



ALL SAINTS OF AMERICA MISSION

Orthodox Church
in America

orthodoxalexandria.org

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Father Alessandro
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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 29, 2023

33rd Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday of Zacchaeus
Translation of the Relics of
Hieromartyr Ignatius the Godbearer,
Bishop of Antioch

SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS

The paschal season of the Church is preceded by the season of Great Lent, which is also preceded by its own liturgical preparation. The first sign of the approach of Great Lent comes five Sundays before its beginning. On this Sunday the Gospel reading is about Zacchaeus the tax-collector. It tells how Christ brought salvation to the sinful man, and how his life was changed simply because he “sought to see who Jesus was” (Luke 19:3).

The desire and effort to see Jesus begins the entire movement through Lent towards Pascha. It is the first movement of salvation. Our lenten journey begins with a recognition of our own sinfulness, just as Zacchaeus recognized his. He promised to make restitution by giving half of his wealth to the poor, and by paying to those he had falsely accused four times as much as they had lost. In this, he went beyond the requirements of the Law (Ex. 22:3-12). The example of Zacchaeus teaches us that we should turn away from our sins, and atone for them. The real proof of our sorrow and repentance is not just a verbal apology, but when we correct ourselves and try to make amends for the consequences of our evil actions. We are also assured of God’s mercy and compassion by Christ’s words to Zacchaeus, “Today salvation is come to this house” (Luke 19:9).

Zacchaeus was short, so he climbed a tree in order to see the Lord. All of us have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). We are also short in our spiritual stature, therefore we must climb the ladder of the virtues. In other words, we must prepare for spiritual effort and growth.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

REQUESTING PRAYERS: Mihai, Georgia, Don, Ingrid, Hilary, Evangelos, Bobbi, Yuri, David

DEPARTED: Venetia, Kristen, Jonathan

BIRTHDAYS: Nadia Koblosh

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

COFFEE HOUR ROTATION: We are looking for at least one more family to serve on our coffee hour rotation. Please, let Fr. Alessandro know if you are able to serve. It is not an excessively demanding commitment and you will be asked to serve coffee hour no more than once a month. It would be, however, a huge help to the community and those who are already serving coffee hour.

CHOIR REHEARSAL: Please note that the next choir rehearsals is scheduled for Saturday, February 25 after Vespers.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Men from the parish will get together for breakfast on Saturday, February 11, 8:30a. Location TBA

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING: On February 12, Super Bowl Sunday, our parish will participate in the "Souper Bowl of Caring" to support both a local food pantry and IOCC. The Grace Food Pantry in Alexandria is running short of dental hygiene items and dish soap and has requested that we collect as many of those items as possible to help

the hundreds of families who come to the pantry each week. They also always need dried black beans and dried red beans, canned corn, diced tomatoes. Please bring items to church on February 12 and we will bag them and deliver them to the food pantry. Please also consider making a donation to IOCC this month, either online here IOCC or by bringing a check (payable to IOCC) to church.

To encourage additional donations to IOCC, several parishioners have volunteered to make chili and soup to "swap" for a donation. Order your soup now to take home either on February 12 or a later date arranged between cook and donor. The suggested donations are \$100 for a pot of chicken or beef chili; \$75 for a pot of vegan soup (several varieties are available for delivery during Lent); and \$25 for a quart jar of vegetable stock or broth. If you'd like to volunteer to make chili or soup for the Soup Swap, please reach out to Lory Easton (312-401-5993) this week.

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

Jan 29, Sun	
8:45 AM	Church School
9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
Feb 2, Thu	
9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy
Feb 4, Sat	
4:00 PM	Bible Study (2 Thess 3)
5:00 PM	Great Vespers
Feb 5, Sun	
8:45 AM	Church School
9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy

MINISTRY ROTATIONS

Coffee Hour - Garber
Reader - Lory & Catherine Easton
Assisting the Treasurer - Childs & Class

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