



## ALL SAINTS OF AMERICA MISSION

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.

## FEBRUARY 12, 2023

*35th Sunday after Pentecost*

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON  
St. Meletius, Archbishop of Antioch  
St. Aleksy, Metropolitan of Moscow

## SAINT MELETIUS, ARCHBISHOP OF ANTIOCH

Saint Meletius, Archbishop of Antioch, was Bishop of Sebaste in Armenia (ca. 357), and afterwards he was summoned to Antioch by the emperor Constantius to help combat the Arian heresy, and was appointed to that See. Saint Meletius struggled zealously against the Arian error, but through the intrigues of the heretics he was thrice deposed from his cathedra by the Emperor Constantius who had become surrounded by the Arians and had accepted their position. In all this Saint Meletius was distinguished by an extraordinary gentleness, and he constantly led his flock by the example of his own virtue and kindly disposition, supposing that the seeds of the true teaching sprout more readily on such soil. Saint Meletius was the one who ordained the future hierarch Saint Basil the Great as deacon. Saint Meletius also baptized and encouraged another of the greatest luminaries of Orthodoxy, Saint John Chrysostom, who later eulogized his former archpastor.

After Constantius, the throne was occupied by Julian the Apostate, and the saint again was expelled, having to hide himself in secret places for his safety. Returning under the emperor Jovian in the year 363, Saint Meletius wrote his theological treatise, "Exposition of the Faith," which facilitated the conversion of many of the Arians to Orthodoxy. In the year 380 the saint had set off on his way to the Second Ecumenical Council at Constantinople, and came to preside over it. Before the start of the Council, Saint Meletius raised his hand displaying three fingers, and then withdrawing two fingers and leaving one extended he blessed the people, proclaiming: "We understand three hypostases, and we speak about a single nature." During the Council Saint Meletius fell asleep in the Lord. Saint Gregory of Nyssa honored the memory of the deceased with a eulogy.

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

REQUESTING PRAYERS: The Rentel family, Mihai, Georgia, Don, Bobbi, Yuri, David

DEPARTED: Archpriest Daniel, Venetia, Kristen

BIRTHDAYS: Subdeacon Alexander Woodill

NAMEDAYS: Gary (Christos) Childs, Nicolas Margheritino

## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

APPROACHING THE GREAT FAST: As we approach the beginning of Great Lent, Fr. Alessandro offers an encouragement to all parishioners to begin preparing for our blessed journey to Pascha. The Parish Google Calendar (<https://www.orthodoxalexandria.org/calendar.html>) has been updated with the lenten schedule and Holy Week so you can see which services will be served at our parish. Make a special effort to plan your schedule in advance so that you can attend Forgiveness Vespers (2/26), the services of Clean Week (the Great Canon), and the Liturgy of the Presacntified Gifts served every week. Without attending those services, we will miss so much of the gift offered to us through Great Lent.

CHOIR REHEARSAL: Please note that the next choir rehearsals is scheduled for Saturday, February 25 after Vespers.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING: On February 12, Super Bowl Sunday, our parish will participate in the "Souper Bowl of Caring" to support both a local food pantry and IOCC. The Grace Food Pantry in Alexandria is running short of dental hygiene items and dish soap and has requested that we collect as many of those items as possible to help the hundreds of families who come to the pantry each week. They also always need dried black beans and dried red beans, canned corn, diced tomatoes. Please bring items to church on February 12 and we will bag them and deliver them to the food pantry. Please also

consider making a donation to IOCC this month, either online here IOCC or by bringing a check (payable to IOCC) to church.

To encourage additional donations to IOCC, several parishioners have volunteered to make chili and soup to "swap" for a donation. Order your soup now to take home either on February 12 or a later date arranged between cook and donor. The suggested donations are \$100 for a pot of chicken or beef chili; \$75 for a pot of vegan soup (several varieties are available for delivery during Lent); and \$25 for a quart jar of vegetable stock or broth. If you'd like to volunteer to make chili or soup for the Soup Swap, please reach out to Lory Easton (312-401-5993) this week.

### UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

Feb 12, Sun	
8:45 AM	Church School
9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
Feb 14, Tue	
9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy
Feb 18, Sat	
5:00 PM	Great Vespers
Feb 19, Sun	
8:45 AM	Church School
9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy

### MINISTRY ROTATIONS

*Coffee Hour* - Margheritino

*Reader* - Bob & Robert Easton

*Assisting the Treasurer* - Garber & Barr

*Fr. Alessandro is available to hear confessions after Vespers or by appointment during the week*