



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.

JULY 21, 2024

4th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Finding of the honored relics of
the Venerable right-believing Great
Princess and Nun Anna of Kashin,
Wonderworker
Prophet Ezekiel

PROPHET EZEKIEL

The Holy Prophet Ezekiel lived in the sixth century before the birth of Christ. He was born in the city of Sarir, and descended from the tribe of Levi; he was a priest and the son of the priest Buzi. Ezekiel was led off to Babylon when he was twenty-five years old together with King Jechoniah II and many other Jews during the second invasion of Jerusalem by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar. The Prophet Ezekiel lived in captivity by the River Chebar. When he was thirty years old, he had a vision of the future of the Hebrew nation and of all mankind. The prophet beheld a shining cloud, with fire flashing continually, and in the midst of the fire, gleaming bronze. He also saw four living creatures in the shape of men, but with four faces (Ez. 1:6). Each had the face of a man in front, the face of a lion on the right, the face of an ox on the left, and the face of an eagle at the back (Ez. 1:10). There was a wheel on the earth beside each creature, and the rim of each wheel was full of eyes. Over the heads of the creatures there seemed to be a firmament, shining like crystal. Above the firmament was the likeness of a throne, like glittering sapphire in appearance. Above this throne was the likeness of a human form, and around Him was a rainbow (Ez. 1:4-28). According to the explanation of the Fathers of the Church, the human likeness upon the sapphire throne prefigures the Incarnation of the Son of God from the Most Holy Virgin Mary, who is the living Throne of God. The four creatures are symbols of the four Evangelists: a man (Saint Matthew), a lion (Saint Mark), an ox (Saint Luke), and an eagle (Saint John); the wheel with the many eyes is meant to suggest the sharing of light with all the nations of the earth. During this vision the holy prophet fell down upon the ground out of fear, but the voice of God commanded him to get up. He was told that the Lord was sending him to preach to the nation of Israel. This was the beginning of Ezekiel's prophetic service. The Prophet Ezekiel announces to the people of Israel, held captive in Babylon, the tribulations it would face for not remaining faithful to God. The prophet also proclaimed a better time for his

fellow-countrymen, and he predicted their return from Babylon, and the restoration of the Jerusalem Temple. There are two significant elements in the vision of the prophet: the vision of the temple of the Lord, full of glory (Ez. 44:1-10); and the bones in the valley, to which the Spirit of God gave new life (Ez. 37:1-14). The vision of the temple was a mysterious prefiguring of the race of man freed from the working of the Enemy and the building up of the Church of Christ through the redemptive act of the Son of God, incarnate of the Most Holy Theotokos. Ezekiel's description of the shut gate of the sanctuary, through which the Lord God would enter (Ez. 44: 2), is a prophecy of the Virgin giving birth to Christ, yet remaining a virgin. The vision of the dry bones prefigured the universal resurrection of the dead, and the new eternal life bestowed by the Lord Jesus Christ. The holy Prophet Ezekiel received from the Lord the gift of wonderworking. He, like the Prophet Moses, divided the waters of the river Chebar, and the Hebrews crossed to the opposite shore, escaping the pursuing Chaldeans. During a time of famine the prophet asked God for an increase of food for the hungry. Ezekiel was condemned to execution because he denounced a certain Hebrew prince for idolatry. Bound to wild horses, he was torn to pieces. Pious Hebrews gathered up the torn body of the prophet and buried it upon Maur Field, in the tomb of Sim and Arthaxad, forefathers of Abraham, not far from Baghdad. The prophecy of Ezekiel is found in the book named for him, and is included in the Old Testament. Saint Demetrius of Rostov (October 28 and September 21) explains to believers the following concepts in the book of the Prophet Ezekiel: if a righteous man turns from righteousness to sin, he shall die for his sin, and his righteousness will not be remembered. If a sinner repents, and keeps God's commandments, he will not die. His former sins will not be held against him, because now he follows the path of righteousness (Ez. 3:20; 18:21-24).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

REQUESTING PRAYERS: Archpriest Matthew, Michelle, Larissa, Cristina, Jerry, Davide

CATECHUMEN: Brooke

MISSIONARIES: The Brandow family serving in Guatemala

NAMEDAYS: Ezekiel Shoffner, Lory Ann Easton

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOOK ON FR. MICHEAL'S WRITINGS: A book which includes homilies and writings of Fr. Michael Koblosh of blessed memory has been recently published. You can purchase a copy on Amazon: "He in Us and We in Him: A New Creation." This book was prepared and edited by Fr. Michael and Matushka Lydia Westerberg.

2025 SINGLES' RETREAT: The retreat is scheduled for February 20-23 for age 30+ Registration fills up quickly.

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

July 21, Sun 9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
July 23, Tue 6:30 PM	Parish Council
July 27, Sat 5:00 PM	Great Vespers
July 28, Sun 9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy

MINISTRY ROTATIONS

	July 21	July 28
Coffee Hour:	Schmitt/Bomadevar	Hughes
Reader:	Mykyta	Barr

Fr. Alessandro is available for Confession on Saturday after Vespers or by appointment