



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.

NOVEMBER 3, 2024

19th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
TONE 2

Martyrs Akepsimas the Bishop,
Joseph the Presbyter, and Aeithalas
the Deacon, of Persia

HIEROMARTYRS AKEPSIMAS, BISHOP IN PERSIA, PRESBYTER JOSEPH, AND DEACON AEITHALAS

Martyrs Akepsimas the Bishop, Joseph the Presbyter and Aeithalas (Aeithalás) the Deacon of Persia were leaders of the Christian Church in the Persian city of Naesson. His flock devotedly loved their hierarch for his ascetic life and tireless pastoral work.

The emperor Sapor ordered his men to seek out and kill Christian clergy. Saint Akepsimas also was arrested, even though he was already an eighty-year-old man. They took him to the city of Arbela, where he came before the judge Ardarkh, a pagan priest of the sun god.

The holy Elder refused to offer sacrifice to the Persian gods. For this he was fiercely beaten and thrown into prison, where on the following day the seventy-year-old priest Joseph and the deacon Aeithalas were severely beaten and thrown into jail with him.

For three years the saints were held in confinement, and suffered from hunger and thirst. Emperor Sapor came to the temple of the god of fire, located not far from Arbela, and wanted to take a look at the three holy martyrs. Exhausted and covered with festering wounds, the saints were brought before the emperor. When he asked them to worship the pagan gods they firmly refused, confessing their faith in Christ instead. The holy bishop was beheaded, but the presbyter and deacon were taken into the city to be stoned.

The execution of the presbyter Joseph was prolonged for several hours. A guard was placed near the place of execution, so that Christians would not take the body of the holy martyr. On the fourth night a strong windstorm raged near the city, lightning killed the guard, the wind tossed stones about, and the body of Saint Joseph disappeared.

Deacon Aeithalas was taken to the village of Patrias, where he was stoned. Christians secretly buried his body. A tree grew on the saint's grave, and its fruit brought healings.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

REQUESTING PRAYERS: Archpriest Matthew, Kelly Joan, Jerry, Davide

DEPARTED: Matushka Cindy, Rita

CATECHUMEN: Brooke, Sarah, Levi

MISSIONARIES: The Brandow family serving in Guatemala

NAMEDAYS: Michelle Weaver

ANNIVERSARIES: Bob & Lory Easton, Anirudh & Julia Bomadevar

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Please note that our next Men's Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, November 9, 8:30am, at the Executive Diner in Alexandria.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY: Fr. Alessandro and the Parish Council have designated Sunday, November 3 as our Stewardship Sunday. Please join us after Liturgy for coffee hour for a brief presentation on our vision for growth, budget, support for charity, and our collective financial commitment through pledges.

PARISH RETREAT: On Saturday afternoon, December 7, our parish will host a retreat with Dr. Sarah Byrne-Martelli, author of "Memory Eternal: Living with Grief as Orthodox Christians." The retreat is open to everyone and more information will be shared as we get closer. You can find out more about Sarah at byrнемartelli.com. Please mark your calendar!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NATIVITY PLAY: We would like to extend an invitation to all Parish children to participate in the Sunday School Nativity Play. We will have our first script readthrough and role assignments on Nov 10th - all children who would like to participate in the Play, as well as all teachers, should attend. We will also have a Nativity Play Planning & Logistics Meeting on Nov 17th - all teachers and parishioners who would like to help with the play should attend this meeting (we need help with costumes, singing, props, rehearsals, snacks, setup/clean up, etc.) There is no Sunday School on Dec 1st. We will have a rehearsal on Nov 24th and Dec 8th during regular Sunday School class time AND after the Liturgy - during coffee hour; please plan on staying for about an hour. We will have a dress

rehearsal on Dec 14th at 3pm until Vespers - everyone's attendance is mandatory. Nativity Play performance day is Dec 15th after Liturgy. There is no "script memorization" requirement, so no stress! We had done a play on three occasions before, and it was a lot of fun - our older Sunday School students have good memories of them and are looking forward to this one! Please plan on supporting them by bringing them to rehearsals and/or offering a helping hand.

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

<p>Nov 3, Sun 8:45 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM</p>	<p>Church School Divine Liturgy Stewardship Presentation</p>
<p>Nov 9, Sat 8:30 AM 5:00 PM</p>	<p>Men's Breakfast Great Vespers</p>
<p>Nov 10, Sun 8:45 AM 9:30 AM</p>	<p>Church School Divine Liturgy</p>

MINISTRY ROTATIONS

	Nov 3	Nov 10
<i>Coffee Hour:</i>	Hughes	Schmitt/Bomadevar
<i>Reader:</i>	Mykyta	Gaber
<i>Cleaning:</i>	Mikhalevsky	Easton
<i>Communion Cloth:</i>	Terezi&Class	Schmitt/Mikhalevsky

Priest available for Confession after Vespers or by appointment