



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 23, 2025

35th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
TONE 2

Sunday of the Last Judgment
Hieromartyr Polycarp, Bishop of
Smyrna

SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT

Today's Gospel reading is Matthew 25:31-46, the parable of the Last Judgment. It reminds us that while trusting in Christ's love and mercy, we must not forget His righteous judgment when He comes again in glory. If our hearts remain hardened and unrepentant, we should not expect the Lord to overlook our transgressions simply because He is a good and loving God. Although He does not desire the death of a sinner, He also expects us to turn from our wickedness and live (Ezek. 33:11). This same idea is expressed in the prayer read by the priest after the penitent has confessed his or her sins (Slavic practice). The time for repentance and forgiveness is now, in the present life. At the Second Coming, Christ will appear as the righteous Judge, "Who will render to every man according to his deeds" (Rom. 2:6).

Then the time for entreating God's mercy and forgiveness will have passed. As Father Alexander Schmemmann reminds us in his book GREAT LENT (Ch. 1:4), sin is the absence of love, it is separation and isolation. When Christ comes to judge the world, His criterion for judgment will be love. Christian love entails seeing Christ in other people, our family, our friends, and everyone else we may encounter in our lives. We shall be judged on whether we have loved, or not loved, our neighbor. We show Christian love when we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit those who are sick or in prison. If we did such things for the least of Christ's brethren, then we also did them for Christ (Mt.25:40). If we did not do such things for the least of the brethren, neither did we do them for Christ (Mt.25:45). Today is the last day for eating meat and meat products until Pascha, though eggs and dairy products are permitted every day during the coming week. This limited fasting prepares us gradually for the more intense fasting of Great Lent.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

REQUESTING PRAYERS: Larissa, Bob, David, Zondra, Art, Jerry, Davide

CATECHUMEN: Brooke, Levi, Daniel, Robert

MISSIONARIES: The Brandow family serving in Guatemala

DEPARTED: Aleksandra, Olivia

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHEESEFARE WEEK: We continue to journey through this pre-Lenten season. Starting tomorrow, February 24, we begin fasting from meat up until next Sunday evening, March 2, when we enter the Great Fast.

FR. ALESSANDRO AWAY: Please note that Fr. Alessandro is traveling this week and will return next Saturday, March 1.

FORGIVENESS VESPERS: Next Sunday evening, we will celebrate an important service which marks the beginning of Great Lent. At the end of Vespers, we will all ask forgiveness from one another by bowing and saying “Forgive me a sinner,” and replying “God forgives and I forgive” while we exchange the kiss of peace.

21st ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL: The 21st All-American Council will take place in Phoenix, AZ on July 14-18. As in the past, there will be a youth program that week. For more information and to register, please visit oca.org/aac.

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

Feb 22, Sat 5:00 PM	Great Vespers
Feb 23, Sun 8:45 AM 9:30 AM	Church School Divine Liturgy
Mar 1, Sat 5:00 PM	Great Vespers
Mar 2, Sun 8:45 AM 9:30 AM 5:00 PM	Church School Divine Liturgy Forgiveness Vespers

MINISTRY ROTATIONS

	Feb 23	Mar 2
<i>Coffee Hour:</i>	Hughes	Mittlefehldt
<i>Reader:</i>	Harned	Hughes
<i>Cleaning:</i>	Hughes	Mittlefehldt
<i>Communion Cloth:</i>	Garber/Barr	Easton/Terezi

Priest available for Confession after Vespers or by appointment