



ALL SAINTS OF AMERICA MISSION

Orthodox Church
in America

orthodoxalexandria.org

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Alexandria, VA 22310

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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 5, 2023

34th Sunday after Pentecost

Sun. of the Publican and the Pharisee
Afterfeast of the Meeting. Repose of
St. Theodosius of Chernigov
Martyr Agatha of Palermo in Sicily

MARTYR AGATHA OF PALERMO IN SICILY

The Holy Virgin Martyr Agatha was the fifteen-year-old daughter of rich and respected Christian parents from the city of Palermo (formerly Panormos) in Sicily. During the persecution under the emperor Decius (249-251), the city prefect of Catania, Quintianus, having heard about Agatha's wealth and beauty, sent his soldiers after her to bring her to trial as a Christian.

At Catania they housed the saint with a certain rich woman, who had five daughters. They all attempted to tempt Saint Agatha with fine clothes, amusements and entertainment, urging her to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods, but the saint disdained all these things. The more they tried to move her, the more resolute she became. She prayed that she might soon face martyrdom.

During her interrogation under Quintianus, the holy martyr was swayed neither by the flattery, nor by the threats, and she was subjected to cruel torments. They also tried to remove her breasts with metal tongs, and when this failed, they used knives. The holy Apostle Peter appeared to her in prison and healed her wounds. Saint Agatha was led to torture again, and Quintianus was astonished to see her completely healed, with no trace of cutting. Then the torture began once more.

At this moment an earthquake took place in the city, and many buildings were destroyed. Among those killed were two of Quintianus's advisors. The terrified inhabitants rushed to Quintianus, demanding an end to Agatha's tortures. Fearing a revolt by the people, Quintianus sent Saint Agatha back to prison. There the

martyr, offering thanks to God, peacefully surrendered her soul to the Lord.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

REQUESTING PRAYERS: Mihai, Georgia, Don, Bobbi, Yuri, David

DEPARTED: Venetia, Kristen, Jonathan

BIRTHDAYS: Bob Easton

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING OF CANDLES: This Sunday, our Church School children will prepare candles for the feast of the Meeting of the Lord celebrated on February 2. At the end of the Divine Liturgy, Fr. Alessandro will bless the candles that will then be distributed to parishioners to take home.

PARISH COUNCIL INSTALLATION: At the conclusion of Divine Liturgy, the new Parish Council will be formally installed. May the Lord Jesus Christ bless its work!

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

FAST-FREE WEEK: Note that the coming week, following the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee, is fast-free. No fasting on Wednesday and Friday.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Men from the parish will get together for breakfast on Saturday, February 11, 8:30a at The Executive Diner (1400 Duke St, Alexandria, VA 22314).

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 5, Sun

8:45 AM

Church School

9:30 AM

Divine Liturgy

Feb 9, Thu

7:00 PM

Parish Council

Feb 11, Sat

4:00 PM

Bible Study (2 Thess 3)

5:00 PM

Great Vespers

MINISTRY ROTATIONS

Coffee Hour - Mikhalevsky

Reader - Class

Assisting the Treasurer - Childs & Easton

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