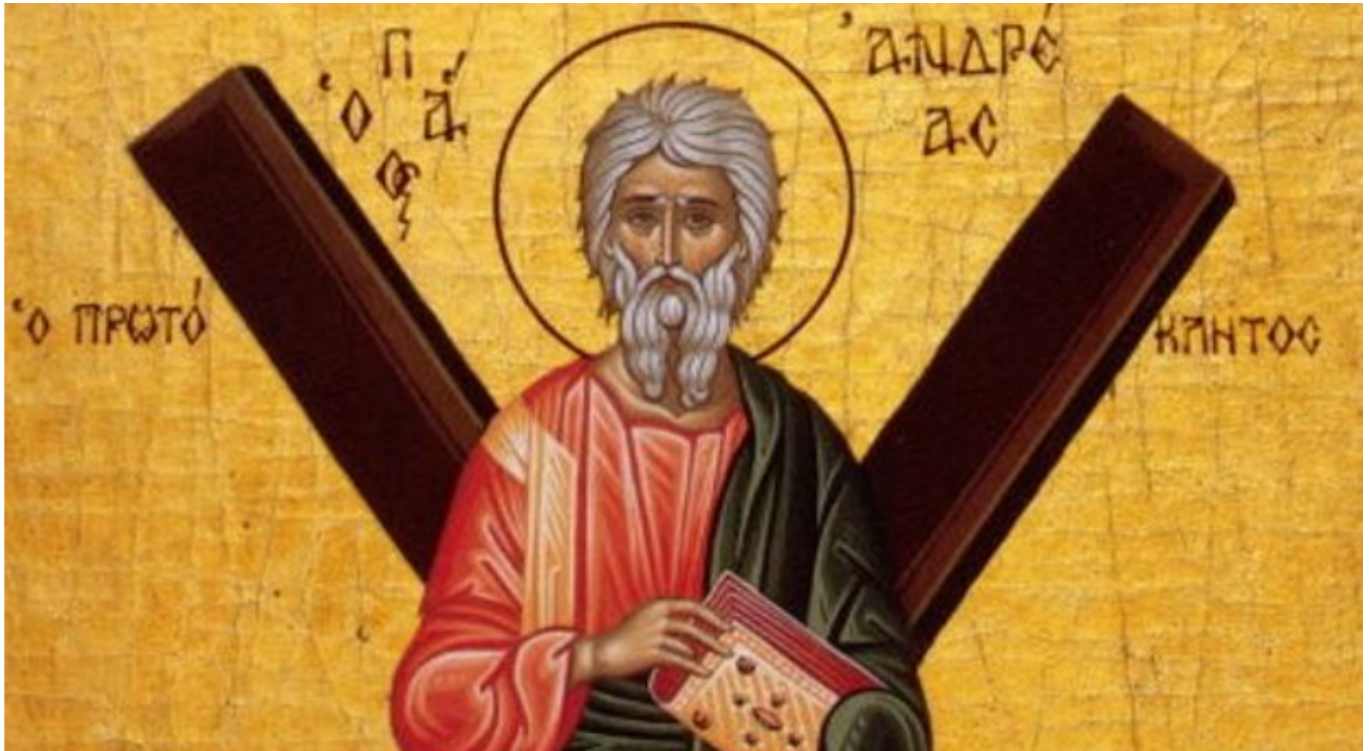


Feast day of Andrew the Glorious First-Called Apostle; celebrations around Orthodoxy



The Church today venerates the memory of Andrew the First- Called Apostle. On the occasion of today's feast of the glorious St. Andrew the First-Called, a great Vespers was held on Monday at the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, officiated by the Ecumenical Patriarch, His All-Holiness Bartholomew I.

On Tuesday, a Synodal Divine Liturgy was conducted at the Patriarchal cathedral, on the occasion of the thronal feast of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and in honor of its founder St. Andrew.

Afterwards, the Ecumenical Patriarch bestowed on George Savvits, a native of the island of Imvros, the offikion of the Archon of the Holy Church of Christ.

An official Greek government delegation was headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Andreas Katsaniotis, who was accompanied by several Greek diplomats.

Back in Greece, the feast day of St. Andrew was celebrated in a solemn and splendid fashion in western port city of Patras on Tuesday, as the First-Called is the patron of the city and the site where he achieved the crown of martyrdom.

Con-celebratory events began on Monday, with a Great Vespers officiated by the

Metropolitan of Serres and Nigrita, His Eminence Theologos.

On Tuesday morning, the Orthros service was officiated by the Metropolitan of Arta, His Eminence Kallinikos, followed by an Archieratical Divine Liturgy officiated by the Metropolitan of Nafpaktos and Aghios Vlasios, His Eminence Ierotheos, and co-officiated by the Metropolitan of Patras, His Eminence Chrysostomos.

On the occasion of today's feast day of St. Andrew the First Called Apostle, the online platform Pemptousia has posted several programs and features on the life and martyrdom of the Apostle.