

# 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*

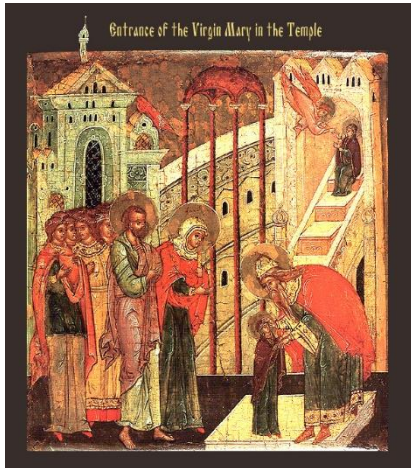
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23**

**TONE 7**

**24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (9<sup>th</sup> of Luke)**

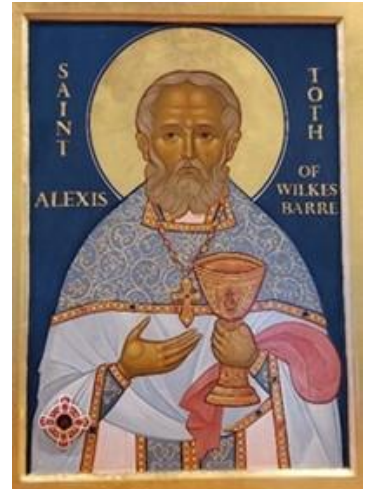
**Afterfeast of the Entrance into the Temple**

**St. Amphilochius, Bishop of Iconium**



“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.

|                          |               |               |              |               |               |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Greeter Schedule:</b> | <b>Nov 23</b> | <b>Nov 30</b> | <b>Dec 7</b> | <b>Dec 14</b> | <b>Dec 21</b> |
|                          | Kenadea N     | Michael P     | Chris M      | Olga L        | Octavian F    |

### Announcements:

#### **Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple, Third Day of the Feast**

*We continue to celebrate the great feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple, when, in the words of Basil the Monk, 'Anna led the undefiled Temple into the house of God' (2nd canon of the feast). According to the 2nd Book of Maccabees, the holy prophet Jeremiah hid the ancient treasures of the temple—the ark, the tent, and the altar of incense—in a cave until the latter days, when God shall gather together his people and reveal his mercy (2 Macc. 2:5). Thus, when the Virgin Mary was brought into the Holy of Holies, she found it empty. But, as the hymns of the feast teach us, the Most Holy Theotokos is in fact the fulfillment of the shadowy ark and all that it contained. She is the true ark of God's Presence (1st canon). She is the true tabernacle, the true altar. She is the true Holy of*

*Holies, the true treasure of the true Israel, which is the Church. And by entering into the temple, she fulfilled the shadows of the Old Covenant and proclaimed the New.*

*As Christians, we are heirs to all of these treasures of both Testaments: both those ancient objects hidden in a cavern by the prophet, and the Maiden who is lovelier than all other creation, whom the Lord has given to us as our loving and protective Mother (Jn. 19:27). But these divine treasures are given to us, not so that we can hoard them up and build bigger barns, but so that we can share these spiritual riches with the world (Lk. 12:18). (Met. Tikhon in a Pastoral Letter)*

**Saturday, November 15 began the Nativity Fast (Winter Lent)** when we intensify our prayer, almsgiving, and fasting for 40 days in preparation for the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ (Christmas). As we keep the fast at home, also make sure to bring only fasting-appropriate foods (no meat or dairy) to Coffee Fellowship Hour until the Sunday after Christmas.

### **Special Activities Bag for Young Children to Use at Church**

Parents, you will find cloth St Alexis bags in the back of the church designed for you and your younger children to use during services. **Please return the bag to the book table before you leave!** We are just beginning to fill the bags with quiet learning tools (ex: books, soft Bible characters and saints) designed for our youngest ones ages 0-5 to multitask while standing with you or seated quietly in a seat, on a lap, or on the floor during church. Every service is a time of gently and lovingly teaching our children how to pray, worship, and receive Christ. We want their earliest memories to be about how much they are loved by their Church family. Please select one bag for the day, put everything back in the bag at the end of the service, and return it to the book table so it is available for you and others next time! If you see books or other items you would like to own, check out the Book Table and if you can't find it there, let Ali Marie know and we will try to order it for you at our cost.

