

St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre Orthodox Church

A Mission of the Orthodox Church in America

Meeting at St. Stephen Catholic Chapel, 2400 E Moody Blvd, Bunnell, FL 32110

Sunday Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM

Confessions heard 9:00 AM Sundays, before and after evening services, and by appointment

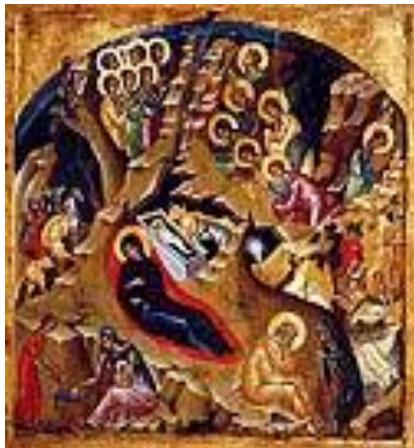
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

29th Sunday after Pentecost (14th of Luke)

Sunday After the Nativity

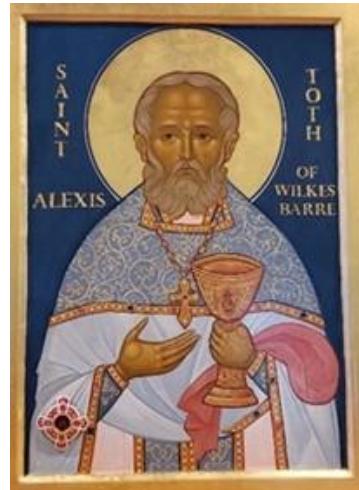
Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord

TONE 4



“The Orthodox Christian Church is evangelical, but not Protestant. It is orthodox, but not Jewish. It is catholic, but not Roman. It is not denominational, it is pre-denominational. It has believed, taught, preserved, defended, and died for the Faith of the Apostles since the Day of Pentecost nearly 2,000 years ago.”

– Our Life in Christ



Welcome to our Guests!

Thank you for coming to pray with us. You will find a weekly bulletin with today's hymns and a blue guest information card on the back table. Please fill out the card and give it to a greeter or put it in an offering box. You are also invited to *Coffee Fellowship* in the parish hall following the Liturgy this morning. Our priest, Fr David, looks forward to meeting you!

According to ancient Christian practice, Holy Communion (Eucharist) is served to members of the Orthodox Church who have made preparation through prayer, fasting, and recent confession, and who are at peace with their neighbor. If you are not a member of the Orthodox Church, you may be offered blessed bread (*antidoron*) by others in respect and love.

Greeter Schedule:	<u>Dec 28</u>	<u>Jan 4</u>	<u>Jan 11</u>	<u>Jan 18</u>	<u>Jan 25</u>
	Octavian F	Michael P	Chris M	Olga L	Octavian F

Announcements:

The Twelve Days of Christmas: From Fasting to Feasting

After spending the Advent season in prayer, fasting, and quietude, the Christian heart prepares itself for the celebration of our Lord's Nativity. On that day when we proclaim "Christ is born! Glorify Him!" we inaugurate the liturgical season of Christmas. We break the fast with carol and song, merriment and cheer, and yes, meat. From the 25th day of December until the day of our Lord's Theophany is but one day – one feast of our Savior's birth! So, let us sing together with the Forefathers and Ancestors, with angels and all the saints on this very long and rich liturgical "day."

(Excerpted from the preface to *The Twelve Days of Christmas in Hymns and Carols*, by the Monks of the Monastery of the Holy Archangel Gabriel, OCA, Canonas, NM.)

Special Parish Meeting Sunday, January 4, immediately following the Divine Liturgy!

The Parish Council is calling for a Special Parish Meeting to be held Sunday, January 4, immediately after the Liturgy, to present to the members of St. Alexis Orthodox Mission the opportunity to vote on the purchase of the *Trades of Hope* building (2323 N. State Street, Units 107-112, Bunnell, FL), subject to due diligence and Diocesan approval. Pray for your Parish Council Members who are working daily on this significant endeavor.

Many Years to the Newly Illumined Michael (Seraphim) and Kenadea (Mary)!

What a joy to receive Michael Seraphim and Kenadea Mary into the fullness of the Orthodox faith last Sunday here at St. Alexis Mission by chrismation in fulfillment of their baptisms. Many thanks to their sponsors for providing baskets and to all who added your gifts and prayers and well wishes for each of them. Continue to keep our newly illumined and their sponsors in your prayers!

Capital Campaign 2025-2026 Began December 1st

Due to our growth we are going to need more space than we originally planned a year ago, and that means we need to increase our Building Fund.

