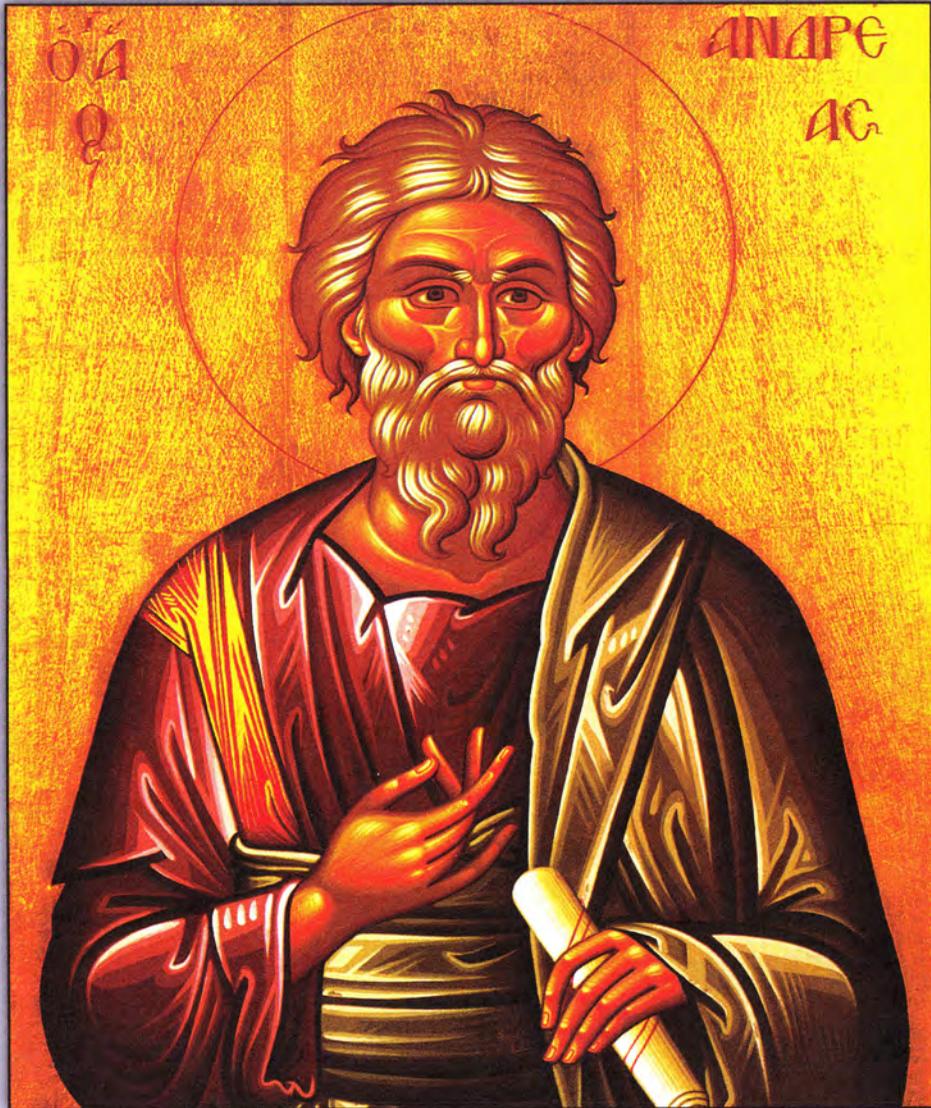


TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
APOSTLE ANDREW, THE FIRST CALLED



*Icon of Saint Andrew the Apostle -- November 30th*



**November 30, 2014**

**TONE 8**

**TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

*THE HOLY AND ALL-PRAISED APOSTLE ANDREW, THE FIRST-CALLED*

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 24 – NOVEMBER 30

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6 - *OUR HOLY FATHER NICHOLAS, ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA IN LYCIA, WONDERWORKER*

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

6:00 PM – Great Vespers

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 – *TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; OUR HOLY FATHER AMBROSE, BISHOP OF MILAN*

8:45 AM – Divine Praises

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

For All Parishioners

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*If you are reading the bulletin during the Liturgy (including the homily),  
please **stop** and be attentive - будьмо уважні!*

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**Please Note: Parking Lot**

*Beginning in early December and continuing for several weeks, work will begin on the parking lot which will include re-grading and resurfacing as well as landscaping work. the parking spaces nearest the church will be reserved for those with handicap stickers and those unable to walk a distance. For the rest of us this will necessitate parking at the dental office accross the street. We will make every effort to minimize the impact on the parishioners.*

**Last Sunday's Bulletin**

If you haven't yet picked up last Sunday's bulletin, it is available in the church hall, or on our website, [stjohnthebaptizer.org](http://stjohnthebaptizer.org).

