



ALL SAINTS OF AMERICA

Orthodox Church
in America

orthodoxalexandria.org

3130 Franconia Rd
Alexandria, VA 22310

Father Alessandro
Margheritino
(703) 828-5068
fatheralessandro@gmail.com

Welcome to our parish!

Thank you for choosing to worship with us on the Lord's Day. We are grateful for your prayers and participation!

Please join us for coffee hour after the service. Our priest, Father Alessandro, would love to greet and welcome you.

Holy Eucharist requires full communion of faith, so if you are not an Orthodox Christian, please do not approach the Chalice. If you are an Orthodox Christian, please note that communion must be preceded by fasting, recent Confession, and reconciliation with all people.

January 7, 2024

31st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Tone 6

Afterfeast of the Theophany
Synaxis of the Holy Glorious
Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist
John

Synaxis of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John

In the Orthodox Church it is customary, on the day following the Great Feasts of the Lord and the Mother of God, to remember those saints who participated directly in the sacred event. So, on the day following the Theophany of the Lord, the Church honors the one who participated directly in the Baptism of Christ, placing his own hand upon the head of the Savior.

Saint John, the holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, whom the Lord called the greatest of the prophets, concludes the history of the Old Testament and opens the era of the New Testament. The holy Prophet John bore witness to the Only-Begotten Son of God, incarnate in the flesh. Saint John was accounted worthy to baptize Him in the waters of the Jordan, and he was a witness of the Theophany of the Most Holy Trinity on the day of the Savior's Baptism. The holy Prophet John, the son of the Priest Zachariah and Righteous Elizabeth, was related to the Lord on His mother's side.

The holy Forerunner, John, was born six months before Christ. The Archangel Gabriel announced his birth in the Temple at Jerusalem, revealing to Zachariah that a son was to be born to him. Through the prayers offered beforehand, the child was filled with the Holy Spirit. Saint John prepared himself in the wilds of the desert for his great service by a strict life, by fasting, prayer and sympathy for the fate of God's people. At the age of thirty, he came forth preaching repentance. He appeared on the banks of the Jordan, to prepare the people by his preaching to accept the Savior of the world.

In church hymnology, Saint John is called a "bright morning star," whose gleaming outshone the brilliance of all the other stars, announcing the coming dawn of the day of grace, illumined with the light of the spiritual Sun, our Lord Jesus Christ. Having baptized the sinless Lamb of God, Saint John soon died a martyr's death, beheaded by the sword on orders of King Herod at the request of his daughter Salome.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

REQUESTING PRAYERS: Cristina, Nicholas, Jerry, Basil, Michelle, Yuri, Davide, Pina, Kelsey and her unborn

CATECHUMEN: Calvin

MISSIONARIES: The McDonald family

BIRTHDAYS: Gabriel Woodill

DEPARTED: Archpriest Daniel

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOME BLESSINGS: If you would like to have your house blessed, please let Fr. Alessandro know. Home blessings will be scheduled through the end of February. To prepare for Father's visit, make a list of the names of those family members you want to pray for. On your dining room table or at your icon corner, lay out a white cloth if you have it, and set on it a candle that can be carried around the house and your prayer list. A member of the family will lead the priest around the house with the candle.

ANNUAL MEETING & PARISH COUNCIL: Our next Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 28. We will be holding elections for some of the Parish Council positions. If you are interested in running, please speak with Fr. Alessandro.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING: A big football game is coming up on February 11, 2024, and once again on that weekend our parish will "tackle" hunger to help people in need both near and far. We will be collecting non-perishable food items and diapers (sizes 5 and 6) for the Grace Pantry in Alexandria. We also will collect donations for IOCC, including for their ongoing emergency relief efforts in the Holy Land and Ukraine. Our goals for this event are to collect 500+ diapers in size 5, 500+ diapers in size 6, and \$500 in donations for IOCC. Please bring your donations on or before Sunday, February 11. Lory Easton is willing to purchase diapers at Costco for any who would like to contribute that way (PayPal to LBEBiz2010@gmail.com), and a Souper Bowl of Caring Amazon Wish List also is available (via email).

OYM DC RETREAT: Orthodox Youth & Young Adult Ministries (OYM) is hosting a pan-Orthodox retreat for youth and adults on Saturday, Feb 10, at Ss. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Silver

Spring, MD. The full-day retreat will have two tracks, one for youth (grades 6-12, high school and middle school) and one for adults including young professionals, parents, and youth workers. The theme is "3E-Treat" with the goal to help participants encounter Christ, embody His Church, and engage the world in His Name. Topics will include how to be ambassadors of God's love to a hurting world. The retreat is without cost but pre-registration is required. For more information and to register: theoym.org/washingtondc

PSALMODY CONCERT: On January 19, 7:30p, at Sts. Peter and Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church in Potomac, the Archdiocesan Choir will offer a special concert entitled "Behold How Good: A Concert of Psalmody." This is a ticketed event. For more information and to reserve your ticket, visit: archdiocesanchoir.org/psalmody-concert

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

January 7, Sun

8:45 AM

Church School

9:30 AM

Divine Liturgy

January 11, Thu

7:00 PM

Journey to Fullness

January 13, Sat

5:00 PM

Great Vespers

January 14, Sun

8:45 AM

Church School

9:30 AM

Divine Liturgy

MINISTRY ROTATIONS

Jan 7

Jan 14

Coffee Hour:

Garber

Class

Reader:

Hughes

TBA

Fr. Alessandro is available for Confession on Saturday after Vespers or by appointment