

Focus: “Come and See”

In the Gospel, we have Andrew dragging his family to see Jesus. Andrew was a fisherman, along with his brother Simon Peter. They lived in Bethsaida along the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee. I relish today’s story: Andrew, who had been a follower of John the Baptist, crossed paths with Jesus. Andrew immediately sensed something special. Because of the conversations he had with Jesus, he knew he would have to get his brother Simon (later Peter) into Jesus’ Messianic presence.

Peter was a good start for Andrew. True to how Peter would act throughout the Gospel. Simon will go ‘all in’ on Jesus. Andrew is also the same one who brought a boy with five loaves of bread and two fish to Jesus (Feeding of the 5000 in John 6). Finally, he was also very hospitable to curious Greeks in the Acts of the Apostles.

Andrew the Saint As with many things from ancient Christianity, the memory of biblical characters develops over time. According to hagiographic tradition, Andrew preached the gospel in Turkey and the Black Sea. He is also said to have been martyred in Patras, Greece.

Andrew and Nations As the centuries rolled, he became the patron saint of Scotland, Russia, Ukraine, and Romania. He is often depicted holding a cross, as he is believed to have been crucified on an X-shaped cross, which is now known as the Saint Andrew’s cross.

Andrew and Scotland November 30th is a national Scottish holiday. It is a traditional day for Scots to wear the Saint Andrew’s cross, a white X-shaped cross on a blue background. Maybe more than the other countries I mentioned, the Scots really love their traditions around Andrew. The Saint Andrew’s cross is the main feature of the Scottish flag. Furthermore, there is the city of St. Andrew’s. Not to mention the namesake: the world-famous “Old Course” golf. Finally, the University of St. Andrew’s is one of the oldest universities in the world.

Andrew and Episcopalians (Brotherhood of St. Andrew) Men and youth get together for fellowship while engaging in service projects. The organization has been around for a while, and does not seem overly wed to Saint Andrew per se. But I respect the goal to practice faith within the container of action and fellowship. Their history:

https://s3.amazonaws.com/dfc_attachments/public/documents/3226824/Brotherhood_history_2016_1.pdf

Andrew and Us - I am focusing on Saint Andrew, not because he is the ‘best’ saint, but because he offers us a nice model for how to engage others with our faith that is not “preachy.” We can walk alongside others, help them meet Jesus and then get out of the way. **Todd**