SAINT ANDREW
THE APOSTLE
ORTHODOX CHURCH

*Antiochian Orthodox Christian 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*

**Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!** **January 2026**

## Wisdom

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

*Titus 2:11-13*

## Homily Series on the Divine Liturgy

**Blessed is the Kingdom:**
**A five-part homily series on the Divine Liturgy**
Sundays, January 4 through February 1, 2026

In these homilies Fr. Herman will address what the Divine Liturgy is, what God does within it, and the responsibility placed upon those who stand before Him in worship.

The series will move deliberately through the actions of the Liturgy, not to explain it from the outside, but to clarify the order by which God gathers His people, speaks to them, commands obedience, gives Himself, and sends them forth under His authority.

This series is for everyone, so that all who participate in the Divine Liturgy may do so with greater clarity, seriousness, and attentiveness to what God is doing and requiring in worship.

Join us for the Divine Liturgy each Sunday to hear this series in person, or tune in to the livestream.

## INTRODUCTION TO EASTERN ORTHODOXY: The Feasts of the Church

**Thursdays at 6pm, beginning January 15**

For those interested in refreshing or deepening their understanding of the Orthodox Faith, and those who wish to explore Eastern Orthodoxy.

- You will learn which Gospel provides the text for each of the Great Feasts and why.
- You will reflect on the poetry and imagery of some of the festal texts which are read, chanted, and/or sung.
- You will become acquainted with the meaning and importance of each of the feasts.

We will be using the two-volume set: *The Incarnate God: The Feasts of Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary* (SVS Press), which will be available for purchase at the church ($30/set).

## 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!

## 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 4.

## 2026 Annual Parish Meeting

St. Andrew's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 25, 2026, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Please see the letter on page 5 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

## THE CALLED, THE EXCUSES, AND THE ELECT: A brief reflection on Luke 14:16-24

**Fr. Herman Acker**

The parable of the Great Banquet confronts one of the most dangerous spiritual illusions: the belief that religious familiarity guarantees a place in God's Kingdom. The invited guests treat the banquet as optional and the master's call as negotiable. Their excuses—respectable, reasonable, socially acceptable—reveal hearts that have lost the fear of God. The parable warns that indifference is not harmless; it is judgment.

The teaching makes clear that belonging to God does not rest on human initiative. The invitation is a "calling," an act of divine mercy that creates the very people who respond. God does not depend on the invited; the invited depend entirely on Him. When those first called refuse, God fills His house with the poor, the maimed, the blind, the lame, and the outsiders—those who know they have nothing but His mercy.

The warning is severe: "None of those who were invited shall taste my banquet." Many are called, but few are chosen. The danger is not dramatic rebellion but quiet excuses, delayed obedience, and the false security of religious habit.

This teaching summons the faithful to vigilance. Cast off entitlement. Lay aside excuses. Hear the call of God with urgency. The Kingdom is not guaranteed to those who presume but given to those who respond with humility, readiness, and obedience.

### Luke 14:16-24

Jesus said to him, "A man once gave a great banquet and invited many. And at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.'"

***1 Timothy 6:17-19*** **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.**

## 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 14 & 28, at NOON.** Please see Lisa Wolak for details and to ask about donations needed.

### Shepherd's Office in Georgetown

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.

**Essential items for the homeless** are collected for them at St. Andrew's. **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.**

In addition to making sandwiches with us, you can **donate funds** online at *www.degives.org/orgs/shepherds-office-inc* or purchase items from their **Amazon wishlist** (*www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2JFM9O9TP1VTC/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex*), which can be shipped directly to them.

### Ongoing collection of non-perishable foods

Non-perishable food items and paper goods are distributed through the food pantry at the Christian Storehouse in Millsboro. Please do not donate anything beyond its expiration date.

**Thank you for your generosity to those in need!** *(Email Kh. Vera at standrewlewes@gmail.com to have the above links sent to you for easy clicking!)*

## January 2026

**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 4 — Sunday before Theophany

Synaxis of the Seventy Apostles
Holy Fathers of the Shio-Mgvime Monastery (6th cent.)