This decision of the PC was affirmed when we received a pledge of a Matching Grant of \$200,000. For every dollar you give, it will be doubled up to the full amount of the grant! This begins NOW and will end on St. Thomas Sunday, April 19, 2026. **All pledges for the campaign are due by St. Thomas Sunday, April 19, 2026. Our goal, including the matching funds, is \$400K.**

If we reach our goal, the building we are currently considering could be ours with no debt. For every dollar above our goal, we will have funds to do minor remodeling, turning it into a beautiful place for Orthodox Worship, including the installation of our iconostasis, currently in a storage facility.

Pledge forms are included as attachments with the bulletin email and are available in the back of the nave. Fill out a pledge form and place it in the Tithes & Offerings Box as soon as possible. Note that all checks or envelopes dated by 12/31/2025 will be credited for the 2025 tax year for IRS Charitable giving reporting purposes. Donations received after 12/31 will be credited for 2026.

Make sure any donation intended for the Building Fund is clearly marked with "Building Fund" written on your offering envelope and/or check.

Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs — Encountering Orthodoxy through the Divine Liturgy

The OCA has a wonderful course of study using the Divine Liturgy as a guide for exploring the Orthodox faith, beginning with the Service of Preparation of the Gifts. Fr. David is now facilitating this class after Coffee Fellowship Hour on appointed Sundays - **check the calendar for dates!** Catechumens specifically are asked to attend, but all are welcome. In the Orthodox Church we pray what we believe and we believe what we pray. If you are a guest, seeker, inquirer or member, this is an opportunity to learn more about the meaning behind how we pray. So, enjoy Coffee Hour then join us back in the nave.

Encouraging ACH donations at St. Alexis

We encourage online donors to choose **ACH** rather than credit card transactions. Our parish is charged a 2.2% transaction fee for each credit card donation. In contrast, we are charged only \$.25 for each ACH donation. To donate via ACH, register with **Church Connect**, a one-time, quick, secure set up:

Church Connect - Our St Alexis Orthodox Church App

- Scan the **QR code** with your smart phone to create your account
- You may also go directly to the link at: stalexisoca.org/give
- If you need help setting up your account, see Mka Rozanne or Mike Ruddy



ONGOING Opportunities for Love and Ministry in our Parish:

- **We need your help to set up our worship space on Sunday mornings.** Arrive by 8:00 AM and our Altar Servers will supervise the setting up process. If you are an able-bodied member of our parish but cannot help during set-up, PLEASE do assist in the take-down process and clean-up.
- **Can you push a light-weight stick vacuum?** We need volunteers to vacuum 1) **the nave** by noon each Sunday, and 2) **the parish hall & kitchen** after Coffee Fellowship Hour!
- **Woodworkers, carpenters, and other skilled craftsmen needed!** In preparation for having our own building, there are projects waiting to be completed. If you have tools and expertise, your services will be greatly appreciated. Do you know someone with these skills? Send info to Fr David.

2026 Church Calendars from St. Tikhon's Monastery are available, one per household, on the back table, free of charge!

Church Offering Envelopes are now available! Please get your box from Helen, our Treasurer!

Prayer Lists – Pray for each other daily:

The Departed:

- The Priest Slava
- Protopresbyter Alexander (Schmemann)
- Archpriest Ernesto (Rios)
- Victims of accidents, hostilities, and natural disasters around the world
- All the unborn

All whom we carry in our hearts, including:

- Fr Aleksandr Yu Shi
- Dn Daniel Werner, Mka Aly, and family at Seminary
- Fr Patrick, Mka Lauren, James, Walter, Henry, Kathryn, Ethan, Marissa, Andrew
- Fr Phillip, Kh Diane, Fr Jordan, Mka Vanessa, Fr James, Mka Daphne, Fr Patrick, Mka Kristen, Fr Theophan, Pres Elena, Dn Jim, Mka Robin
- Our missionary families: the Hoppes, Brandows, Macdonalds, and Hannah Valentine
- Ilya, Anastasia, Mary, Christopher, Cindy, Moses, Michael, Andrew, John, Nina, Alexis, Monica, Bill Michael, Carol Anna, Elena, Stefan, Sdn Daniel, Sophia, Emmelia, Michael, Jonathan, Anna and the child she carries, and all members of our community traveling or on the bed of sickness
- St Gerard Campus staff and the mothers and babies they serve
- All who are homeless, unemployed, or under-employed in our community
- All of our Seekers/Inquirers
- Catechumens Kenadea, Michael, Chris, Lesly, Gianna, Marco, Annie

Prayer for a home for St Alexis (Augmented Litany):

Again we ask Thee to continue to grant us wisdom, understanding, and discernment as we purchase buildings and property. Grant us great love and compassion for one another and the ability to inquire respectfully and listen carefully. Lead us in the way of Thy Truth for the glory of Thy Kingdom as we continue becoming Thy disciples and participate in making disciples, for the salvation of our children, our neighbors, and all people.

