



ALL SAINTS OF AMERICA MISSION

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.

JANUARY 1, 2023

29th Sunday after Pentecost

The Circumcision of our Lord and
Savior Jesus Christ
St. Basil the Great

THEE NATIVITY OF OUR LOD, GOD, AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

On the eighth day after His Nativity, our Lord Jesus Christ was circumcised in accordance with the Old Testament Law. All male infants underwent circumcision as a sign of God's Covenant with the holy Forefather Abraham and his descendants. After this ritual, the Divine Infant was given the name Jesus, as the Archangel Gabriel declared on the day of the Annunciation to the Most Holy Theotokos. The Fathers of the Church explain that the Lord, the Creator of the Law, underwent circumcision in order to give people an example of how faithfully the divine ordinances ought to be fulfilled.

The Lord was circumcised so that later no one would doubt that He had truly assumed human flesh, and that His Incarnation was not merely an illusion, as certain heretics had taught. In the New Testament, the ritual of circumcision gave way to the Mystery of Baptism, which it prefigured. Accounts of the Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord continue in the Eastern Church right up through the fourth century.

The Canon of the Feast was written by Saint Stephen of the Saint Savva Monastery. In addition to circumcision, which the Lord accepted as a sign of God's Covenant with mankind, He also received the Name Jesus [Savior] on the eighth day after His Nativity as an indication of His service, the work of the salvation of the world. These two events -- the Lord's Circumcision and Naming -- remind Christians that they have entered into a New Covenant with God and "are circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ." The very name "Christian" is a sign of mankind's entrance into a New Covenant with God.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

REQUESTING PRAYERS: Fr. David, Ingrid, Hilary, Evangelos, Barbara, Bobbi, Yuri, David

DEPARTED: Ricky, Elizabeth, John

NAMEDAYS: Andrew (Basil) Garber, Basil Hecht

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE FEAST OF THEOPHANY: We are blessed to have His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon presiding at the Divine Liturgy at the great feast of Theophany next Friday. Immediately following Divine Liturgy, we will drive to Oronoco Bay Park (plan to park on Pendleton St.) where His Beatitude will bless the Potomac River.

HOME BLESSINGS: If you would like to have your house blessed, please let Fr. Alessandro know. Home blessings will be scheduled until February 24, right before the beginning of Great Lent. To prepare for Father's visit, make a list of the names of those family members you want to pray for. On your dining room table or at your icon corner, lay out a white cloth if you have it, and set on it a candle that can be carried around the house and your prayer list. (No need to prepare a bowl with water). A member of the family will lead the priest around the house with the candle.

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY: Our Annual Parish Assembly is scheduled for Sunday, January 22, following Divine Liturgy. We will hear reports, approve the 2023 Budget, discuss property search, and elect a new Parish Council. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this important gathering of our parish.

PARISH COUNCIL: If you would like to run for one of the positions, please speak to Fr. A. by Wednesday, January 11. While term limits are 2 years renewable 2 times (up to 6 consecutive years), we plan to have staggering terms. The positions available are:

- Lay Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Three (3) Trustees

ONLINE DONATIONS: As we announced a few months ago, you are now able to make donations through a secure portal on our website. If you have any questions, please reach out to our Treasurer, Lisa.

HIERARCHICAL LITURGY IN HONOR OF METROPOLITAN TIKHON: On Saturday, January 21, the clergy and faithful of the Archdiocese of Washington are invited to the Hierarchical Liturgy at St. Nicholas Cathedral to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the enthonment of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon.

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

Jan 1, Sun 9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
Jan 4, Wed 7:00 PM	Book Study
Jan 5, Thu 9:00 AM 6:00 PM	Royal Hours & Vesperal Liturgy Theophany Vigil
Jan 6, Fri 9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Waters
Jan 7, Sat 4:00 PM 5:00 PM	Adult Education (2 Thessalonians 1) Great Vespers
Jan 8, Sun 8:45 AM 9:30 AM	Church School Divine Liturgy

MINISTRY ROTATIONS

Coffee Hour - Barr

Reader - Barr

Assisting the Treasurer - Smith & Hecth

Fr. Alessandro is available to hear confessions after Vespers or by appointment during the week