



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 12, 2023

23rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Tone 6

Saint Varnava

St. John the Merciful, Patriarch of
Constantinople

Ven. Nilus the Faster

ST. JOHN THE MERCIFUL, PATRIARCH OF ALEXANDRIA

John was born on the island of Cyprus and was raised as a true Christian from childhood. At the insistence of his parents, he married and had children. However, by God's providence, his wife and children passed from this world into the next. Renowned for his compassion and piety, John was chosen as Patriarch of Alexandria in the time of Emperor Heraclius. He governed the Church of Alexandria for ten years as a true shepherd, safeguarding it from pagans and heretics. He was a model of meekness, charity and love for his fellow men. He said: "If you desire nobility, seek it not in blood but in virtues, for this is true nobility." All the saints have been distinguished by mercifulness, but St. John was completely dedicated to this wonderful virtue. Once, while celebrating the Liturgy, the patriarch remembered the words of Christ, *Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath aught against thee, leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift* (Matthew 5:23-24), and he remembered that one of the clergy in that church had a grievance against him. He quickly left the Holy Gifts, approached that priest, fell before his feet and begged for forgiveness. And only when he had made peace with this man did he return to the table of oblation. Another time, as he was on his way to the Church of Saints Cyrus and John, it happened that he met a needy and unfortunate widow who spoke to him at length about her misfortune. The patriarch's escorts became bored by the woman's lengthy complaint, and urged the bishop to hurry to the church for the service, intimating that he could hear the woman's story afterward. John said to them: "And how will God listen to me, if I do not listen to her?"

When the Persians attacked Egypt, Patriarch John boarded a boat to escape from danger. Along the way he fell ill and, when he arrived in Cyprus, he reposed at his birthplace, in the year 620 A.D.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

REQUESTING PRAYERS: Jody, Michelle, Yuri, Kelsey and her unborn

CATECHUMEN: Calvin

MISSIONARIES: The McDonald family

BIRTHDAYS: Irina Dolgopolov, Michelle Weaver

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY: Fr. Alessandro and the Parish Council have designated Sunday, November 12 as our Stewardship Sunday. Please, join us after Liturgy for coffee hour when Fr Alessandro will give a presentation on our vision for growth, budget, support for charity, and our collective financial commitment through pledges.

MONTHLY DONATION: In compliance with our current budget, our parish has been making monthly charitable donations (\$500) to various organizations. Here is the list for 2023: Jan - ALIVE; Feb - IOCC; March - FOCUS; April - Gift Cards for occasional local needs; May - OCMC; June - OCPM; July - Project Mexico; August - St. Innocent Orphanage; September - Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors; October - Ancient Faith Ministries; November - St Elizabeth Convent in Minsk; December - St. Nicholas's bags.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT: Ken Liu from OYM will lead a mini-retreat for all young adults, college students, and high school juniors and seniors, on the topic of career and calling. Whether you're considering your future career path, or you're in the working world and wondering how God relates to all those boring meetings in your job (and whether to switch careers), this retreat is for you! To register, visit tinyurl.com/career-and-calling-2023

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.

BEGINNING OF THE NATIVITY FAST: Wed, November 15 marks the beginning of the Nativity fast. This is a time of preparation for the great feast of the Nativity in the flesh of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ. At the same time, this is also a time of spiritual renewal which is possible through fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. May the Lord strengthen all of us in this blessed season! In the coming weeks, every Tuesday we will celebrate the short (20 minutes) and beautiful Small Compline at 6:00 pm. During this time of preparation and fasting, all Orthodox Christians should go to Confession at least once.

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

November 12, Sun	
8:45 AM	Church School
9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
11:30 AM	Stewardship presentation
November 14, Tue	
7:00 PM	Parish Council
November 15, Wed	
6:00 PM	Small Compline
November 16, Thu	
7:00 PM	Journey to Fullness
November 18, Sat	
5:00 PM	Great Vespers
November 19, Sun	
8:45 AM	Church School
9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy

MINISTRY ROTATIONS

	Nov 12	Nov 19
Coffee Hour:	Childs	Mikhalevsky
Reader:	Childs	Class

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