



ALL SAINTS OF AMERICA

Orthodox Church
in America

orthodoxalexandria.org

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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.

February 11, 2024

36th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Tone 3

Hieromartyr Blaise, Bishop of
Sebaste

Ven. Dimitri,
Wonderworker of Prilukir

HIEROMARTYR BLAISE, BISHOP OF SEBASTE

The Hieromartyr Blaise, Bishop of Sebaste, was known for his righteous and devout life. This occurred during the reign of the Roman emperors Diocletian (284-305) and Licinius (307-324), fierce persecutors of Christians. Saint Blaise encouraged his flock, visited the imprisoned, and gave support to the martyrs. Many hid themselves from the persecutors by going off to desolate and solitary places. Saint Blaise also hid himself away on Mount Argeos, where he lived in a cave. Wild beasts came up to him and meekly waited until the saint finished his prayer and blessed them. The saint also healed sick animals by laying his hands upon them. The refuge of the saint was discovered by servants of the governor Agrilaus, who had come to capture wild beasts to loose on the Christian martyrs. The servants reported to their master that Christians were hiding on the mountain, and he gave orders to arrest them. But those sent out found there only the Bishop of Sebaste.

Glorifying God Who had summoned him to this exploit, Saint Blaise followed the soldiers. Along the way the saint healed the sick and worked other miracles. Agrilaus, greeting the bishop with words of deceit, called him a companion of the gods. The saint answered the greeting, but he called the gods devils. Then they beat him and led him off to prison. On the next day, they subjected the saint to tortures again.

The saint stoically endured the torments, strengthened by the grace of God, their bodies were transformed and became white as snow. One of the women had two young sons, who implored their mother to help them attain the Kingdom of Heaven, and she entrusted them to the care of Saint Blaise. The seven holy women were beheaded. Saint Blaise was again brought before Agrilaus, and again he unflinchingly confessed his faith in Christ. The governor ordered that the martyr be thrown into a lake. The saint, going down to the water, signed himself with the Sign of the Cross, and he walked on it as though on dry land. Addressing the pagans standing about on shore,

he challenged them to come to him while calling on the help of their gods. Sixty-eight men of the governor's retinue entered the water, and immediately drowned. The saint, however, heeding the angel who had appeared to him, returned to shore. Agrilaus was in a rage over losing his finest servants, and he gave orders to behead Saint Blaise, and the two sons of the woman martyr entrusted to him.

Before his death, the martyr prayed for the whole world, and especially for those honoring his memory. This occurred in about the year 316.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

CATECHUMEN: Calvin, Brooke

MISSIONARIES: The McDonald family

DEPARTED: Archpriest Moses, Archpriest Ivan, Patricia, Emil, Tony, Nicholas

BIRTHDAYS: Deacon Alexander Woodill, Bob Easton

NAMEDAYS: Nicolas Margheritino

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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).

INSTALLING PARISH COUNCIL: On Sunday, February 18, at the end of Divine Liturgy, the new parish council will be installed after having received the blessing of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon..

CHRISMATION: On Sunday, Feb 18, before Divine Liturgy, we will be welcoming our catechumen Calvin into the fullness of the ORthodox Christian Church through the rite of Chrismation.

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

February 11, Sun

8:45 AM

Church School

9:30 AM

Divine Liturgy

February 15, Thu

7:00 PM

Journey to Fullness

February 17, Sat

5:00 PM

Great Vespers

February 18, Sun

8:45 AM

Church School

9:30 AM

Divine Liturgy

MINISTRY ROTATIONS

Feb 11

Feb 18

Coffee Hour:

Garber

Class

Reader:

Hughes

Barr

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