

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, SEPTEMBER 21

TONE 6

15th Sunday after Pentecost

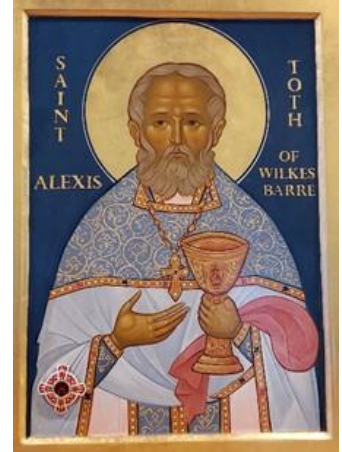
Sunday After the Exaltation of the Cross

Leavetaking of the Exaltation of the Cross



“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 the candle offering basket. You are also invited to *Coffee Fellowship* in the parish hall following the Liturgy this morning. Our priest will look 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.

Announcements:

The Leavetaking of the Exaltation of the Precious Cross

Any time the precious Cross stands before us it is customary and appropriate, upon entering the nave for your first time that day, to approach the cross by venerating it with two prostrations, a kiss, and then a third prostration, just as we venerated it last Sunday, and proceeding forward to venerate the kissing icons and placing candles.

Remember: The story of the Cross is *The Story* in which we participate as we each pick up our own cross and follow our Lord from birth to death to resurrection to eternal life. We are not alone in this life-saving journey. We are accompanied by our Lord's blessed Mother, the disciples, and all who have gone before us. The invitation is to, "Deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Me." (Matthew 16:24-26) Let us ever remember and strive to live as if we believe that, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose." (a 20th century missionary martyr)

Parish Council Meeting Highlights

In last week's PC meeting we announced confirmation that our Mission will receive the OCA Church Planting Grant for Year Three in 2026. This will be the final year of the grant, which must be used for our Priest's compensation. The grant began in 2024, and helped make it possible for our Mission to have a full-time Priest. We believe this is a vital key to growing a Mission. The OCA has guidelines and categories required in the annual budget in order to have a full-time priest. ([See the Clergy Compensation Guide.](#)) The grant will be reduced again next year and we will be required to make up the difference in our tithes and offerings. Your financial stewardship keeps our Mission growing!

In addition, the Ad Hoc Building Committee reported on progress to acquire our own building. As we project future growth we are considering needing more space than anticipated a year ago. Our building fund balance has grown to over \$740K, and we anticipate needing additional funds. Join with us in praying for God's provision and much needed discernment. Minutes and financial reports are available to members of the parish once approved. They are yours for the asking.

[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.

YOU can prepare a special *Gift For Your Loved Ones!*

As we come to the end of the Church year and have commemorated the Feast of the Dormition of Our Most Holy Theotokos we see how to prepare to end the preface of the book of our lives and begin the first full new chapter entering into eternal life with Christ and His Church. Some cultures seem to promote a false belief that it is "bad luck" to talk about death and dying, thus discouraging people from making proper plans for a Christian ending to their lives. This is NOT what Christians believe.

If you do not have a Living Will, a Last Will and Testament, a Designated Power Of Attorney, and a Health Care Power of Attorney, then you are at risk of placing a heavy burden on your family, loved ones, and friends...especially if you are already in your senior years.

If you have not given your Priest a copy of your Advanced Directives for Funeral and Burial Care, then you are at risk of placing a heavy burden on your Church... But never fear, you are not alone and your Church can help! Your priest is glad to visit with you about such matters and can recommend qualified, affordable professional assistance, if needed. There are two books with templates, forms, and information for you to use as an Orthodox Christian: [A Gift For My Loved Ones](#) and [Another Gift For My Loved Ones](#). You can click on the links and start today!

❖ ***We also have printed copies of these booklets available (free of charge) on the Book Table.***

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! See Mike or Karla.

- **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 information to Fr David.

Building Fund: Still Growing!

