



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.

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

12th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

TONE 3

Afterfeast of the Elevation of the
Cross. Sunday after Elevation
Greatmartyr Niketas (Nikita) the
Goth

GREATMARTYR NIKETAS THE GOTH

The Holy Great Martyr Niketas was a Goth (a Germanic tribe). He was born and lived on the banks of the Danube River, suffering for Christ in the year 372. The Christian Faith was already spreading throughout the territory of the Goths at that time. Saint Niketas believed in Christ and was baptized by the Gothic bishop Theophilus, who participated in the First Ecumenical Council. Pagan Goths started to oppose the spread of Christianity, which resulted in a civil war.

After Fritigern, at the head of a Christian army, defeated the pagan Athanaric, the Christian Faith continued to spread among the Goths. The Arian bishop Ulfilas, the successor to Bishop Theophilus, created a Gothic alphabet and translated many spiritual books into the Gothic language, including the Holy Scriptures. Saint Niketas worked tirelessly among his fellow Goths to teach them about Christ. Through his personal example and inspired words, he brought many of them to the Christian Faith. After his defeat, however, Athanaric managed to regroup his forces. He returned to his own country and regained his former power. Since he remained a pagan, he continued to hate the Christians and persecuted them, seeking revenge for the humiliation he had endured at their hands.

Saint Niketas had to contend against both visible and invisible enemies. In opposing these invisible enemies, he converted many pagans to Christ, and strengthened the faithful for the contest of martyrdom. Filled with zeal for God, the Saint denounced the persecutor Athanaric for his cruelty and impiety, because he subjected the Christians to severe torments. Saint Niketas prevailed against both of these enemies. He trampled the devil underfoot, and defeated Athanaric in battle. The cruel tormentor was troubled because he was unable to convert Saint Niketas to his own impiety, and so he resolved to capture the Saint and put him to death. Saint Niketas endured many tortures, and then he was thrown into a fire.

Although his body was not burnt by the fire, he surrendered his soul to God, and his relics were illumined by a radiant light. By night, a Christian named Marianus, took the body of Saint Niketas, and buried it in Cilicia. Afterward, it was transferred to Constantinople. Part of the relics of the Great Martyr Niketas were later given to the monastery of Vysokie Dechani in Serbia.

Thus Saint Niketas received an unfading crown of glory from Christ on September 15, 372. We pray to Saint Niketas for the preservation of children from birth defects.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

REQUESTING PRAYERS: Archpriest Matthew, Matushka Cindy, the McCarthy family, Jerry, Davide

DEPARTED: Igumen Leonty

CATECHUMEN: Brooke

MISSIONARIES: The Brandow family serving in Guatemala

BIRTHDAYS: Rebecca Edwards

NAMEDAYS: Matushka Nadia

ANNIVERSARIES: Anna Maria & Matthew Mazzeo

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT EDUCATION: Adult Education will resume every Wednesday night at 7:00p via Zoom starting on September 18. We will be reading and discussing St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans. All parishioners are welcome. If you want to invite other guests, please let Fr. Alessandro know ahead of time. The Zoom link will be shared via email.

PARISH RETREAT: On Saturday afternoon, December 7, our parish will host a retreat with Dr. Sarah Byrne-Martelli, author of "Memory Eternal: Living with Grief as Orthodox Christians." The retreat is open to everyone and more information will be

shared as we get closer. You can find out more about Sarah at byrnemartelli.com. Please mark your calendar!

NO VESPERS ON SEPTEMBER 21: Please note that there will be no Great Vespers served at our parish on Saturday, September 21. Fr. Alessandro and Dn Alexander will be at the Archdiocesan Assembly in Columbia, MD.

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

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| Sep 15, Sun 9:30 AM | Divine Liturgy |
| Sep 18, Wed 7:00 PM | Adult Education |
| Sep 19, Thu 7:00 PM | Parish Council |
| Sep 22, Sun 8:45 AM 9:30 AM | Church School Divine Liturgy |
| Sep 25, Wed 9:00 AM | Divine Liturgy |

MINISTRY ROTATIONS

| | Sep 15 | Sep 22 |
|--------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Coffee Hour: | Schmitt/Bomadevar | Hughes |
| Reader: | Barr | Barr |

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