



SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE ORTHODOX CHURCH

Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America

Christ is The Word LOGOS

*The mission of Saint Andrew the Apostle Orthodox Church
is to glorify our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ through our words and actions according to the Holy Traditions and Sacred Teachings of our
Holy Orthodox Christian Faith*

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

January 2025

Wisdom

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:19-25

Many Thanks to all!

Fr. Herman and family thank you all for your joyous Christmas greetings and generous gifts. May God bless you all in this Holy Season and in the coming year!

2025 Annual Parish Meeting

St. Andrew's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2025, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Please see the letter on page 6 for details.

Election of Parish Council Members

The election of two Parish Council Members will take place at the annual meeting. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else to be considered for Parish Council election, please notify Fr. Herman (standrewlewes@gmail.com) and Victor Zakrewsky, Parish Council president (zakrewv@comcast.net) in writing. Please note the following qualifications for nominees:

- ✦ must be eighteen (18) years of age or over
- ✦ must have been a Voting Member of the Parish for a period of one (1) year
- ✦ must have fulfilled the Canonical requirements of the Faith
- ✦ shall have made contributions of record
- ✦ shall have partaken of the Sacrament of Holy Communion during the year preceding his or her candidacy



2024 Giving

Please submit all 2024 gifts by January 15 to be reflected on your 2024 giving statement. Be sure to date your check in 2024 and note "2024" in the memo.

Year-end giving statements will be distributed by the end of January. If you have moved in 2024, please be sure to give your new address to our treasurer, Priscilla Szlachtiachyn, and to Kh. Vera.

Home Blessings

It is customary for Orthodox Christians to have their homes blessed following the Feast of Theophany. Please email or call Father Herman to schedule your home blessing. More information on home blessings may be found on page 5.

BLESSING OF THE WATERS & THEOPHANY CROSS DIVE

On Saturday, January 11, **Saint George Greek Orthodox Church** of Ocean City, MD, will again host the Annual Blessing of the Waters & Theophany Cross Dive. **All are welcome.**

Orthros, 8:30am

Divine Liturgy, 9:30am

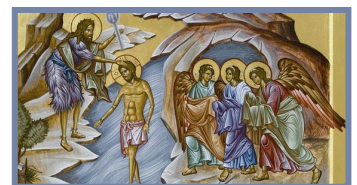
Followed by Blessing of Waters & Cross Dive

8805 Coastal Highway

Ocean City, MD

Divers email

StGeorgeOC@gmail.com



"AND THE DISCIPLES WERE FIRST CALLED CHRISTIANS IN ANTIOCH" (Acts 11:26)

Time to think Stewardship!

As we think about our stewardship in the Church - how we "give back" to God for all His blessings - we ask that you consider making a commitment of financial support to St. Andrew's. **Your pledge**, communicated to us via the pledge form, **helps us to plan** and budget the church's finances for the coming year. If you give regularly but don't pledge, thank you! But it would be helpful for us if we know in advance what your planned giving will be. A pledge is not binding; no one will send you a bill. If your circumstances change, you are free to change your giving plan.

Please use the pledge form to help us to plan and budget the church's finances for the coming year.

Stewardship packets will be available soon. Information will also be posted on St. Andrew's website at orthodoxdelmar.org/stewardship.

We ask that you also fill out the Ministries panel and the Contact Information panel of the Stewardship brochure, even if nothing has changed, for our records.

Stewardship in Action!

Many thanks to those who signed up for our **Kitchen Support Team**. Even if you didn't sign up, we would appreciate your help anytime you are available. For your information, our Coffee Hour Support guidelines may be found on page 7. Be sure to thank those who have taken up this important ministry to our St. Andrew's family.

The Order of St. Ignatius

Its never too late to join this wonderful ministry of giving! Congratulations to Evie Magiros, inducted into the Order on December 29. May God grant you many years!



