



## ALL SAINTS OF AMERICA

Orthodox Church  
in America

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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 5, 2025

28th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

TONE 3

Eve of Theophany

Sunday before Theophan

Hieromartyr Theopemptus, Bishop  
of Nicomedia, and Martyr Theonas

Prophet Micah

## Hieromartyr Theopemptus, Bishop of Nicomedia, and Martyr Theonas

The Holy Martyrs Theopemptus and Theonas suffered in Nicomedia in the year 303. Saint Theopemptus was bishop in Nicomedia in the time of Diocletian. Speaking out against idolatry, he defended the faith in Christ. Because of this, he became one of the first victims of the Diocletian persecution. The saint refused to obey the emperor's order to worship an idol of Apollo. Saint Theopemptus was thrown into a red-hot furnace, but by the power of God he remained alive. The emperor came to the furnace by night with a detachment of soldiers, and there he saw the saint alive and praying to God. Ascribing the miracle to magic, Diocletian thought to exhaust Saint Theopemptus by depriving him of food and drink for twenty-two days, but the martyr was preserved by the will of God. The emperor brought the famous sorcerer Theonas to overcome Bishop Theopemptus' supposed magical power. Theonas prepared a poison for Saint Theopemptus, put it into a little cake, and offered it to him to eat. The poison did no harm at all to Saint Theopemptus. Then Theonas tried an even stronger poison on the martyr. Seeing that Saint Theopemptus remained unharmed, he came to believe in Christ. They threw him into prison together with the holy bishop, who taught and baptized him, giving him the name Synesios (which means "full of understanding"). At dawn Diocletian summoned Saint Theopemptus, and again tried to turn him to pagan impiety. Seeing that the bishop remained firm in his faith, he subjected him to many grievous tortures, after which the saint was beheaded. The holy martyr Theonas refused to offer sacrifice to idols, so he was buried alive in a deep ditch. This occurred at Nicomedia in the year 303.

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

REQUESTING PRAYERS: Jim, Sharon, Martha, Larissa, Bob, David, Zondra, Art, Jerry, Davide

CATECHUMEN: Brooke, Sarah, Levi, Daniel

MISSIONARIES: The Brandow family serving in Guatemala

BIRTHDAYS: Gabriel Woodill

## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FR. SEAN LEVINE: We are excited to welcome Fr. Sean, Matushka Jennifer, and Andrew to our parish family! We are especially grateful to Fr. Sean for his willingness to assist the parish pastorally in the coming months when Fr. Alessandro takes on temporary additional duties at the national Chancery.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: Note that our parish annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 26 following Divine Liturgy. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this important event in the life of our parish. At our meeting we will hold elections for some positions on the parish council. If you are interested in running, please speak with Fr. Alessandro or James Class.

MARCH FOR LIFE: The annual March for Life in Washington, DC, will take place on Friday, January 24. Join His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, along with many other bishops, clergy, seminarians, and faithful of the various Orthodox Churches at 11:30am at the National Mall where the March for Life Rally will begin at noon.

HOME BLESSINGS: If you would like to have your house blessed, please let Fr. Alessandro know. Home blessings will be scheduled through the end of February. To prepare for Father's visit, 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.

### UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

Jan 5, Sun	
8:45 AM	Church School
9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
5:00 PM	Theophany Vigil
Jan 6, Mon	
9:00 AM	Festal Liturgy & Blessing of Waters
Jan 11, Sat	
5:00 PM	Great Vespers
Jan 12, Sun	
8:45 AM	Church School
9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy

### MINISTRY ROTATIONS

	<b>Jan 5</b>	<b>Jan 12</b>
Coffee Hour:	Schmitt/Bomadevar	Hughes
Reader:	Garber	Mykyta
Cleaning:	Mykyta	Easton
Communion Cloth:	Garber/Barr	Easton/Mazzeo

*Priest available for Confession after Vespers or by appointment*