



# 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.

**September 17, 2023**

15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Tone 6

Afterfeast of the Elevation of the  
Cross

Martyr Sophia, and her three  
daughters: Faith, Hope, and Love, at  
Rome

## Martyr Sophia and her three daughters at Rome

The Holy Martyrs Saint Sophia and her Daughters Faith, Hope and Love were born in Italy. Their mother was a pious Christian widow who named her daughters for the three Christian virtues. Faith was twelve, Hope was ten, and Love was nine. Saint Sophia raised them in the love of the Lord Jesus Christ. Saint Sophia and her daughters did not hide their faith in Christ, but openly confessed it before everyone. An official named Antiochus denounced them to the emperor Hadrian (117-138), who ordered that they be brought to Rome. Realizing that they would be taken before the emperor, the holy virgins prayed fervently to the Lord Jesus Christ, asking that He give them the strength not to fear torture and death. When the holy virgins and their mother came before the emperor, everyone present was amazed at their composure. They looked as though they had been brought to some happy festival, rather than to torture. Summoning each of the sisters in turn, Hadrian urged them to offer sacrifice to the goddess Artemis. The young girls remained unyielding. Then the emperor ordered them to be tortured. They burned the holy virgins over an iron grating, then threw them into a red-hot oven, and finally into a cauldron with boiling tar, but the Lord preserved them. The youngest child, Love, was tied to a wheel and they beat her with rods until her body was covered all over with bloody welts. After undergoing unspeakable torments, the holy virgins glorified their Heavenly Bridegroom and remained steadfast in the Faith. They subjected Saint Sophia to another grievous torture: the mother was forced to watch the suffering of her daughters. She displayed adamant courage, and urged her daughters to endure their torments for the sake of the Heavenly Bridegroom. All three maidens were beheaded, and joyfully bent their necks beneath the sword. In order to intensify Saint Sophia's inner suffering, the emperor permitted her to take the bodies of her daughters. She placed their remains in coffins and loaded them on a wagon. She drove beyond

the city limits and reverently buried them on a high hill. Saint Sophia sat there by the graves of her daughters for three days, and finally she gave up her soul to the Lord. Even though she did not suffer for Christ in the flesh, she was not deprived of a martyr's crown. Instead, she suffered in her heart. Believers buried her body there beside her daughters.

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

REQUESTING PRAYERS: Igumen Leonty, Michelle, Yuri

DEPARTED: Danyelle, Mary, Lisa, Joan

CATECHUMEN: Calvin

MISSIONARIES: The McDonald family

BIRTHDAYS: Marijana Barr

NAMEDAYS: Matushka Nadia Koblosh, Sophia Shoffner

### NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

RITE OF PROSKOMEDIA: As part of the Church school activity this coming Sunday, Fr. Alessandro will serve the rite of preparation (usually called "proskomedija" or "prothesis") in the nave and will explain the various steps showing how the bread (prosphora) and wine are prepared before the Divine Liturgy. Adults are more than welcome to attend as well.

FR. MICHAEL'S BOOK FUND: Our parish has recently distributed \$4,000 from the Fr. Michael's Book Fund to first-year seminarians at St. Tikhon's Seminary. Last year, we distributed funds to seminarians at St. Vladimir's Seminary. I was informed that St. Tikhon's seminarians have already received the funds in the form of bookstore credit that they will use to purchase seminary textbooks. Thank you for your donations towards this fund. And may Fr. Michael's memory be eternal!

MISSIONARY SUPPORT: In our annual budget, we have a line to support an OCMC family in both prayer and financial assistance. The

Parish Council voted to designate our support for this year to the McDonald family serving through the OCMC in Albania. To learn more about the McDonal family, visit [ocmc.org](http://ocmc.org)

JOURNEY TO FULLNESS: Fr. Alessandro leads the discussion on the introductory course to the Orthodox Church called *Journey to Fullness*. The course has been prepared and produced by [Fr. Barnabas Powell](#). The sessions will be held at 7:00p every Thursday via Zoom.

CHOIR REHEARSALS: Choirs members, please note the date of the choir rehearsal is Oct. 14.

MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL: The parish of St. Matthew Orthodox Church in Columbia, MD will host its annual multicultural festival on October 6-8. Please visit their website for more information.

### UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

September 17, Sun

8:45 AM

Church School

9:30 AM

Divine Liturgy

September 21, Thu

7:00 PM

Journey to Fullness (Zoom)

September 23, Sat

5:00 PM

Great Vespers

September 24, Sun

8:45 AM

Church School

9:30 AM

Divine Liturgy

### MINISTRY ROTATIONS

**Sept 17**

**Sept 24**

Coffee Hour:

Garber

Childs

Reader:

Weaver

Childs

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