



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.

October 1, 2023

17th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Tone 8

Protection (Pokrov) of our Most Holy
Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin
Mary

Apostle of the Seventy Ananias

Ven. Romanus the Melodist

Venerable Romanus the Melodist, “Sweet-Singer”

Saint Romanus the Melodist was born in the fifth century in the Syrian city of Emesa of Jewish parents. After moving to Constantinople, he became a church sacristan in the temple of Hagia Sophia. The monk spent his nights alone at prayer in a field or in the Blachernae church beyond the city.

Saint Romanus was not a talented reader or singer. Once, on the eve of the Nativity of Christ, he read the kathisma verses. He read so poorly that another reader had to take his place.

The clergy ridiculed Romanus, which devastated him. On the day of the Nativity, the Mother of God appeared to the grief-stricken youth in a vision while he was praying before her Kyriotissa icon. She gave him a scroll and commanded him to eat it. Thus was he given the gift of understanding, composition, and hymnography. That evening at the all-night Vigil Saint Romanus sang, in a wondrous voice, his first Kontakion: “Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One...” All the hymns of Saint Romanus became known as kontakia, in reference to the Virgin’s scroll.

Saint Romanus was also the first to write in the form of the Oikos, which he incorporated into the all-night Vigil at his places of residence (In Greek, “oikos”). For his zealous service Saint Romanus was ordained as a deacon and became a teacher of song.

Until his death, which occurred about the year 556, the hierodeacon Romanus the Melodist composed nearly a thousand hymns, many of which are still used by Christians to glorify the Lord. About eighty survive.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

REQUESTING PRAYERS: Michelle, Yuri, Kelsey and her unborn

DEPARTED: Mary, Lisa, Joan

CATECHUMEN: Calvin

MISSIONARIES: The McDonald family

BIRTHDAYS: Elizabeth (Libby) Garber

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH MUSICIANS SUNDAY: The Holy Synod of Bishop has designated today, October 1, as the Sunday to honor all Church musicians. On this occasion, we are grateful to God for the ministry of our choir director, Juliana, and the rest of the choir.

JOURNEY TO FULLNESS: Fr. Alessandro leads the discussion on the introductory course to the Orthodox Church called *Journey to Fullness* at 7:00p every Thursday via Zoom.

PARISH FALL EVENING: Come and join us for fellowship and food after Vespers on Saturday, October 21. Please bring food and/or drinks if you are able, and enjoy a relaxed fall evening with your fellow parishioners.

HOLDING COMMUNION CLOTH: Next Sunday, October 8, Fr. Alessandro will give some brief instructions about holding communion cloth. If you would like to serve as one of the two people holding the cloth at communion, please stay after Liturgy on that day.

WELCOMING VISITORS: At almost all services, we are blessed to have several visitors come to All Saints. Fr. A. is grateful for the loving hospitality we always show. Please continue to offer our visitors to meet Father after the services.

With inquirers who are new to the Orthodox Church, Father recommends that we avoid offering literature on Orthodox Christianity right away—especially books. Inquirers come from diverse backgrounds, and one book may be more effective than

another. Father prefers getting to know them a bit before offering any literature.

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

October 1, Sun	
8:45 AM	Church School
9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
October 5, Thu	
7:00 PM	Journey to Fullness (Zoom)
October 6, Fri	
9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
October 7, Sat	
5:00 PM	Great Vespers
October 8, Sun	
8:45 AM	Church School
9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
October 10, Tue	
7:00 PM	Parish Council
October 12, Thu	
8:00 AM	Divine Liturgy

MINISTRY ROTATIONS

	Oct 1	Oct 8
Coffee Hour:	Margheritino	Class
Reader:	Class	Woodill

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