



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 8, 2023

18th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Tone 1

Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical
Council

Ven. Pelagía the Penitent

Venerable Pelagia the Penitent

Saint Pelagia the Penitent was converted to Christianity by Saint Nonnus, Bishop of Edessa (Saturday of Cheesefare Week). Before her acceptance of Christianity through Baptism, Pelagia was head of a dance troupe in Palestinian Antioch, living a life of frivolity and prostitution. One day Pelagia, elegantly dressed, was making her way past a church where Saint Nonnus was preaching a sermon.

Believers turned their faces away from the sinner, but the bishop glanced after her. Struck by the outer beauty of Pelagia and having foreseen the spiritual greatness within her, the saint prayed in his cell for a long time to the Lord for the sinner. He told his fellow bishops that the prostitute put them all to shame. He explained that she took great care to adorn her body in order to appear beautiful in the eyes of men. "We... take no thought for the adornment of our wretched souls," he said.

Saint Pelagia with Saint Nonnus On the following day, when Saint Nonnus was teaching in the church about the dread Last Judgment and its consequences, Pelagia came. The teaching made a tremendous impression upon her. With the fear of God and weeping tears of repentance, she asked the saint for Baptism. Seeing her sincere and full repentance, Bishop Nonnus baptized her. By night the devil appeared to Pelagia, urging her to return to her former life. The saint prayed, signed herself with the Sign of the Cross, and the devil vanished.

Three days after her baptism, Saint Pelagia gathered up her valuables and took them to Bishop Nonnus. The bishop ordered that they be distributed among the poor saying, "Let this be wisely dispersed, so that these riches gained by sin may become a wealth of righteousness."

After this Saint Pelagia journeyed to Jerusalem to the Mount of Olives. She lived there in a cell, disguised as the monk Pelagius, living

in ascetic seclusion, and attaining great spiritual gifts. When she died, she was buried in her cell.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

REQUESTING PRAYERS: Michelle, Yuri, Kelsey and her unborn

DEPARTED: John, Lisa, Joan

CATECHUMEN: Calvin

MISSIONARIES: The McDonald family

BIRTHDAYS: Basil Hecth, Thomas Harahush

ANNIVERSARIES: Andy & Christine Garber

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOLDING COMMUNION CLOTH: Today 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.

GENERAL PANIKHIDA: On Saturday, October 21, the Memorial Saturday of St. Demetrius, we will be serving a general memorial service at 4:30a before Great Vespers. You can write the names of your commemorations on a sheet and hand it to Fr. Alessandro at the beginning of the service.

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.

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

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

October 12, Thu 8:00 AM	Divine Liturgy
October 14, Sat 5:00 PM 6:00 PM	Great Vespers Choir Rehearsal
October 15, Sun 8:45 AM 9:30 AM	Church School Divine Liturgy
October 21, Sat 4:30 PM 5:00 PM 6:00 PM	General Panikhida Great Vespers Choir Rehearsal

MINISTRY ROTATIONS

	Oct 8	Oct 15
Coffee Hour:	Class	Barr
Reader:	Woodill	Easton

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