



## ALL SAINTS OF AMERICA

Orthodox Church  
in America

[orthodoxalexandria.org](http://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.

## DECEMBER 8, 2024

24th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

TONE 7

362 Martyrs of Africa

Ven. Patapius of Thebes

Holy Apostles of the Seventy:

Sosthenes, Apollos, Cephas,

Tychicus, Epaphroditus, Cæsar, and  
Onesiphorus

## VENERABLE PATAPIUS OF THEBES

Saint Patapios was born at Thebes into a pious Christian family. Reaching the age of maturity, he scorned the vanity of this world, and so he went into the Egyptian desert where he became known for his ascetic deeds. Though he wished to live in silence, people began coming to him for advice. To every tired pilgrim who visited his cell, he offered rest and hospitality, as well as spiritual instructions and profitable counsel for the salvation of one's soul. The Saint's reputation spread quickly, and every day many arrived at his cell in order to hear these beneficial instructions from his lips. Later, he went to Constantinople, where he had a cell by the city wall, near the Blachernae church. But even here, he soon became known. The infirm started to gather around Patapios, and because he had been granted the gift of healing, he helped all those in need. Once a certain woman was afflicted by the terrible disease of cancer, and worms came forth from her breasts. Not only did she suffer a great deal of pain in her chest, but throughout her entire body as well. She was in constant pain, and it reached her heart, so that she was near death. The doctors could not help her, and she felt she was wasting her money without obtaining relief. Therefore, she came to Saint Patapios and fell at his feet, begging him to heal her. The worms were devouring her flesh even before she was in the grave, causing her such pain that she longed for death. The Saint answered, "If you have faith in the Lord, and have no doubt that you shall be healed, then let it be done according to your faith." Sighing from the depths of her soul, she said, "I believe, O Lord that You know all things which are hidden and unknown, and that You are all-powerful. Therefore, have mercy on me and heal me." Then the Saint asked the woman to let him see the effects of her distress. When he saw the ravages of the disease, he was struck with awe, saying, "Your affliction is indeed great, and difficult to cure. Go in peace, for you shall not suffer anymore." As soon as he said this, the woman was healed and went home rejoicing and glorifying God. She told of this miracle everywhere, and praised Saint Patapios. After a life adorned with

virtue and miracles, Saint Patapios fell asleep in the Lord and was buried in the church of Saint John the Baptist.

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

DEPARTED: Matushka Cindy, Rita

CATECHUMEN: Brooke, Sarah, Levi

MISSIONARIES: The Brandow family serving in Guatemala

BIRTHDAYS: James Class

NAMEDAYS: Bob Easton, Ruth Shoffner

### 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!

BLESSING OF PLEDGES: At the end of Divine Liturgy on Sunday, December 8, we will bless our financial pledges as our offering to God. In giving thanks to Him who gives us everything, we offer the fruits of our work, and we pray that the Holy Spirit may multiply them for the building up of the Church.

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**

Dec 8, Sun 8:45 AM 9:30 AM	Church School Divine Liturgy
Dec 12, Thu 6:00 PM	Parish Council
Dec 13, Fri 9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy
Dec 14, Sat 8:30 AM 3:30 PM 5:00 PM	Men's Breakfast Nativity Play Rehearsal Great Vespers

**MINISTRY ROTATIONS**

	<b>Dec 8</b>	<b>Dec 15</b>
<i>Coffee Hour:</i>	Mittlefehldt	Garber
<i>Reader:</i>	Barr	Hughes
<i>Cleaning:</i>	Mittlefehldt	Barr
<i>Communion Cloth:</i>	Mazzeo/Garber	Barr/Easton

*Priest available for Confession after Vespers or by appointment*