*We love our little brothers and sisters very much!*

### **This Year's Annual Parish Meeting Quick Report**

God bless the record number of members (and guests) who attended the Annual Parish Meeting! We rejoiced together as our Vision and Purpose as the Church was renewed, giving thanks for: Our growth this past year through new members, catechumens, seekers, and guests; Good reports from our Treasurer, President, AAC Lay Delegate, and the Ad Hoc Building Committee. We welcome Charles Fausey to our 2026 PC, and are always grateful to Mike Poleschuk for all his ministries! We rejoice in God's provision for a strong 2026 Budget, enabling our growing stewardship ministries. All was done with consensus, humility, and joy, including the inauguration of our second Stewardship Campaign to increase our Building Fund, beginning next month on December 1<sup>st</sup> and ending on St. Thomas Sunday, April 19, 2026! We begin this campaign with a \$200,000 matching grant, doubling your donations! More details to come.

### **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.

### ***Toward the Kingdom Study Group (Flagler County)***

- **WHEN:**
  - Thursday, December 11 ~ 5:30-7:30pm
    - If you cannot arrive by 5:30pm or need to leave before 7:30, no problem. *Come anyway!*
- **WHAT:**
  - Potluck followed by study/discussion facilitated by Fr David & Mka Rozanne
  - We will use ***Parenting Toward the Kingdom + Companion Guide*** (Dr. Philip Mamalakis)
  - 1 book + 1 companion guide will be provided per household if you don't already own them
- **WHO:**
  - Adults of all ages are welcome!
  - If you cannot secure childcare, bring your children & a plan for them while we meet
- **WHERE:**
  - Parish Hall of St. Alexis Orthodox Mission
- **HOW OFTEN:**
  - Monthly (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays, tentatively)
  - Questions? See Fr David or Mka Rozanne!

#### **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. This adds up over time! 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](http://stalexisoca.org/give)
- If you need help setting up your account, see Mka Rozanne or Mike Ruddy



### **Mid-Week Bible Study in St. Augustine!**

- WHAT:** St. Alexis Midweek Bible Study & Potluck
- WHEN:** Thursdays 6:00-8:00pm (**NEXT MEETING: Dec. 4**)
- WHO:** All are welcome! (Facilitated by Fr David or Jim Humphries)
- WHERE:** Karla (Anna) Ayer's home  
Address: See Karla  
Phone: 904-806-2410
- Note: There's plenty of room for parking!**

We gather and begin eating at 6:00pm and start our study at 6:30.  
If you are driving in after work and arrive late, no problem.  
Help yourself to food and join right in!

#### **Prayer Lists – Pray for each other daily:**

##### **The Departed:**

- The Priest Slava
- The Newly Departed Servants of God: Geoffrey Nicholas, Nina, and Olga
- His Eminence, DAVID, Archbishop of Sitka and Alaska (Nov 27, 2020)
- The Archpriest Sergius (Nov 22, 2023)

- The Priest Photios (Nov 15, 2003)
- Victims of accidents, hostilities, and natural disasters around the world
- The unborn child of God Obadiah (Nov 19, 2010)
- All the unborn

All whom we carry in our hearts, including:

- Fr Aleksandr Yu Shi
- The newly ordained 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, Dn Jim, Mka Robin
- Ilya, Mary, Christopher, Cindy, Moses, Michael, Andrew, John, Nina, Alexis, Monica, Bill Michael, Carol Anna, Elena, Stefan, Sdn Daniel, Emmelia, Sophia and the child she carries, Seraphina, Tabettha, AJ, Jonathan, 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.*

### **Prospora Baking at St. Alexis Mission**

*Next prospora baking day is **Saturday, Dec 6!**  
(see calendar on last page of bulletin for details)*

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

#### **Tone 7      Troparion      (Resurrection)**

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death.  
To the thief Thou didst open Paradise.  
For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy,  
and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God,  
to proclaim that Thou art risen,//  
granting the world great mercy.