We invite you to support camp attendance by making a donation to our **Camp Scholarship Fund**, which has helped send many of our kids to Antiochian Village Camp.

Coffee Hour Reminders

We invite everyone to bring some food to share for Sunday coffee hour. Coffee hour is not only for "us," it is for our guests! Please join us in this offering of hospitality.

- It is not necessary to prepare any "meal" foods; it can be **something simple** you picked up at the grocery store on the way to church. Every contribution is greatly appreciated! ALSO - Please remember to gather and take home your serving dishes and utensils!
- We have lovely and generous helpers who work in the kitchen or come around and pick up your used plates and cups at coffee hour, but **please be sure to clean up after yourself** as needed and **help in the kitchen** from time to time.
- Please be careful to put **trash in the trash receptacle** and **bottles/cans in the recycling receptacle**. Liquids should be emptied into the sink before placing containers in either the trash or recycling bin. (Note that **styrofoam, plastic cups, plastic wrap, and napkins/paper towels are NOT recyclable.**)
- Make note of when **supplies** are needed, and notify Marty Smith. (Donations of paper goods, soft drinks, milk/creamers, and other supplies are always welcome!)

Easy coffee hour ideas:

- Chips & dips, pretzels
- Bagels/bread and spreads
- Salads, fresh veggies
- Fresh fruit, nuts
- Sliced meat and cheeses
- Cookies, cakes, brownies, pies



May God bless your generosity!

Send your kids to camp!

It seems early, but Antiochian Village Camp has announced that **Registration** for Summer Camp will begin **January 5**.

Sessions fill up fast, so please take the time **now** to plan your child's attendance. AV Camp is open to kids ages 8 (or entering 3rd grade) to 17 (12th grade). (Arch Week is for campers who have just graduated from high school.)

Dates and more information can be found at: <https://avcamp.org/programs/summer-camp/> **Scholarships are available!** (please see Kh. Vera for info as soon as possible)

AV Camp is a great place for kids to learn and realize that **Orthodoxy is not just their family and their church**. How many Orthodox kids do your kids know outside St Andrew's? At AV Camp they will meet **hundreds**. Many develop life-long friendships, which will encourage them to maintain ties with the Church as they seek opportunities to meet again with those friends.



Charitable Works

Lunchbox Wednesday

We gather together on the **second and last Wednesday of each month (normally) at noon** to make 300 sandwiches and bag them with other goodies for the homeless. **Please join us on WEDNESDAYS, January 8 & 29, at NOON**, when we do it again. Please see Lisa Wolak for details and to inquire about donations needed.



Essential items for the homeless

We are continuing our collection of essential items for the homeless, to be distributed through the Shepherd's Office in Georgetown. **Any** new or gently-used clothing or shoes are welcome. **Always needed and welcome** are personal hygiene items, new socks and undergarments, and gently used tents, tarps, and camping goods.

Ongoing collection of non-perishable foods

We continue to collect non-perishable food items and paper goods for the food pantry at the Christian Storehouse in Millsboro. Please do not donate anything beyond its expiration date.



Shepherd's Office Amazon Wish List

The good folks at the **Shepherd's Office in Georgetown** (www.shepherdsoffice.org) love to help others and bring them love, care and peace. They provide meals, clothing, and services to the needy in our area. **St. Andrew's helps** them by providing 300 **sandwiches** twice a month and donating **clothing** we no longer need. If you are looking for **another way to help**, you can **donate funds** online at www.degives.org/orgs/shepherds-office-inc or purchase needed items from their **Amazon wishlist** (www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2JFM9O9TP1VTC/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex), which can be shipped directly to them. **Thank you for your generosity to those in need!** (Email Kh. Vera at standrewlewes@gmail.com to have these links sent to you for easy clicking!)

