



## ALL SAINTS OF AMERICA

Orthodox Church  
in America

[orthodoxalexandria.org](http://orthodoxalexandria.org)

3130 Franconia Rd  
Alexandria, VA 22310

Father Alessandro  
Margheritino  
(703) 828-5068

[fatheralessandro@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**April 21, 2024**

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Tone 5

ST MARY OF EGYPT

Hieromartyr Januarius, Bishop of Benevento, and his companions

## SAINT MARY OF EGYPT

When Mary was only twelve years old, she left her parents and departed to Alexandria, where she lived a depraved life for seventeen years. Then, moved by curiosity, she went with many pilgrims to Jerusalem, that she might see the Exaltation of the venerable Cross. Even in the Holy City she gave herself over to every kind of licentiousness and drew many into the depth of perdition.

Desiring to go into the church on the day of the Exaltation of the Cross, time and again she perceived a certain invisible power preventing her entrance, whereas the multitude of people about her entered unhindered. Therefore, wounded in heart by this, she decided to change her way of life and reconcile herself to God by means of repentance. Invoking our Lady the Theotokos as her protectress, she asked her to open the way for her to worship the Cross, and vowed that she would renounce the world. And thus, returning once again to the church, she entered easily. When she had worshiped the precious Wood, she departed that same day from Jerusalem and passed over the Jordan. She went into the inner wilderness and for forty-seven years lived a most harsh manner of life, surpassing human strength; alone, she prayed to God alone. Toward the end of her life, she met a certain hermit named Zosimas, and she related to him her life from the beginning. She requested of him to bring her the immaculate Mysteries that she might partake of them. According to her request, he did this the following year on Holy and Great Thursday.

One year after this, Zosimas again went and found her dead, laid upon the ground, and letters written in the sand near her which said: "Abba Zosimas, bury here the body of wretched Mary. I died on the very day I partook of the immaculate Mysteries. Pray for me."

Her death is reckoned by some to have taken place in 378, by some, in 437, and by others, in 522. She is commemorated also on the Fifth Sunday of Great Lent. Her life was recorded by Saint Sophronius of Jerusalem.

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

REQUESTING PRAYERS: John, Michelle, Larissa, Cristina, Jerry, Davide, Andra and her unborn child

NEWBORN: Everett James

DEPARTED: Edward

CATECHUMEN: Brooke

MISSIONARIES: The Brandow family serving in Guatemala

## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAZARUS SATURDAY & BLESSING OF PALMS: Next Saturday, April 27, we will serve the Divine Liturgy at 9:00a for Lazarus Saturday. Following the service, we will be assembling palm branches to be blessed later that day after Vespers. The following day, the feast of the Entry into Jerusalem, everybody is asked to hold a palm branch throughout the Divine Liturgy. Weather permitting, we will go outside in procession toward the end of the service.

LAST PRESANCTIFIED: On Wednesday, April 24, we will serve the last Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts of the year. Fr. Alessandro encourages everybody to attend this beautiful lenten service, especially if you have not attended any other lenten services so far.

CONFESSION: A gentle reminder that Friday, April 26 (the day before Lazarus Saturday) is the last day when Fr. Alessandro will hear Confessions before Pascha.

PASCHAL FLOWERS: If you would like to make a special donation to offset the cost for flowers for the Feast of Feasts, please write “flowers” in the memo line of a check or donate through our website.

RED EGGS: In preparation for Great and Holy Pascha, we are looking for parishioners who are willing to dye red eggs. If you plan on it, please let Fr. Alessandro know.

CHURCH SCHOOL: Please note that Church School will be on break on Palm Sunday, Pascha, and Thomas Sunday. It will resume on Sunday, May 19.

CHOIR REHEARSALS: Choir members, please note that our next rehearsals scheduled for April 27 and May 18 after Vespers (6-7).

### UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

April 21, Sun

8:45 AM

Church School

9:30 AM

Divine Liturgy

April 24, Wed

6:00 PM

Presanctified Lit.

April 27, Sat

9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy

5:00 PM

Great Vespers & Blessing of Palms

6:00 PM

Choir Rehearsal

April 28, Sun

9:30 AM

Divine Liturgy

### MINISTRY ROTATIONS

**April 21**

**April 28**

*Coffee Hour:*

Mittlefehldt

Margheritino

*Reader:*

Barr

Easton

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