#### **Tone 4      Troparion      (Feast)**

Today is the prelude of the good will of God,  
of the preaching of the salvation of mankind.  
The Virgin appears in the Temple of God,  
in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all.  
Let us rejoice and sing to her:  
“Rejoice, O Fulfillment//  
of the Creator’s dispensation!”



**Tone 4      Troparion      (St. Alexis)**

O righteous Father Alexis,  
our heavenly intercessor and teacher,  
divine adornment of the Church of Christ!  
Entreat the Master of All  
To strengthen the Orthodox Faith in America,  
To grant peace to the world //  
And to our souls great mercy.

**Tone 7      Kontakion      (Resurrection)**

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive,  
for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers.  
Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry:  
“The Savior has come to those in faith;//  
enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

**Tone 2      Kontakion      (St. Amphilochius)**

Holy thunder, spiritual trumpet,  
nurse of the faithful and axe striking down heresy,  
O hierarch Amphilochius,  
great and well-pleasing servant of the Trinity,  
as you stand forever with the Angels,//  
unceasingly pray for us all!  
*Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen*

**Tone 4      Kontakion      (Feast)**

The most pure Temple of the Savior;  
the precious Chamber and Virgin;  
the sacred Treasure of the glory of God,  
is presented today to the house of the Lord.  
She brings with her the grace of the Spirit,  
therefore, the angels of God praise her://  
“Truly this woman is the abode of Heaven!”

**Scripture Readings for this Sunday:**

**Epistle:**      Ephesians 2:14-22  
**Gospel:**      Luke 12:16-21

**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-tsya 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 dánosle hoy,  
Y perdona nuestras deudas, así como nosotros perdonamos nuestros deudores;  
Y no nos dejes caer en la tentación, mas líbranos del mal.

## IOCC Sunday: Nov. 23, 2025



### *Celebrating IOCC's Work*

Each year, the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops sets aside the Sunday before Thanksgiving to highlight humanitarian relief.

Please consider a gift to support IOCC's worldwide humanitarian work, or visit [ioccsunday.org](http://ioccsunday.org) for more ways to get involved, and help spread awareness about IOCC in your parish and community.



**IOCC**<sup>®</sup>  
[ioccsunday.org](http://ioccsunday.org)

**Your tithes, offerings, and alms enable St. Alexis Orthodox Mission to support IOCC!**

# Life in our Church

\* Nativity Fast begins Saturday, November 15\*

(No meat or dairy for Coffee Fellowship Hour until the Sunday after Christmas)

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|                       |   |                   |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------|
| <b>Sunday, Nov 23</b> | <b>Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom</b>                      | <b>9:30 AM</b>    |
|                       | <i>(Afterfeast of the Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple)</i> |                   |
|                       | Coffee Fellowship Hour  |                   |
|                       | <b>Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs</b>                       | <b>12-1:30 PM</b> |

*\*Happy Thanksgiving Thursday, Nov 27\**  
**(No Bible Study)**

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| <b>Sunday, Nov 30</b> | <b>Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom</b> | <b>9:30 AM</b> |
|                       | Coffee Fellowship Hour                       |                |

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|------------------------|--|----------------|
| <b>Thursday, Dec 4</b> | <b>Bible Study in St. Augustine</b> <i>(Ayer home)</i> | <b>6:00 PM</b> |
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| <b>Saturday, Dec 6</b> | <b>Prosphora Baking</b> <i>(Ayer home)</i> | <b>10 AM-2 PM</b> |
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| <b>Sunday, Dec 7</b> | <b>Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom</b>              | <b>9:30 AM</b>    |
|                      | <i>St. Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra &amp; Lycia visit</i> |                   |
|                      | Coffee Fellowship Hour                                    |                   |
|                      | <b>Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs</b>               | <b>12-1:30 PM</b> |