Hymns for this Sunday: Please sing along with the choir – and all week long!

Tone 4 Troparion (Resurrection)

When the women disciples of the Lord
learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection,
they cast away the ancestral curse
and elatedly told the apostles:
“Death is overthrown!
Christ God is risen,//
granting the world great mercy!”

Tone 4 Troparion (Feast)

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God,
has shone to the world the light of wisdom!
For by it, those who worshipped the stars,
were taught by a star to adore Thee,
the Sun of Righteousness,
and to know Thee, the Orient from on high.//
O Lord, glory to Thee!

Tone 2 Troparion (Righteous Ones)

Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph,
to David, the ancestor of God;
you have seen a Virgin great with child;
and you gave glory with the shepherds;
you worshipped with the Magi,
and received the news from the Angel.//
Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

Tone 3 Kontakion (Righteous Ones)

Today godly David is filled with joy;
Joseph and James offer praise.
The glorious crown of their kinship with Christ fills them with great joy.
They sing praises to the One ineffably born on earth,/
and they cry out: “O Compassionate One, save those who honor Thee!”

Tone 3 Kontakion (Feast)

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One,
and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One!
Angels with shepherds glorify Him!
The Wise Men journey with the star,/
since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child!

Scripture Readings for this Sunday:

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

The Lord's Prayer

English

Our Father, Who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.

Slavonic (Transliterated)

Ot-che nash,
Ee-zhe ye see na nye-bye-sekh!
da svya-tee-tsyu ee-mya Tvo-ye, da pri-ee-dyet Tsar-stvi-ye Tvo-ye:
da boo-dyet vol-ya Tvo-ya, ya-ko na nye-bye-see ee na zem-lee.
Khleb nash na-soosch-nui dazhd nam dnyes:
ee o-sta-vee nam dol-gee na-shya, ya-ko-zhe ee mui o-sta-vlya-yem
dol-zhnee-kom na-shim:
ee nye vye-dee nas vo ees-koo-shye-ni-ye,
no eez-ba-vee nas ot loo-ka-va-go.

Spanish

Padre nuestro, que estás en los cielos,
Santificado sea tu nombre.
Venga tu Reino.
Hágase tu voluntad así en la tierra como en el cielo.
El pan nuestro de cada día dánoslo hoy,
Y perdona nuestras deudas, así como nosotros perdonamos nuestros deudores;
Y no nos dejes caer en la tentación, mas líbranos del mal.

Life in our Church

+++ Christ is Born! Glorify Him! +++

Fast Free Period Dec 25 – Jan 6

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Sunday, Dec 28	Divine Liturgy (Sunday after Nativity) Coffee Fellowship Hour ❖ Bring feasting foods (meat and dairy!) <i>Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs</i>	9:30 AM 12-1:30 PM
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Wednesday, December 31 Leavetaking of the Nativity of our Lord God & Savior Jesus Christ

Thursday, January 1, 2026 The Circumcision of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
Happy New Year **2026**

Sunday, Jan 4	Divine Liturgy (Sunday before Theophany) Special Parish Meeting immediately following Divine Liturgy Coffee Fellowship Hour Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting	9:30 AM
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Monday, Jan 5	Great Blessing of the Waters for Theophany	6:00 PM
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Tuesday, January 6 Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Thursday, Jan 8	Bible Study in St. Augustine (at the Ayer home)	6:00 PM
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Thursday Jan 8	Toward the Kingdom (in the Parish Hall)	5:30 PM
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Sunday, Jan 11	Divine Liturgy (Afterfeast/Sunday After Theophany) Installation of Parish Council Members Coffee Fellowship Hour/ Annual Blessing of Vehicles Parish Council Meeting	9:30 AM
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Thursday, Jan 15	Bible Study in St. Augustine (at the Ayer home) House Blessing	6:00 PM
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Sunday, Jan 18	Divine Liturgy Coffee Fellowship Hour <i>Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs</i>	9:30 AM 12-1:30 PM
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His Eminence, The Most Reverend ALEXANDER, Archbishop of Dallas and the South
Archpriest David C. Rucker ♦ 904-599-5812 ♦ priest@stalexisoca.org
Parish Council President James Humphries ♦ 904-540-2476