

**SAINT ANDREW, FOOL FOR CHRIST**

**MERELY SEEKING TO PLEASE GOD**

**There is a category of saints who are called ‘FOOLDS FOR CHRIST.’ Theses are the people who became a spectacle to the world because they rejected everything society values: money, power, prestige, property, clothing, food, and anything else that is sought after by carnal man. Beyond this, they endured for Christ’s sake destitution, ill-treatment, and mockery from every strata of society. Among them is ST ANDREW, FOOL FOR CHRIST, who lived an extremely ascetic life during the 10<sup>th</sup> century.**

**Andrew was born a Slav and was forced into slavery in Constantinople. His master sent him off to be educated, and he turned to the sacred writing. It wasn’t long before he dedicated himself completely to Christ.**

**Pretending to be out of his mind, he roamed the streets by day, half naked in a single, tattered garment. He ate what little bread he begged for and willingly gave away the articles he received to fellow poor souls. Andrew struggled without a roof over his head, spending his nights in hours of prayer.**

**Andrew was blessed with clairvoyance and granted several visions. Perhaps he is best known by an incident associated with the holyday of the Protection of the Holy Virgin. As faithful Christians prayed in the Church of Blachernae, during siege, beseeching the intercession of the Birthgiver of God, Andrew saw the Virgin sheltering the people with her veil. He said to his disciple: “Don you see the Queen and Mistress of all, praying?” Epiphanius answered: “I do see, father, and I am terrified.” The faithful were spared by the merciful intercession of the Virgin.**