**Our Starting Point For Change**

“Our starting point is always wrong. Instead of beginning with ourselves, we always want to change others first and ourselves last. If everyone would begin first with themselves, then there would be peace all around! St. John Chrysostom said that no one can harm the man who does not injure himself – not even the devil. You see, we are the sole architects of our future.”

*Elder Thaddeus (+2002)*

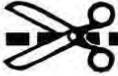
**TIS THE SEASON!**

**50% OFF**  
YOUR FAVORITE EMPTY BELL

**BLACK FRIDAY SALE!**

**COME CELEBRATE!**  
MATERIAL OBSESSION • IDOLATRY  
ILLUSORY WEALTH • GREED • AVARICE  
THE THINGS YOU OWN  
OWNING YOU!

1 LIMIT ONE TRAMPLED CUSTOMER PER STORE



# PAPER PLATES

by Anna K, *myocn.net*  
November 25

For years, my mother pleaded with me to use paper plates during stressful times in my life. “Annie, why are you staying up to wash dishes after you get the baby to bed?! The Earth will be fine if you use paper plates at dinner. Recycle them if you feel so bad.”

But I wouldn't do it. I had all kinds of reasons: they're bad for the environment, they're an frivolous expense, they're flimsy. And, sure, all those things are true. But you know the real reason I didn't do it? I didn't do it because I had to prove to the world that I was better than everyone else. I could do it all! I could have a job, raise children, run the house, cook all our meals from scratch AND wash all the plates at the end of every day.

And every night, as I stood in my kitchen scrubbing dishes – the rest of the house dark and quiet – I would meditate on what a selfless mother I was. I would list all the wonderful things I'd done over the day. Having completed that list, I'd move on to the next one: the list of all the things my husband hadn't done. To this day, I'm not sure which list I loved more. But for years I would compose them both faithfully at least once a day.

One year, about a week before Thanksgiving, I stood at my sink, washing dishes and making my lists. I thought about what phenomenal mother I was to give my family the gift of a perfect Thanksgiving weekend despite being pregnant with my 3rd baby. At least 2 different homemade desserts would be featured each night, not including the breakfast baking I would wake early each morning to do, a 5-course turkey dinner, a

different tablecloth each day, on and on. I'd need to scrub the house from top to bottom beforehand and keep tidying throughout the days to make sure the open kitchen stayed spotless. And then there would be the craft projects to have prepared for grandparents and kids to do together. Plus, all the usual tasks like laundry and picking up toys and walking the dog.

Suddenly, it hit me like a brick to the head: this was not what my family wanted. It wasn't anything like what they wanted. It would mean me ignoring them entirely for about a week while I cleaned and cooked and planned MY perfect Thanksgiving; a Thanksgiving to show everyone how thankful they should be for ME.

I felt like a party balloon that started to leak air and slowly sink down.

Now, I'd love to wrap this up with a nice bow saying I learned my lesson for good, but that's not how life works. At least not my life. But I CAN say that since that Thanksgiving, I keep paper plates on hand all the time. I make stuffing from a box and double recipes so we can eat leftovers a couple of times.

Because what my family wants is me; my attention and my time.

And you know what? Banana bread from a box isn't half bad!

*Posted by the Orthodox Christian Network. You can find the Orthodox Christian Network on Google+.*

**WHEN WORDS RUN DRY**  
*by Katherine Johnson, myocn.net*  
May 19

Sometimes words lose meaning, their depth emptied from overuse.

Words like:  
friend,  
love,  
conversion...

I turn over the shell of a word, a name that once meant something more, something different, and I wonder at the skin left behind. A word shed of meaning. Is it because we've grown too familiar with mystery? Excessively punctuating our everyday language with words that once expressed wonder? Is this why words of awe have been emptied of substance?

Or are they empty because they've been filled with our ego?

Because in this fallen world, love means "What's in it for me?" and friend means "How much do you mirror me?" and conversion is a matter of choosing sides. And we pray for the conversion of others, not because we love our friends, but because we've got it all figured out. And we certainly know what's best for everyone else. We think we know better than God. We think we know how to best order the world around us.

We forget that we're Adam and only order Hades.

A few years ago in a conversation with Archimandrite Zacharias, a friend of mine began to ask a question. "I'm a convert to Orthodoxy and..." And the good monk stopped him mid-sentence and, lowering his head, whispered, "Glory to God, you have converted. Perhaps someday I will convert, too." And my friend's chin lowered heavy to his chest, the humility of a holy man working healing through words – words alive with the wonder of their deepest meaning.

