Saint Andrei, pray for us!



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"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

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Admitting when we are wrong

Have you ever played a game with somebody...somebody who wouldn't admit when he was wrong? Maybe he stepped out of bounds, but then he wouldn't admit it! Maybe he peeked in hide and seek, but then he wouldn't admit it! You know how frustrating it is when somebody won't say when he did the wrong thing!

Today we hear an epistle reading by Saint Paul. Saint Paul is one of the greatest saints of our Church. He did so much to spread the Good News

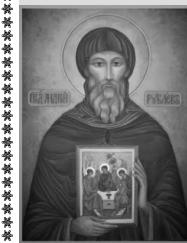
of Jesus Christ. He was one of God's best workers! But did you know something? In the epistle reading, Saint Paul admits he made mistakes. He writes, "I am the first of sinners; but I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the first, Jesus Christ might display His perfect patience for an example to those who were to believe in Him for eternal life."

Wow! What an example for us all! Saint Paul says he is "the first of sinners." He says he did the worst things of all. If Saint Paul, one of our greatest saints, can admit he did the wrong thing, then can't we say it too?

God wants us to say we are sorry for what we do. We have to admit when we do the wrong thing. As Christians, we don't hide it. We don't lie about it. We don't pretend it never happened. Let's be like Saint Paul. Let's say when we do the wrong thing. Then, God will forgive us, just as He did for the great saint!

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SAINT ANDREI RUBLEV AN ICONOGRAPHER SAINT



When you kiss an icon, do you ever think about who painted it? Probably not! When we kiss an icon, we think about the person *in* the icon. We ask for their prayers. We show we love and honor the person in the icon!

This week, we remember a saint who painted icons, but who is also a saint himself! Saint Andrei Rublev lived in Russia 600 years ago. We don't know too much about his life. We

know he worked on a cathedral in Russia. We know he had a famous teacher from Greece who came to Russia to work on icons there. We know Saint Andrei became a monk. All along he trained to be a master icon painter, an iconographer.

Once, Saint Andrei's project was to paint the icons for a great church that had been destroyed by invaders. He painted a story from the Bible, the story of Abraham and Sarah and the special visitors they had. Saint Andrei knew that our Church remembers the Holy Trinity with this icon. If you look at the icon (on page 2), we know Jesus is in the middle. It looks like He is in a cup. Do you remember how we receive our Lord in the cup of Holy Communion?

Saint Andrei's icon is so special to us, because it tells us this important thing about God. And he tells it to us in a beautiful way!

We celebrate St. Andrei on Friday, January 29th (OC: Feb. 11th).
