

Commemorations in the Prayers

November 28

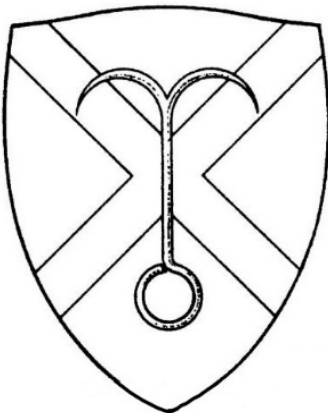
Kamehameha IV & Emma, Christian Rulers



Alekanetero (Alexander) 'Iolani was the grandson of Kamehameha I, first king of the Hawaiian Islands. He was educated by Congregationalist missionaries, and he and his wife, Queen Emma (a great-grandniece of Kamehameha I), were both devout Christians. They encouraged the building of Christian schools and hospitals. The king personally translated the Book of Common Prayer and much of The (Anglican) Hymnal into Hawaiian. They were also devoted to improving the health and welfare of their people, who had been decimated by several foreign diseases. The king entered heavenly rest on November 28, 1863, and the queen on April 25, 1885. They are remembered in some churches on the Feast of the Holy Sovereigns, November 28.

November 30

St. Andrew, Apostle & Martyr



Andrew, a fisherman with his brother Simon Peter, is known as “The First-Called” among the Apostles. He started as a disciple of John the Baptist, who pointed Andrew and another disciple to Jesus. Andrew in turn told his brother of Jesus as the Messiah. It was Andrew who told Jesus about the boy with the lunch of fishes and loaves, which Jesus multiplied to feed thousands. Andrew also went with Philip to tell Jesus of some Greeks who wished to see the Lord. According to tradition, Andrew was crucified on an X-shaped cross. In heraldry and vexillology, this symbol is a saltire, and it adorns the arms and flags of places that regard Andrew as their patron saint, most especially Scotland. The saltire is often shown with an inverted anchor (see our stained glass window for Andrew). The nearest Sunday to St. Andrew’s Day is the first Sunday in Advent.

December 4

John of Damascus (A. D. 749), Hymn-writer & Apologist



John was the son of a Christian official in the court of a Muslim caliph, and may have had such a civil career himself before his ordination. He became a priest and monk at Mar Saba monastery near Jerusalem. His writings show a knowledge of the Qur’an (of which he was critical), and a passionate defense of the use of icons. He is generally accounted “the last of the [Early Church] Fathers.” Two of his Easter hymns are still widely sung in English (translated by John Mason Neale): *The Day of Resurrection* (LSB 478) and *Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain* (LSB 487).