



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.

April 14, 2024

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Tone 4

ST. JOHN CLIMACUS
(OF THE LADDER)

St. Martin the Confessor, Pope of
Rome

SAINT MARTIN THE CONFESSOR, POPE OF ROME

Saint Martin the Confessor, Pope of Rome, received a fine education and entered into the clergy of the Roman Church. After the death of Pope Theodore I (642-649), Martin was chosen to succeed him. At this time the peace of the Church was disturbed by the Monothelite heresy (the false doctrine that in Christ there is only one will, whereas in fact He has a divine, and a human will). Even the emperor Constans (641-668) and Patriarch Paul of Constantinople (641-654) were adherents of the Monothelite heresy. The emperor Constans II published the heretical “Pattern of Faith” (Typos), obligatory for all the population.

Saint Martin, a firm supporter of Orthodoxy, convened the Lateran Council at Rome to condemn the Monothelite heresy. At the same time Saint Martin sent a letter to Patriarch Paul, persuading him to return to the Orthodox confession of faith. The enraged emperor ordered the military commander Olympius to bring Saint Martin to trial. But Olympius feared the clergy and the people of Rome who had descended upon the Council, and he sent a soldier to murder the holy hierarch. When the assassin approached Saint Martin, he was blinded. In 654 the emperor sent another military commander, Theodore, to Rome, who, with a detachment of soldiers, seized Saint Martin by night and took him to Naxos, one of the Cyclades islands in the Aegean Sea. Saint Martin spent an entire year on this almost unpopulated island, suffering deprivation and abuse from the guards. Then they sent the exhausted confessor to Constantinople for trial. They carried the sick man on a stretcher, but the judges callously ordered him to stand up and answer their questions. The soldiers propped up the saint, who was weakened by illness. The biased judges did not even bother to hear the saint’s defense. In sorrow he said, “The Lord knows what a great kindness you would show me if you would deliver me quickly over to death.”

After such a trial, the sentence was announced: Saint Martin was to be deposed from his rank and executed. They bound the half-naked

saint with chains and dragged him to prison, where they locked him up with thieves. In the midst of all this the emperor went to the dying Patriarch Paul and told him of the trial of Saint Martin. He turned away from the emperor and said, "Woe is me! This is another reason for my judgment." He asked that Saint Martin's torments be stopped. The emperor again sent a notary and other persons to the saint in prison to interrogate him. The saint answered, "Even if they cripple me, I will not have relations with the Church of Constantinople while it remains in its evil doctrines." The torturers were astonished at the confessor's boldness, and they commuted his death sentence to exile at Cherson in the Crimea. Saint Martin departed to the Lord, exhausted by sickness, hunger and deprivations on September 16, 655. Great crowds of people visited his tomb because of the many miracles which took place there. Later, his relics were transferred to Rome, and placed in a church dedicated to Martin of Tours.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

REQUESTING PRAYERS: John, Edward, Jackson, Larissa, Cristina, Jerry, Davide

NEWBORN: Everett James

CATECHUMEN: Brooke

MISSIONARIES: The Brandow family serving in Guatemala

BIRTHDAYS: Jack Morris

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION: It is important that every Orthodox Christian receives the Mystery of Confession during the Lenten season. In the coming weeks, Fr. Alessandro will be available for Confession after the Liturgy of the Presanctified, after Great Vespers (Sat), or by appointment. If you wish to come before these services, please let him know ahead of time. Please, note that Friday, April 26 is the last day when Fr. Alessandro will

hear Confessions before Pascha. When we enter Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, our focus must be exclusively on walking with our Lord through His passion.

POST-PRESANCTIFIED POTLUCKS: As it is customary in many Orthodox communities, we will share a lenten meal following the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts. Please, feel free to bring (but not mandatory), a lenten dish or side to share.

MEALS SIGN-UP: A sign-up genius has been shared via email to invite parishioners to sign up for dishes to share after the Presanctified Liturgies during Great Lent.

CHOIR REHEARSALS: Choir members, please note that our next rehearsal is scheduled for May 18 after Vespers (6-7).

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

April 14, Sun 8:45 AM 9:30 AM	Church School Divine Liturgy
April 17, Wed 6:00 PM	Presanctified Lit.
April 20, Sat 5:00 PM	Great Vespers
April 21, Sun 8:45 AM 9:30 AM	Church School Divine Liturgy

MINISTRY ROTATIONS

	April 14	April 21
<i>Coffee Hour:</i>	Barr	Mittlefehldt
<i>Reader:</i>	Hughes	Barr

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