



## ALL SAINTS OF AMERICA

Orthodox Church  
in America

[orthodoxalexandria.org](http://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.

**JUNE 4, 2023**

8th SUNDAY OF PASCHA

Holy Pentecost: Feast of the Holy  
Trinity

St. Metrophanes, first Patriarch of  
Constantinople

## The Vespers of Pentecost

The liturgical peculiarity of Pentecost is a very special Vespers of the day itself. Usually this service follows immediately the Divine Liturgy, is “added” to it as its own fulfillment. The service begins as a solemn “summing up” of the entire celebration, as its liturgical synthesis. We hold flowers in our hands symbolizing the joy of the eternal spring, inaugurated by the coming of the Holy Spirit. After the festal Entrance, this joy reaches its climax in the singing of the Great Prokeimenon:

“Who is so great a God as our God?”

Then, having reached this climax, we are invited to kneel. This is our first kneeling since Easter. It signifies that after these fifty days of Paschal joy and fulness, of experiencing the Kingdom of God, the Church now is about to begin her pilgrimage through time and history. It is evening again, and the night approaches, during which temptations and failures await us, when, more than anything else, we need Divine help, that presence and power of the Holy Spirit, who has already revealed to us the joyful End, who now will help us in our effort towards fulfillment and salvation.

All this is revealed in the three prayers which the celebrant reads now as we all kneel and listen to him. In the first prayer, we bring to God our repentance, our increased appeal for forgiveness of sins, the first condition for entering into the Kingdom of God.

In the second prayer, we ask the Holy Spirit to help us, to teach us to pray and to follow the true path in the dark and difficult night of our earthly existence. Finally, in the third prayer, we remember all those

who have achieved their earthly journey, but who are united with us in the eternal God of Love.

The joy of Easter has been completed and we again have to wait for the dawn of the Eternal Day. Yet, knowing our weakness, humbling ourselves by kneeling, we also know the joy and the power of the Holy Spirit who has come. We know that God is with us, that in Him is our victory.

Thus is completed the feast of Pentecost and we enter “the ordinary time” of the year. Yet, every Sunday now will be called “after Pentecost”—and this means that it is from the power and light of these fifty days that we shall receive our own power, the Divine help in our daily struggle. At Pentecost we decorate our churches with flowers and green branches—for the Church “never grows old, but is always young.” It is an evergreen, ever-living Tree of grace and life, of joy and comfort. For the Holy Spirit—“the Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life—comes and abides in us, and cleanses us from all impurity,” and fills our life with meaning, love, faith and hope.

#### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

REQUESTING PRAYERS: Archpriest Daniel, Daniel, Brian, Don, Bobbi, Yuri, David

BIRTHDAYS: April Mittlefehldt

#### NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH SCHOOL: Please note that the last day of Church School is June 11.

PARISH PICNIC: Please mark your calendar for June 18. On the feast of All Saints of America, we will celebrate our patronal feast day! In place of coffee hour, we plan to enjoy a picnic outdoor.

CHOIR REHEARSALS: Choirs members, please note the dates of the choir rehearsals over the next few months: June 10, July 15, August 12, September 16, and October 14.

YOUTH MINISTRY PRESENTATION: On Saturday, June 10, the Young Adults Group at St. Nicholas Cathedral will host a presentation called "Dying to Self: Finding Identity, Belonging and Purpose in Christ" by Ken Liu, of Orthodox Youth & Young Adult Ministries (OYM).

### UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

June 4, Sun 8:45 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM	Church School Divine Liturgy Pentecost Kneeling Vespers
June 6, Tue 7:00 PM	Parish Council
June 10, Sat 5:00 PM 5:45 PM	Great Vespers Choir Rehearsal
June 11, Sun 8:45 AM 9:30 AM	Church School Divine Liturgy

### MINISTRY ROTATIONS

*Coffee Hour* - Garber

*Reader* - Lory & Catherine Easton

*Assisting the Treasurer* - Barr & Garber

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