Offerings may be designated at any time for the Building Fund and given online or placed in the **Tithes & Offerings** box on a table at the back of 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. This adds up to significant savings over time. In order to donate via ACH, you will need to register with **Church Connect**, a one-time, quick, secure set up. Mka Rozanne, Sdn Daniel, or Mike (Ruddy) are available to assist you.

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



Prayer Lists – Pray for each other daily:

The Departed

- The Priest Slava
- Alexandra Zubko
- Micah Rucker
- Victims of accidents, hostilities, and natural disasters around the world
- The Unborn

Servants of God

- Fr Aleksandr Yu Shi
- The newly ordained Dn Daniel Werner, Mka Aly, & 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, Lidia, Nina, Alexis, Monica, Bill, Carol, Linda, Madelyn, Stefan, Elena, Sophia and the child she carries, the infant James, Nicholas, Seraphina, Tabetha, AJ, James, 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
- Catechumens Kenadea, Michael, Chris, Lesly, Gianna, Marco

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.

Today's Hymns: *Please sing along with the choir -- and all week long!*

Tone 6 Troparion (Resurrection)

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb;
the guards became as dead men.
Mary stood by Thy grave,
seeking Thy most pure body.
Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it.
Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life.
O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead,//
glory to Thee.

Tone 1 Troparion (Feast)

O Lord, save Thy people,
and bless Thine inheritance!
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians
over their adversaries;
and by virtue of Thy Cross,//
preserve Thy habitation!

Tone 6 Kontakion (Resurrection)

When Christ God, the Giver of Life,
raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand,
He bestowed resurrection on the human race.//
He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

Tone 4 Kontakion (Feast)

As Thou wast voluntarily raised upon the Cross for our sake,
grant mercy to those who are called by Thy Name, O Christ God;
make all Orthodox Christians glad by Thy power,
granting them victories over their adversaries//
by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Thy weapon of peace!

Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20 & 2 Corinthians 4:6-15
Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1 & Matthew 22:35-46

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.

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

Life in our Church

Sunday, Sep 21	Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom <i>Leavetaking of the Exaltation of the Precious Cross</i> <i>Coffee Fellowship Hour</i> Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs	9:30 AM 12-1:30 PM
Wednesday, Sep 24	Catechism via Zoom with Fr. David	9:30 AM
Thursday, Sep 25	Bible Study (at the Ayer home)	6:00 PM
Sunday, Sep 28	Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom <i>Coffee Fellowship Hour</i> Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs	9:30 AM 12-1:30 PM
Thursday, Oct 2	Bible Study (at the Ayer home)	6:00 PM
Sunday, Oct 5	Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom <i>Coffee Fellowship Hour</i> Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs Choir Rehearsal	9:30 AM 12-1:30 PM 12-1:30 PM
Thursday, Oct 9	Bible Study (at the Ayer home)	6:00 PM
Sunday, Oct 12	Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom Parish Council Meeting <i>Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council</i>	9:30 AM
<i>Oct 15-18 Thriving in Ministry Facilitators Retreat (Ruckers)</i>		
Thursday, Oct 16	Bible Study (at the Ayer home)	6:00 PM
Sunday, Oct 19	Reader's Typica (Obednitsa) <i>Coffee Fellowship Hour</i>	9:30 AM
Thursday, Oct 23	Bible Study (at the Ayer home)	6:00 PM
Sunday, Oct 26	Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom <i>Open discussion after Coffee Fellowship</i> <i>in preparation for Annual Meeting Nov 16</i> <i>(Agenda & 2025 Budget draft available)</i> Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs	9:30 AM 12-1:30 PM
Thursday, Oct 30	Bible Study (at the Ayer home)	6:00 PM
Sunday, Nov 2	Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom <i>Open discussion during Coffee Fellowship</i> <i>in preparation for Annual Meeting Nov 17</i> <i>(Agenda & 2025 Budget draft presented)</i> Choir Rehearsal	9:30 AM 12-1:30 PM