Conversion isn't a moment. Not something in the past or a decision, at least not an intellectual one. Decision fails the essence of conversion. It's a movement, a heart made tender, moving towards the Unknowable One who knows. It's the boundless searching out of the depths for the Source of that warm ache of the heart. Finding those hidden places and the One who takes up His place there. It's about being known.

It's not the choosing of a side, the determining of the right set of propositions and squaring ourselves up with them and then feeling secure because we figured right. Conversion is the turning of the heart to a Person. A dynamic relationship, eternal, from glory to glory – hope in being made right.

It's an intimate thing, conversion.

And since that blessed conversation filled with words deep and wonderful, I never pray for the conversion of others, never pray for a change of sides. Because when we pray for the conversion of another, we're only filled with ego. We're asking God to change someone. "Make them more like me." I don't think we should ask such things of the Creator of heaven and earth. Just look at His handiwork! He doesn't need the clumsy meddling of His servants.

The heart is God's work, not mine, and the unceasing whisper of Lord have mercy is the one thing needful.

To pray for another's conversion is to mistake a miracle for a mirror, not so much praying for someone to be more like Him, but more like me. In matters of the heart, we enter holy ground. It's here that we remove the sandals of self before we step in the holy place, the innermost recesses of the heart, the dwelling place of God.

How could we possibly know the path of another? Who are we to presume to pray that another's steps be set according to ours?

Conversion is in God's Hands.

Gentle turning.

The healing of the heart.

A union of persons, human and Divine.

With the fear of God, with faith and love, only then draw near.

Because only God knows what circumstances will remedy the infirmity of the soul. And I'm quite certain that God hides His work from those who presume to know the way in which another should walk. Egos frustrated. I prefer ignorance, to walk blindly. When God's work is hidden, I'm much more likely to reach out for His hand and hold on long and tight, and trust.

When the created self finally sets, the brilliance of the Light appears.

I know of a saint who prayed for the world, but he didn't pray that the world would be changed, at least not like we do. He prayed that the world might come to know God in His All-Holy Spirit. Because that is conversion. Not the choosing of a side, but the knowledge of a Person – the knowledge of God as the experience of the heart, true theology.

To pray for our friends. To love. To pray that another might know God, however He sees fit to make Himself known. To allow the Artisan of the heart, mold and shape it with His own Hands. To sit back in wonder at the beauty of His work. Such prayers are fitting for one made of clay. And He answers them.

*Posted by the Orthodox Christian Network.  
You can find the Orthodox Christian Network on Google+.*

## ON THE WILL OF GOD AND ON FREEDOM

*By St. Silouan of Mount Athos*

The Holy Spirit sets us all on different paths: one man lives a life of silent solitude in the desert; another prays for mankind; still another is called to minister to Christ's flock, or to preach, or give comfort to the suffering; while yet another serves his neighbor by the fruits of his labor or by his goods – and all these are gifts of the Holy Spirit accorded in varying degrees: to some thirty-fold, some sixty, and some an hundred.

Many people think to themselves, "I have sinned much – plundered and killed, used violence, slandered and led a wanton life; and done many other wrong things." And shame keeps them from the path of repentance. But they forget that in God's sight all their sins are merely as drops of water in the sea.

O my brethren the world over, repent while there is still time. God mercifully awaits our repentance. And all heaven and all the Saints look for our repentance. As God is love, so the Holy Spirit in the Saints is love. Ask, and the Lord will forgive. And when you receive forgiveness, there will be joy and gladness in your soul, and the grace of the Holy Spirit will enter your soul...

We all suffer here on earth, and seek freedom, but few there are who know the meaning of freedom, and where it is to be found.

I, too, want freedom, and seek it day and night. I learned that freedom is with God and is given by God to humble hearts who have repented and sacrificed their wills before Him. To those who repent, the Lord gives His peace and the freedom to love Him. And there is nothing better in the world than to love God and one's fellow-man. In this does the soul find rest and joy



THE AGE OF CASUAL CATHOLICISM IS OVER, THE AGE OF HEROIC CATHOLICISM HAS BEGUN. WE CAN NO LONGER BE CATHOLICS BY ACCIDENT BUT INSTEAD WE MUST BE CATHOLICS BY CONVICTION.

FR. TERRENCE HENRY, TOR,  
FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY OF STEUBENVILLE



## Greeting Cards

Christmas Cards and various other greeting cards are for sale in the Church Hall. Please see Mary Kitt to purchase.