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

1 Timothy 6:17-19

A NEW YEAR PRAYER

O Master, Lord, our God, the source of life and immortality, the Author of all created things, both visible and invisible, who has established all seasons and times by thine own authority and dost direct all things with thine all-wise and all-gracious providence: we thank thee for thy bounties, which thou has poured out upon us during our life that is past. And we entreat thee, O all-bountiful Lord: bless the crown of the new year by thy goodness. Bestow thy good things from above upon all thy people, as well as health, salvation, and furtherance in all good things. Deliver thy holy Church, this city and all cities and countrysides from every evil assault, and vouchsafe unto them peace and tranquility; and grant that we may always offer thanksgiving unto thee, the unoriginate Father, together with thine only-begotten Son, and thine all-holy and good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen



THE TWELVE GREAT FEASTS OF ORTHODOXY

Add these dates to your calendar and keep them in mind as you schedule appointments, to **keep these days clear for church services!**

January 6, Theophany, the Baptism of Christ

February 2, The Meeting (Presentation) of the Lord.

March 25, The Annunciation

The Sunday before Pascha, Palm Sunday

Forty Days after Pascha, The Ascension of Christ

Fifty Days after Pascha, Pentecost

August 6, The Transfiguration

August 15, The Falling Asleep of the Theotokos

September 8, The Nativity of the Theotokos

September 14, The Elevation of the Holy Cross

November 21, The Presentation of the Theotokos

December 25, Christmas, the Nativity of Christ.

THE GREAT FEAST OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION STANDS ABOVE ALL THE OTHERS.

WE LIVE FROM PASCHA TO PASCHA!

APRIL 20, 2025

January 2025

Every Saturday: 5:15 pm Confession 5:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
6 pm Vespers

TROPARION OF ST. ANDREW - Tone 4 – As the first-called Apostle and brother of their leader, O Andrew, intercede with the Master of all to grant peace to the world, and to our souls great mercy.

January 5 Sunday before Theophany

Appolonaria, desert-dweller (Egypt, 470)
Theona the sorcerer, martyr (303)

Tone 3
Eothinon 6 (St. Luke 24:36-53)

Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:5-8
Liturgy Gospel: St. Mark 1:1-8

RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 3 - Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad; for the Lord hath done a mighty act with his own arm. He hath trampled down death by death and become the First-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of hades, granting the world the Great Mercy!

January 12 Sunday after Theophany

Tatiana, deaconess & martyr (Rome, 225)
Martinian of the White Lake (Russia, 1483)

Tone 4
Eothinon 7 (St. John 20:1-10)

Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13
Liturgy Gospel: St. Matthew 4:12-17

RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 4 - Having learned the joyful message of the resurrection from the angel, the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation, and proudly broke the news to the disciples saying, Death hath been spoiled. Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!

January 19 29th Sunday after Pentecost

Mark, Bishop of Ephesus (1447)
Anthony of Manteoly, the stylite (Georgia, 6th cent.)

Tone 5
Eothinon 8 (St. John 20:11-18)

Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11
Liturgy Gospel: St. Luke 17:12-19

RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 5 - Let us believers praise and worship the Word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation; for he took pleasure in ascending the cross in the flesh, to suffer death, and to raise the dead by his glorious resurrection.

January 26 32nd Sunday after Pentecost

Xenophon; his wife, Maria;
and their sons, John & Arcadius (Palestine & Constantinople, 5th cent.)
Simeon the Elder (Sinai, 300)

Tone 6
Eothinon 9 (St. John 20:19-31)

Epistle: 1 Timothy 4:9-15
Liturgy Gospel: St. Luke 19:1-10

RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 6 - When Mary stood at thy grave, looking for thy sacred Body, angelic powers shone above thy revered tomb, and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led'st hades captive and wast not tempted thereby; thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world. O thou who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to thee!

**Regular Schedule**

Saturday 5:15 pm Confession
6 pm Vespers
Sunday 9 am Orthros
10 am Divine Liturgy

Check our online calendar at
www.orthodoxdelmar.org/calendar
for the most up-to-date schedule.

