



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 24, 2024

22nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

TONE 5

Afterfeast of the Entry Into the
Temple

Great Martyr Catherine of
Alexandria

Great Martyr Mercurius of Cæsarea
in Cappadocia

GREAT MARTYR MERCURIUS OF CAESAREA, IN CAPPADOCIA

The Holy Great Martyr Mercurius served as a soldier in the Roman army. The impious emperors Decius and Valerian issued a decree ordering all Roman citizens to worship the pagan gods, and condemning Christians to torture and death unless they obeyed the decree. At that time barbarians attacked the Roman empire, and the emperor Decius went on campaign with a large army. In one of the battles an angel of the Lord appeared to Mercurius in the guise of a nobleman and presented him a sword saying, "Fear not, Mercurius. Go forth bravely against the enemy, and when you are victorious, do not forget the Lord your God." With this sword, he won victory for the Romans. The grateful Emperor Decius made him commander of the entire army. The angel of the Lord appeared again to the holy warrior, who had received great honors and riches, and reminded him by Whom the victory had been given. He also told General Mercurius that he would suffer for Christ, and would receive a crown of victory in His Kingdom. Although the saint had been baptized, he felt he had not devoted his life to God as his father and grandfather had done. Thus, he was weeping and lamenting when he was summoned before the emperor. Decius consulted Mercurius on matters of state, then suggested that they offer sacrifice in the temple of Artemis. Not wishing to do this, the saint returned to his home. He was denounced as a Christian by a nobleman, whose name was Catullus. The emperor would not believe this, however, until he himself had questioned the saint. Openly declaring himself a Christian, Mercurius threw down his military belt and cloak at the emperor's feet, and he repudiated all the honors he had received. The angel of the Lord again appeared to Saint Mercurius in the prison, encouraging him to endure every suffering for Christ. They stretched the holy martyr between four pillars and lit a fire beneath him. They cut his body with knives, and so much blood flowed from his wounds that it extinguished the fire. When they threw him back into the prison nearly dead from his wounds, Saint Mercurius was healed by the Lord, demonstrating the great power of Christ to the impious pagans. Condemned to death, the saint was deemed worthy

of a vision of the Lord, Who promised him a quick release from his sufferings. The Great Martyr Mercurius was beheaded at Caesarea in Cappadocia. His holy body emitted a fragrance like myrrh and incense. Many of the sick were healed at his tomb.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

REQUESTING PRAYERS: Archpriest Matthew, David, Zondra, Art, Kelly Joan, Jerry, Davide

DEPARTED: Matushka Cindy, Rita

CATECHUMEN: Brooke, Sarah, Levi

MISSIONARIES: The Brandow family serving in Guatemala

NAMEDAYS: Anirudh Bomavedar, Kathryn Easton, Andra Schmitt

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION: All Orthodox Christians should approach the mystery of Confession regularly, especially before the Nativity of the Lord. Fr. A. is available after Vespers or Small Compline. If you would like to schedule a different time, please email him in advance.

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT FORMS: A gentle reminder to kindly fill out your financial commitment card for 2025 (link provided via email) by today, November 24. If you have any questions on this, please contact Fr. Alessandro or Anna Maria (amterezi33@gmail.com).

FR. ALESSANDRO OUT OF TOWN: Fr. Alessandro will be out of town next weekend. Fr. Sean Levine will serve on Sunday, Dec 1.

There will be no Great Vespers on Saturday, November 30

NATIVITY PLAY: On Sunday, December 15, our Church School students, under the direction of Marijana Barr, will offer our parish a Nativity Play to the parish. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend!

PARISH RETREAT: Join us for a retreat with Dr. Sarah Byrne-Martelli, titled "God is with Us: Grieving as Orthodox Christians," on Saturday, December 7, 2-5pm, followed by Q/A after Great Vespers. This retreat is free but registration is required because of limited space.

CARE KITS FOR THE HOMELESS: On December 22 we will make 80 St. Nicholas "care kits" containing some clothing items for warmth; food items that are high-energy and easy to chew; a small bottle of

water; a few personal hygiene items, and a small cash gift. These bags are for distribution at Christmas and beyond to our neighbors who are begging at intersections or on the street. The plan is for each bag to contain more than 20 items, so it is an ambitious project -- and also a cherished annual tradition in this parish. Please watch for links for the sign up in the bulletin next week, and meanwhile please contact Lory Easton (312) 401-5993 with questions or suggestions.

SAINT STEPHEN'S TABLE LUNCHESES FOR THE HOMELESS: The Saint Nicholas Cathedral young adult group participates with other Orthodox parishes in Saint Stephen's Table, a project providing lunches for adults at a homeless shelter in DC on Saturdays. They prepare 60 bagged lunches and deliver them to the Downtown Day Services Center (DDSC). Volunteers meet at Saint Nicholas's kitchen from 11am-12:30pm to make the lunches and, when supplies are available, to prepare hygiene kits; then from 12:30-2pm they carpool to the DDSC and distribute those bagged meals and hygiene kits there. The next opportunity to serve is Saturday, December 21. For more information and to sign up online, please use this link: [St. Stephen's Table - St. Nicholas Cathedral](#). Feel free to contact Lory Easton at (312) 401-5993 with additional questions.

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

<p>Nov 24, Sun 8:45 AM 9:30 AM</p>	<p>Church School Divine Liturgy</p>
<p>Nov 26, Tue 6:00 PM</p>	<p>Small Compline</p>
<p>Dec 1, Sun 9:30 AM</p>	<p>Divine Liturgy</p>

MINISTRY ROTATIONS

	Nov 24	Dec 1
<i>Coffee Hour:</i>	Schmitt/Bomadevar	Hughes
<i>Reader:</i>	Garber/Mykyta	Garber
<i>Cleaning:</i>	Garber	Hughes
<i>Communion Cloth:</i>	Mikhalevsky/Schmitt	Class/Terezi

Priest available for Confession after Vespers or by appointment