## Sunday offering for November 2

Amount	Number
\$3.00	1 (loose)
\$5.00	1
\$15.00	1
\$20.00	4
\$25.00	1
\$30.00	1
\$40.00	3
\$50.00	2
\$75.00	2
\$100.00	2
\$200.00	1
\$300.00	1
<hr/>	
\$1228.00	

Parishioner Total: \$1128.00  
 Guest: \$100.00

Average / parish household (42): \$27.51  
 Weekly Stewardship Goal: \$2125.00  
 Deficit: (\$997.00)

## Sunday offering for November 9

Amount	Number
\$10.00	2
\$15.00	1
\$20.00	4
\$31.00	1 (loose)
\$40.00	3
\$50.00	3
\$75.00	1
\$100.00	1
\$150.00	1
\$300.00	1
<hr/>	
\$1041.00	

Parishioner Total: \$981.00  
 Guest: \$60.00

Average / parish household (42): \$23.93  
 Weekly Stewardship Goal: \$2125.00  
 Deficit: (\$1144.00)

### ***Please Note:***

When you are away, please don't forget that the church still relies on your contributions. Our bills do not go on vacation. Your absence on any Sunday does not negate your obligation to support your home parish.

## Sunday offering for November 16

Amount	Number
\$10.00	2
\$15.00	2
\$20.00	2
\$31.00	1 (loose)
\$40.00	3
\$50.00	2
\$80.00	2
\$100.00	1
\$300.00	1
<hr/>	
\$901.00	

Parishioner Total: \$901.00

Average / parish household (42): \$21.98  
 Weekly Stewardship Goal: \$2125.00  
 Deficit: (\$1224.00)



## Haven't seen someone in a while?

Give them a call. See how they are doing. Let them know that you not only miss them but also care enough to see if everything is okay. A kind word can go a long way.

### **Pastor:**

Fr. James Bankston: (619) 905-5278

### **Pastoral Council:**

Fr. Deacon Frank Avant: (760) 805-1667  
 Vladimir Bachynsky: (619) 865-1279  
 Mark Hartman: (619) 446-6357  
 Luke Miller: (858) 354-2008  
 Jeanine Soucie: (718) 674-4529

### **Social Committee Chairpersons:**

Vacant: Please consider volunteering as chairperson.

### **Finance Committee:**

Bohdan Knianicky: (619) 303-9698  
 Fr. Deacon Frank Avant: (760) 805-1667



**Українська Греко-Католицька Церква  
Святого Йоана Хрестителя  
St. John the Baptizer  
Ukrainian Greco-Catholic Church**

4400 Palm Avenue  
La Mesa, CA 91941  
Parish Office: (619) 697-5085

**Website:** [stjohnthebaptizer.org](http://stjohnthebaptizer.org)

**Pastor:** Fr. James Bankston

[frjames@mac.com](mailto:frjames@mac.com)

Fr. James' cell phone: (619) 905-5278

**Deacon:** Fr. Deacon Frank Avant

[fhavant@mac.com](mailto:fhavant@mac.com)

Fr. Dcn Frank's cell phone: (760) 805-1667

***The Good News the Twelve Proclaimed***

Jesus is our peace. He came to make both Jews and Gentiles one, and to bring all things together in equality. He destroyed the strong and chose the weak, spurned the wise and welcomed the foolish, so that there should be equality, with no one claiming anything as his own. No one attains salvation and wisdom except by the divine bounty, so it behooves us all to make the Lord our boast. Let us then, with awe and reverence, rejoice in the Lord our God, who is both humble of heart and sublime in majesty. Let us make Christ's attitude our own: He conferred on us the grace of salvation by assuming a humble condition, so that we who had deservedly fallen because of our pride might learn to rise again by humility.

But the good Lord, by His crucifixion and resurrection, sought not only to put an end to our death and restore us to immortality, but also to show us how to conduct ourselves in this present life, during which we gain merit in preparation for the blessings of eternity. What was the mysterious purpose of the Lord's love that led to His crucifixion? The Apostle teaches that it was to break

down the dividing wall, to put a stop to hostility, and an end to worldly vanity, and by leading captivity captive to overcome all the power of the enemy. He condemned sin by means of sin, for He removed the cause of sin still lurking in the flesh of Adam through that very flesh of Adam which He deigned to take upon Himself. In this way He destroyed the dividing wall, that is the sin which stood between us and God, and made both one, not only uniting Jews and Gentiles by faith in Christ, but also bringing harmony to the nature of all of us who believe, and ending in the peace of faith the discord which used to exist in us when the flesh was at war with the spirit. For now the age-old struggle in which the law of sin opposed the law of God is ended in Christ, since the spirit which serves God rules by faith the soul subjected to it, and the flesh in turn serves the soul that serves God, following it with all submission.

*St. Paulinus of Nola*

**For more information on the Eastern Churches,  
visit [www.mytheosis.com](http://www.mytheosis.com)**