

# 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 7**

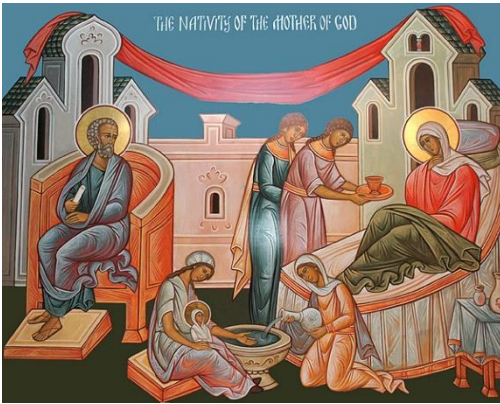
**TONE 4**

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

**Forefeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos**

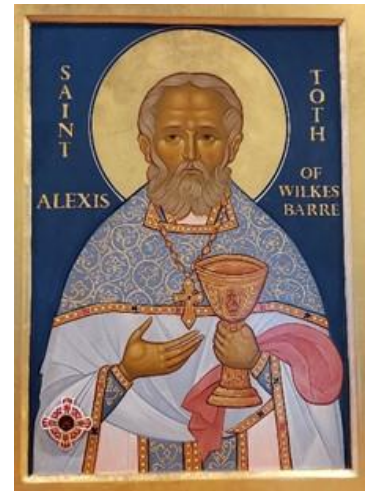
**Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Cross**

**Martyr Sozón of Cilicia**



“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:

#### **Happy New Year! Great Vespers (Nativity of the Theotokos) Following Coffee Fellowship Today:**

The annual cycle of services in the Orthodox Church begins on September 1 and ends on August 31. We begin the Church year with the Nativity of Mary (the Theotokos, or God-bearer) on September 8. This year we will celebrate with Great Vespers following an abbreviated Coffee Fellowship **today** (Sunday).

This new Church year will bring many blessings and new ministry opportunities to our Mission. Orthodoxy is not a “spectator sport.” Every person who enters our Church is a participant according to their faith, love, and gifts. Every person. Come and see. Come and BE!

#### **Next Sunday, The Exaltation of the Precious Cross**

It is with somber joy that the Cross will be carried out of the altar for veneration before the Liturgy begins Sunday, September 14. This 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).

**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.***

**Mid-Week Bible Study!**

**WHAT:** St. Alexis Midweek Bible Study & Potluck

**WHEN:** Thursdays 6:00-8:00pm

**WHO:** All are welcome! Fr David facilitates.

**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!

**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](http://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 Werner 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, Lydia, Nina
- Ilya, Mary, Christopher, Cindy, Moses, Michael, Andrew, John, 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.*

## **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.

## **Today's Scripture Readings:**

**Epistle:** Galatians 6:11-18

**Gospel:** John 3:13-17

**Today's Hymns:** *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      (Forefeast)**

Today from the stem of Jesse and from the loins of David,  
the handmaid of God Mary is being born for us.  
Therefore all creation is renewed and rejoices.  
Heaven and earth rejoice together.  
Praise her, you families of nations,  
for Joachim rejoices and Anna celebrates crying out://  
“The barren one gives birth to the Theotokos, the Nourisher of our life!”

**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 4      Kontakion      (Resurrection)**

My Savior and Redeemer  
as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains.  
He has shattered the gates of hell,  
and as Master,//  
He has risen on the third day!

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

Let us gather today and together sing to Sozón,  
the true and divinely wise martyr,  
an expert fighter for the faith,  
the mystical seer of divine grace,  
a generous provider of healing,//  
who prays to Christ God for us all.

**Tone 3      Kontakion      (Forefeast)**

Today the Virgin Theotokos Mary,  
the bridal chamber of the Heavenly Bridegroom,  
by the will of the God is born of a barren woman,  
being prepared as the chariot of God the Word.//  
She was foreordained for this, since she is the divine gate and the true Mother of Life.

# Life in our Church

<b>Sunday, Sep 7</b>	<b>Divine Liturgy</b> <i>Forefeast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos</i> <i>Coffee Fellowship Hour</i> <b>Great Vespers - Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos</b> <i>(immediately following <u>brief</u> Coffee Fellowship &amp; cleanup)</i>	<b>9:30 AM</b>
<i>Monday, September 8, Feast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos</i>		
<b>Thursday, Sep 11</b>	<b>Bible Study (at the Ayer home)</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
<b>Sunday, Sep 14</b>	<b>Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom</b> <i>Feast of the Exaltation of the Precious Cross</i> <i>Coffee Fellowship Hour</i> <b>Parish Council Meeting</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>
<b>Thursday, Sep 18</b>	<b>Bible Study (at the Ayer home)</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
<b>Sunday, Sep 21</b>	<b>Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom</b> <i>Leavetaking of the Exaltation of the Precious Cross</i> <i>Coffee Fellowship Hour</i> <b>Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>  <b>12-1:30 PM</b>
<b>Thursday, Sep 25</b>	<b>Bible Study (at the Ayer home)</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
<b>Sunday, Sep 28</b>	<b>Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom</b> <i>Coffee Fellowship Hour</i> <b>Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>  <b>12-1:30 PM</b>
<b>Thursday, Oct 2</b>	<b>Bible Study (at the Ayer home)</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
<b>Sunday, Oct 5</b>	<b>Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom</b> <i>Coffee Fellowship Hour</i> <b>Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs</b> <b>Choir Rehearsal</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>  <b>12-1:30 PM</b> <b>12-1:30 PM</b>
<b>Thursday, Oct 9</b>	<b>Bible Study (at the Ayer home)</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
<b>Saturday, Oct 11</b>	<b>Prosphora Baking (at the Ayer home)</b>	<b>10 AM-2 PM</b>
<b>Sunday, Oct 12</b>	<b>Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom</b> <b>Parish Council Meeting</b> <i>Fathers of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council</i>	<b>9:30 AM</b>

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