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|-------------------------|--|----------------|
| <b>Thursday, Dec 11</b> | <b>Bible Study in St. Augustine</b> <i>(Ayer home)</i> | <b>6:00 PM</b> |
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| <b>Thursday, Dec 11</b> | <b>Toward the Kingdom Study Group</b> <i>(Parish Hall)</i> | <b>5:30 PM</b> |
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| <b>Saturday, Dec 13</b> | <b>Choir Rehearsal</b> <i>(Ayer home)</i>             | <b>10 AM-2 PM</b> |
|                         | <b>BYOL</b> (Bring Your Own Lunch)                    |                   |
|                         | <i>Rehearsal for Nativity, Theophany, &amp; more!</i> |                   |

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|-----------------------|--|----------------|
| <b>Sunday, Dec 14</b> | <b>Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom</b> | <b>9:30 AM</b> |
|                       | <i>(Sunday of the Forefathers)</i>           |                |
|                       | <b>Reception of Catechumens</b>              | <b>9:30 AM</b> |
|                       | Coffee Fellowship Hour                       |                |
|                       | <b>Parish Council Meeting</b>                | <b>12-2 PM</b> |

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| <b>Thursday, Dec 18</b> | <b>Bible Study in St. Augustine</b> <i>(Ayer home)</i> | <b>6:00 PM</b> |
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| <b>Saturday, Dec 20</b> | <b>Snuggly Saints Sewing &amp; Stuffing</b> <i>(Ayer home)</i>                 | <b>10 AM-12:30 PM</b> |
|                         | Please RSVP if you plan to come  |                       |
|                         | <a href="mailto:churchoffice@stalexisoca.org">churchoffice@stalexisoca.org</a> |                       |

# Life in our Church

(continued...)

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|--------------------------|--|-------------------|
| <b>Sunday, Dec 21</b>    | <b>Choir Rehearsal</b> (before Divine Liturgy)   | <b>8-9:10 AM</b>  |
|                          | <b>Sacrament of Holy Chrismation (x2)</b>  | <b>9:15 AM</b>    |
|                          | <b>Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom</b>   | <b>9:30 AM</b>    |
|                          | <i>(Sunday Before the Nativity of our Lord God &amp; Savior Jesus Christ &amp; Sunday of the Holy Fathers)</i> |                   |
|                          | <i>Coffee Fellowship Hour</i>  |                   |
|                          | <b>Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs</b>  | <b>12-1:30 PM</b> |
| <b>Wednesday, Dec 24</b> | <b>Great Compline</b>  | <b>5:00 PM</b>    |
|                          | <i>(for the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord God &amp; Savior Jesus Christ)</i>                               |                   |
| <b>Thursday, Dec 25</b>  | <b>Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom</b>   | <b>9:30 AM</b>    |
|                          | <i>(Feast of the Nativity of our Lord God &amp; Savior Jesus Christ)</i>                                       |                   |
|                          | <b>No Coffee Fellowship Hour today</b>   |                   |

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

*\*Fast Free Period Dec 25 – Jan 6\**

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| <b>Sunday, Dec 28</b> | <b>Divine Liturgy</b>          | <b>9:30 AM</b> |
|                       | <i>(Sunday after Nativity)</i> |                |
|                       | <i>Coffee Fellowship Hour</i>  |                |

*Wednesday, December 31  
Leavetaking of the Nativity of our Lord God & Savior Jesus Christ*

His Eminence, The Most Reverend ALEXANDER, Archbishop of Dallas and the South  
Archpriest David C. Rucker ♦ 904-599-5812 ♦ [priest@stalexisoca.org](mailto:priest@stalexisoca.org)  
Parish Council President James Humphries ♦ 904-540-2476