

# 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, JANUARY 4**

**TONE 5**

**30<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

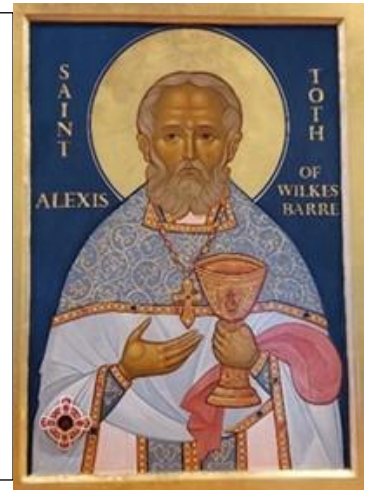
**Sunday Before the Theophany - Forefeast of the Theophany**

**Synaxis of the Seventy Apostle**



“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>Jan 4</b>	<b>Jan 11</b>	<b>Jan 18</b>	<b>Jan 25</b>
	Michael P	Chris M	Olga L	Michael P

### Announcements:

#### **Special Parish Meeting TODAY - Sunday, January 4 - immediately following the Divine Liturgy!**

The Parish Council has called for a Special Parish Meeting to be held today, 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. His Eminence, Archbishop ALEXANDER, has given a blessing for this purchase! Pray for your Parish Council Members who are working daily on this significant endeavor.

## **The Feast of the Theophany of our Lord Jesus Christ is almost here!**

Join us on **Monday, January 5, at 6:00 PM** for the Great Blessing of the Waters. Be sure to bring your own containers for taking holy water back to your homes!

## **Capital Campaign 2025-2026 In Progress**

**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](http://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 thanks to a sponsor.

**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
- Kirk Lewis (Jan 6, 2021)
- Michael Goch (Jan 7, 2014)
- The Archpriest Jacob Myers, “The Good Samaritan of Atlanta” (Jan 16, 2013)
- The Archpriest Joseph Gibson (Jan 20, 2021)
- The Protodeacon Michael Malanowski (Jan 20, 2022)
- Fred (George) Haltof (Jan 22, 2022)
- HB The Most Blessed ANASTASIOS (Yannoulatos), Met. of Tirana, Archbishop of all Albania (1/25/2025)
- 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, Amy and the child she carries, Jim and his family, 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 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 **in our Special Parish Meeting today as we vote on purchasing a building for St. Alexis Orthodox Mission.** 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 5      Troparion      (Resurrection)**

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,  
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,  
born for our salvation from the Virgin;  
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,  
to endure death,  
and to raise the dead//  
by His glorious Resurrection.

**Tone 4      Troparion      (Forefeast)**

Prepare, O Zebulon,  
and adorn thyself, O Naphtali!  
River Jordan, cease flowing,  
and receive with joy the Master coming to be baptized!  
Adam, rejoice with our first Mother,  
and do not hide yourselves as you did of old in Paradise;  
for having seen you naked,  
He has appeared to clothe you with the first garment//  
Christ has appeared to renew all creation.

**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 5      Kontakion      (Resurrection)**

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior,  
shattering its gates as Almighty,  
resurrecting the dead as Creator,  
and destroying the sting of death.  
Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man, //  
and we cry to Thee: "O Lord, save us!"

**Tone 4      Kontakion      (Forefeast)**

Today the Lord enters the Jordan and cries out to John:  
"Do not be afraid to baptize Me.//  
For I have come to save Adam, the first-formed man."

**Scripture Readings for this Sunday:**

**Epistle:**      2 Timothy 4:5-8  
**Gospel:**      Mark 1:1-8

## 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.

# Life in our Church

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

\*Fast Free Period Dec 25 – Jan 6\*

Happy New Year **2026**

**Sunday, Jan 4**                      **Divine Liturgy**                      **9:30 AM**  
(Sunday before Theophany)  
**Special Parish Meeting** immediately following Divine Liturgy  
Coffee Fellowship Hour  
**Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting**

**Monday, Jan 5**                      **Great Blessing of the Waters for Theophany**                      **6:00 PM**  
Bring your own containers to take holy water home with you!

*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**

**Thursday Jan 8**                      **Toward the Kingdom** (in the Parish Hall)                      **5:30 PM**

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**Sunday, Jan 11**                      **Divine Liturgy**                      **9:30 AM**  
(Afterfeast/Sunday After Theophany)  
**Installation of Parish Council Members**  
Coffee Fellowship Hour/ Annual Blessing of Vehicles  
**Parish Council Meeting**

**Thursday, Jan 15**                      **Bible Study in St. Augustine** (at the Ayer home)                      **6:00 PM**  
House Blessing

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**Sunday, Jan 18**                      **Divine Liturgy**                      **9:30 AM**  
Coffee Fellowship Hour  
**Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs**                      **12-1:30 PM**

**Thursday, Jan 22**                      **Bible Study in St. Augustine** (at the Ayer home)                      **6:00 PM**

**Sunday, Jan 25**                      **Divine Liturgy**                      **9:30 AM**  
Coffee Fellowship Hour  
**Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs**                      **12-1:30 PM**

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