Other January Services:**Circumcision of Christ
St. Basil**

Wednesday, January 1
Divine Liturgy 10 am
Vasilopita Prayers
Potluck Luncheon

Theophany

Monday, January 6
Divine Liturgy 3 pm
Great Blessing of Water
Potluck Luncheon

**St. Sava of Serbia
Tuesday, January 14**
Divine Liturgy 10 am

**St. Anthony the Great
Friday, January 17**
Divine Liturgy 10 am

**St. Agnes
Tuesday, January 21**
Divine Liturgy 10 am

Check our online calendar at
www.orthodoxdelmar.org/calendar
for the most up-to-date schedule.

Oh how I love your law! It is my
meditation all the day.

...

How sweet are your words to
my taste, sweeter than honey to
my mouth! Through your precepts
I get understanding; therefore I
hate every false way. Your word is
a lamp to my feet and a light to
my path.

Psalm 119:97, 103-105

Make note of our regular service times:

Saturday Confessions 5:15 pm Sunday Orthros/Matins 9:00 am
Saturday Vespers 6:00 pm Sunday Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Please contact Father Herman for information about becoming a member of St. Andrew Orthodox Church

Rev. Father Herman Acker, Pastor
33384 Mackenzie Way, Lewes, DE 19958
302-645-5791

frherman1@gmail.com
orthodoxdelmar.org

Blessing of Homes

It is customary for Orthodox Christians to have their homes blessed following the Feast of Theophany. Please email or call Father Herman to schedule your home blessing.

Why we bless our homes

As Christians, we are engaged in a struggle to reclaim fallen nature for the Kingdom of God. We often talk about this in terms of our own salvation, but the Church, addressing all of creation in a holistic manner, also reaches out and reclaims a bit here and a bit there of creation in general. We do this in order that we might restore the usefulness of creation for working out our own salvation. Hence we bless anything that might help us in our salvation - and by blessing it we reclaim it consciously for the Kingdom of God, which means we live according to scriptural teaching.

There are few things more vital to our lives than our homes. In our homes we pray, we work, we talk to others, we order our lives, we work out our marriages, etc. What more important place to reclaim for the Kingdom of God. We do not wish to live in a place which is occupied by the enemy. For the most effective working out of our salvation, we must drive the enemy out of our homes, and keep him at bay by our prayers, our righteous life, and the annual sprinkling of Holy Water at Theophany.

The Service

When the priest arrives, he is to be greeted by all of the family members, each asking his blessing and reverencing his right hand or hand cross he is holding. All members of the household should be present for the House Blessing. If you live alone, please arrange for a friend or neighbor to join you for the prayers, for propriety's sake.

All who are present in the house should gather around the icon with the candle. They should, if they are able, join in saying the Trisagion Prayers and sing the Troparion of the Feast of Theophany. During the service everyone in the house prays together for the living and the dead, and all who live and have lived in the house. Then a family member leads the priest through the house with the candle. As he goes, he sprinkles holy water, and prays for a blessing upon each room and the activity that goes on there. When they have gone through the entire house, the family gathers again around the table and the priest blesses each person present.

Preparation

Traditions of the ceremony differ according to local custom, but these general guidelines should be observed:

1. A candle with an icon and a small bowl of Holy Water will be placed in a suitable place, such as kitchen or dining room table, or a home altar. This is where the service will begin. (Father will bring these items, or you may provide your own.)
2. Also, a clearly written list of the names of loved ones for whom prayers are to be offered, including members of the family and all those living in the house. Also, another list of the names of departed loved ones should be prepared. These two lists should be clearly marked as "Living" and "Departed."
3. The home atmosphere should be calm and peaceful. All televisions, radios, stereos, electronic devices, etc., in the home should be turned off.

Some concluding thoughts

If you'd like to invite the priest for refreshments or a meal, please pre-arrange it. Please remember that all refreshments should observe the fasting rules appropriate to that day.

