



ALL SAINTS OF AMERICA

Orthodox Church
in America

orthodoxalexandria.org

3130 Franconia Rd
Alexandria, VA 22310

Father Alessandro
Margheritino
(703) 828-5068

fatheralessandro@gmail.com

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.

DECEMBER 15, 2024

25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

TONE 8

Sunday of the Forefathers

Hieromartyr Eleutherius, Bishop of Illyria, his mother, Martyr Evanthia, and Caribus the Eparch (2nd c.)

Ven. Paul of Latros

HIEROMARTYR ELEUTHERIUS, BISHOP OF ILLYRIA

From a good tree comes good fruit. This wonderful saint had noble and greatly eminent parents. Eleutherius was born in Rome, where his father was an imperial proconsul. His mother Anthia heard the Gospel from the great Apostle Paul and was baptized by him. Having been left a widow early, she entrusted her only son for study and service to Anicetus the Bishop of Rome. Seeing how Eleutherius was gifted by God and illumined by the grace of God, the bishop ordained him a deacon at the age of fifteen, a priest at the age of eighteen, and a bishop at the age of twenty. Eleutherius's God-given wisdom made up for what he lacked in years, and this chosen one of God was appointed Bishop of Illyria with his seat in Valona (Avlona), Albania. The good shepherd guarded his flock well and increased their number day by day. Emperor Hadrian, a persecutor of Christians, sent the commander Felix with soldiers to seize Eleutherius and bring him to Rome. When the raging Felix arrived in Valona and entered the church, he saw and heard the holy hierarch of God; suddenly his heart changed, and he became a Christian. Eleutherius baptized Felix and departed for Rome with him, returning joyfully as if he were going to a feast and not to trial and torture. The emperor subjected the noble Eleutherius to harsh torture: flogging, roasting on an iron bed, boiling in pitch, and burning in a fiery furnace. But Eleutherius was delivered from all these deadly tortures by God's power. Seeing all this, Caribus the Roman eparch declared that he also was a Christian. Caribus was tortured and then beheaded, and so was Blessed Felix. Finally, the imperial executioners cut off the honorable head of St. Eleutherius. When his mother, the holy Anthia, came and stood over the dead body of her son, she also was beheaded. Their bodies were translated to Valona, where even today St. Eleutherius glorifies the name of Christ by his many miracles. He suffered during the reign of Hadrian in the year 120 A.D.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

REQUESTING PRAYERS: Archpriest Matthew, Jim, Sharon, Martha, Larissa, Bob, David, Zondra, Art, Jerry, Davide

DEPARTED: Matushka Cindy, Rita

CATECHUMEN: Brooke, Sarah, Levi

MISSIONARIES: The Brandow family serving in Guatemala

NAMEDAYS: Ben Garber

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.

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!

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.

CHURCH SCHOOL: Please note that there will be no Church School on December 22 and 29.

CHRISTMAS SING ALONG: The Archdiocesan Choir of Washington, D.C. will be hosting its 3rd annual evening of carol singing on December 27 at St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church in McLean, VA. It will be a unique event with the opportunity not only to sing with our Orthodox family and friends, but to consider those in the community who may be curious to learn more about Orthodoxy. Our selections will include both Orthodox and Western carols. We will begin the

evening with Vespers at 6 pm, and then will open the hall for desserts, drinks, and caroling around 6:45. Reserve tickets in advance to guarantee that we have a caroling packet prepared for you, and invite your family and friends to join us as well!

You can purchase tickets on our website: <https://www.archdiocesanchoir.org/>

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

Dec 15, Sun
8:45 AM
9:30 AM
11:00 AM

Church School
Divine Liturgy
Nativity Play

Dec 17, Tue
6:00 PM

Small Compline

Dec 21, Sat
5:00 PM
6:00 PM

Great Vespers
Choir Rehearsal

Dec 22, Sun
9:30 AM
11:00 AM

Divine Liturgy
St. Nicholas Project

MINISTRY ROTATIONS

	Dec 15	Dec 22
Coffee Hour:	Garber	Class
Reader:	Hughes	Mykyta
Cleaning:	Barr	Class
Communion Cloth:	Barr/Easton	Easton/Class

Priest available for Confession after Vespers or by appointment