



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.

March 10, 2024

SUNDAY OF MEATFARE

Tone 7

Sunday of the Last Judgment
Martyr Quadratus and those with
him

SUNDAY OF MEATFARE 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: Charlotte, Debra, John, Larissa, Cristina, Jerry, Davide, Pina, Kelsey and her unborn

NEWBORN: Adam Pagovski

CATECHUMEN: Brooke

MISSIONARIES: The McDonald family

DEPARTED: Yuri, Constance, Janet, Patricia, Emil

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARISH RETREAT: On Saturday, March 16, the parish of All Saints of America Orthodox Church in Alexandria is pleased to welcome you to a retreat led by Dr. Peter Bouteneff titled "How to be a sinner: Understanding myself as a sinner." Dr. Bouteneff, who is a Professor of Systematic Theology at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, will explore topics that include understanding myself as a sinner, the uses and abuses of guilt and shame, other people's sins, the gifts of the "sinner identity," and God's mercy and mine. His talk is based on his SVS Press bestseller, How to be a sinner. There is no cost to attend this retreat, and all are welcome.

MEALS SIGN-UP: A sign-up genius has been shared via email to invite parishioners to sign up for dishes to share on Meatfare, March 10, and Cheesefare Sunday, March 17 for potluck coffee hours. The sign-up genius also has slots for the potluck meals after the Presanctified Liturgies during Great Lent.

CHOIR REHEARSALS: Choir members, please note that our next rehearsals are scheduled for the following dates: March 10, April 6 after Vespers (6-7), and May 18 after Vespers (6-7).

ARCHDIOCESAN VIGIL FOR ANNUNCIATION: On the eve of the great feast of Annunciation, Sunday, March 24, His Beatitude Metropolitan

Tikhon will preside at the Archdiocesan Vigil at 6:00p at St. Mark Orthodox Church in Bethesda, MD. All faithful of the Archdiocese are encouraged to attend this beautiful celebration.

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

March 10, Sun

8:45 AM

Church School

9:30 AM

Divine Liturgy

March 13, Wed

6:30 PM

Parish Council

March 14, Thu

7:00 PM

Journey to Fullness

March 16, Sat

2:00 PM

Parish Lenten Retreat

5:00 PM

Great Vespers

March 17, Sun

8:45 AM

Church School

9:30 AM

Divine Liturgy

5:00 PM

Forgiveness Vespers

MINISTRY ROTATIONS

Mar 10

Mar 17

Coffee Hour:

Potluck

Potluck

Reader:

Easton

Easton

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