Please confirm your appointment with the priest via email or phone.

Please call or email Fr. Herman (frherman1@gmail.com; 302-645-5791) if you would like to schedule a home blessing.

May the blessing with Holy Water add to the peace and salvation of your home, and may the mercy and love of the Lord Christ be with you and your family always.

Fr. Herman



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REV. FATHER HERMAN ACKER, PASTOR

33384 Mackenzie Way Lewes DE 19958

302-645-5791

frherman1@gmail.com
orthodoxdelmar.org

December 26, 2024
Synaxis of the Theotokos

Beloved in Christ,

It is time to announce the coming **Annual Meeting** of our Church. The Annual Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 26, 2025**, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Items for action by the community are as follows:

- Parish Council Membership Election
- Treasurer's Report
- Introduction of newly-elected and returning Parish Council members
- Ministries Review

All pledging and supporting members are invited to participate and vote.

Yours in Christ,

Jan Petros

Jan Petros
Parish Council Secretary

Coffee Hour Support

Before coffee hour:

- Set up coffee/drink area:
 - check supply of cups, dry creamer, sweeteners, and stirrers (supplies in cabinet beneath)
 - put out cold milk and/or creamers (no milk during fasts)
 - put ice cubes into ice bucket, along with tongs
- Check supply of plates, napkins, and utensils.
- Prepare, heat, or cut as needed any food brought by church members for the buffet.
- Check the refrigerator for leftovers to put out.
- Put sweets at the end of the buffet, so there is plenty of space for food.
- Prepare three plates before the buffet starts for Father Herman, Father Thomas, and Kh. Vera (sweets not necessary); put aside for them in the kitchen workspace area.
- Clean any dishes and pots not being set out (to get a head start on cleanup).

After coffee hour (several people help with these when available; feel free to recruit):

- Encourage people to take their leftovers and/or dirty serving dishes home. (Wrap them well to make it easy for them to do so.)
- Clear buffet table of food items; take to the kitchen and put into containers to save or take home.
- Wash serving dishes and serving utensils.
- Clean the coffee area, turn off the coffee switch, and wipe tables.
- Put sodas and milk in the fridge for the next church service.
- Empty the ice bucket.
- Clean the stove area and check to see if the oven is off, before leaving the kitchen for the day, if it was used to bake or heat food items.
- Restock plates, napkins, and utensils for the next buffet.
- Turn lights off when leaving the kitchen.

Other information:

- Usually Richard Bulko or someone else makes the coffee. If it looks like no one is doing that, there are instructions on the wall in the kitchen, near the regular coffee maker, in case you'd like to try your hand at it. Coffee is in the lower cabinet to the right of the dishwasher. (Other coffee area supplies are in the cabinet below the big coffee pots & beverage area.)
- List of supplies needed for each coffee hour:
 - Coffee - regular and decaf, different teas
 - regular milk (when not in fast), liquid creamer, and powdered creamer
 - cups
 - regular sugar and several kinds of other sweeteners
 - soda: several bottles, different flavors - 2 ltr
 - napkins, paper plates, and utensils. Cabinets are labeled in the kitchen for more replacements.
- Let Marty Smith know if kitchen supplies are low or write items needed on the white board on top of the trash/recycle area. Marty will order them in bulk.
- When buying items needed for the kitchen buffet, keep a receipt and fill out an envelope for reimbursement or record of donation. Envelopes are near the kitchen area on the wall; list items/store/price and give to Priscilla when the envelope is filled ... after several weeks.

2025 Fasting Calendar

LEGEND:	
Abstain from meat, dairy, eggs, fish, olive oil, wine	
Abstain from meat, dairy, eggs, fish, olive oil	
Abstain from meat, dairy, eggs, fish	
Abstain from meat, dairy, eggs	
Abstain from meat	

Note: If the parish's patronal feast falls on a fasting day, fish, wine, and oil are allowed.

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