Tone 5 — Epistle: 2 Tim. 4:5-8
Eothinon 8 (St. John 20:11-18) — Liturgy Gospel: St. Mark 1:1-8

**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 11 — Sunday after Theophany

St. Theodosios the Great, founder of monasticism in Palestine (529)
St. Michael Klopsky, the Fool-in-Christ (Russia, 1456)

Tone 6 — Epistle: Hebrews 13:7-16
Eothinon 9 (St. John 20:19-31) — Liturgy Gospel: St. Matthew 4:12-17

**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!

### January 18 — Ss. Athanasios & Cyril

St. Athanasius the Great (373) and St. Cyril (444), archbishops of Alexandria
St. Leobardus of Marmoutier (Gaul, 6th c.)

Tone 7 — Epistle: Hebrews 13:7-16
Eothinon 10 (St. John 21: 1-14) — Liturgy Gospel: St. Luke 17:12-19

**RESURRECTION TROPARION -** Tone 7 - Thou didst shatter death by thy Cross, thou didst open Paradise to the thief; thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment bearing women into joy, and didst bid thine Apostles proclaim a warning that thou hast risen, O Christ, granting to the world the great mercy!

### January 25 — St. Gregory the Theologian

St. Gregory the Theologian, archbishop of Constantinople (389)
St. Bretanion (Vetranion), bishop of Tomis (Romania, 380)

Tone 8 — Epistle: Hebrews 7: 26 - 8: 2
Eothinon 11 (St. John 20: 14-25) — Liturgy Gospel: St. Luke 19: 1-10

**RESURRECTION TROPARION -** Tone 8 - From the heights Thou didst descend, O Compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion. Thou art our Life and our Resurrection, O Lord. Glory to Thee!

## Help Needed - Short-term Sunday school substitute teacher(s)

A substitute Sunday school teacher is needed from mid-March to mid-May, while our regular teachers are unavailable. Full instructions will be provided. **If you can help for any portion of this time**, please see Kim Halkopoulos or Amy Fortin for details.

## Regular Schedule

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|---|---|
| **Saturday** | 5:15 pm Confession<br>6 pm Vespers |
| **Sunday** | 9 am Orthros<br>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**
**Thursday, January 1**
Divine Liturgy 10 am
Vasilopita Prayers
Potluck Luncheon

**Theophany**
**Monday, January 5**
Vespers & Artoklasia 6 pm
**Tuesday, January 6**
Orthros 9 am, Divine Liturgy 10 am
Great Blessing of Water
Potluck Luncheon

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

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

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

## Women of St. Andrew's

**Ladies' Valentine Tea.** February 7, 2026, 12:00 pm. **Buy your tickets now, at church or online, and invite your friends!** Share the Tea webpage: *www.orthodoxdelmar.org/tea*

**Contact Sharon Metaxas** for more information on Ladies' events.

**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 LItturgy | 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
standrewlewes@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

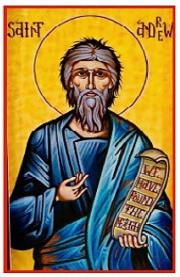
If you'd like to invite the priest for refreshments or a meal, please pre-arrange it. Please remember that all refreshments should observe the fasting rules appropriate to that day.

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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# SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE ORTHODOX CHURCH

*Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America*

December 29, 2025
Holy Innocents slain by Herod

Beloved in Christ,

It is time to announce the coming **Annual Meeting** of our Church. The Annual Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 25, 2026**, 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,

Matt Messatzzia

Matt Messatzzia
Parish Council Secretary

**Order Tickets online beginning December 1!**
**www.orthodoxdelmar.org/tea**

St. Andrew's Presents

# A Ladies' Valentine Tea & Luncheon

## Saturday, February 7, 2026, 12:00 pm

*Featuring*

A variety of Teas
A Luncheon of Savory & Sweet Treats
A Presentation about Tea by Spice & Tea Exchange, Rehoboth Beach
Door prizes, Games, 50/50 Raffle.
Hats Optional

*Tickets $35 per person*

*Proceeds benefit St. Andrew Church & various ministries.*

**St. Andrew Orthodox Church**

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