



SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE ORTHODOX CHURCH

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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Holy Prophet Micah

Greetings to all the Stewards, Benefactors, and Friends of St Andrew's,

I pray that you, your families, and all your loved ones are continuing in your devotion to our Lord Jesus during this difficult time.

May we all find that this time of trial is a cause for spiritual growth, as the Apostle Paul writes, *"We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."* (Romans 5:3-5).

Taking the Apostle's admonition, it is appropriate to focus our thoughts on the ways we can express this Christian joy. In every time and in all kinds of circumstances the Church has expressed its joy in Christ through the medium of various kinds of art: writings, hymns, beautiful churches, and of course the Holy Icons which illuminate the churches and express the exuberance of our faith in the Incarnation of Christ. At St. Andrew's we are continuing in this sacred tradition.

We are here in Sussex County to serve the community, to provide a refuge of faith for those who, like ourselves, are seeking the Lord. One very important way we serve is to provide a space for worship that calms the soul and directs all who enter our Church toward God through the joyful beauty of Iconography. In this we wish for the future generations what we wish for ourselves today: a Church of beauty where the Saints and Biblical themes surround us as we lift praises to the Lord.

With this in mind, I ask you to look at the beautiful brochure accompanying this letter to get a glimpse of the Iconography we are hoping will illuminate our Sanctuary ceiling. Any help you can give to complete the center ceiling Iconography project will be a blessing to all who worship at St. Andrew's.

The commitment that you have shown in the prayers you offer and the gifts you give are evidence of your commitment to and love for the Lord. It is through your generosity that St. Andrew's is a present reality in Lewes, Delaware. We continue to ask the Apostle Andrew to pray for us as we joyfully continue to build on the many blessings we have been given.

It is my joy, on behalf of St. Andrew's and the Beautification Committee, to send you this letter and to thank you for your prayerful and financial support for all that is accomplished here at the Church of St. Andrew the First-Called, so that the Orthodox Christian Faith may continue to be made known in the first city of the first state in the United States.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Herman

Fr. Herman Acker