

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

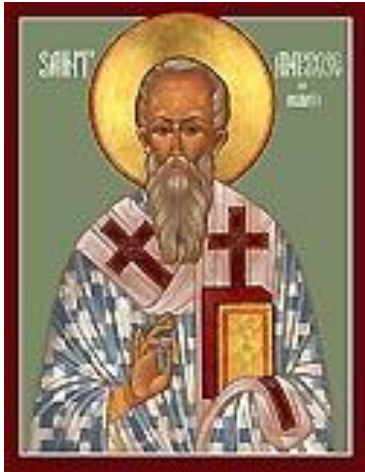
Confessions heard 9:00 AM Sundays, before and after evening services, and by appointment

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

TONE 1

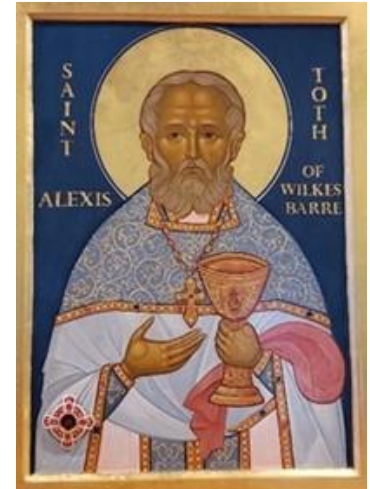
26th Sunday after Pentecost (11th of Luke)

St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan



“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:	Dec 7	Dec 14	Dec 21	Dec 28	Jan 4
	Chris M	Olga L	Octavian F	Kenadea N	Michael P

Announcements:

You are invited to look at a possible future home for St. Alexis TODAY (Sunday) between 1 & 2:45 PM

All are invited to walk through a building the PC is considering for the future home of St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre Orthodox Mission. It will be available TODAY, Sunday December 7, between 1 and 2:45 PM. There is a good chance a Special Parish Meeting will be called soon relating to this property, so this is your opportunity to see it for yourself. The doors will be open from 1:00 to 2:45 PM (doors will be locked at 2:45). Please be respectful to the owners and their property. Children will need close supervision at all times. (*see next page for the address*)

Trades of Hope (name of the current business - originally built as Christ Lutheran Church)
2323 North State St
Suites 107-112
Bunnell, FL 32110

Baskets for the Newly Illumined

On December 21, Michael Pierre and Kenadea Nelson will be received into the fullness of the Orthodox faith by chrismation. It is our local tradition to present a gift basket for each family unit being received by baptism and/or chrismation. Baskets have been brought today by sponsors Jim Humphries and Karla Anna Ayer and placed on the Litya table, clearly labeled with Michael's & Kenadea's names. **All are invited to bring gift items to fill the baskets.** Some gift ideas include icons, incense, charcoal, small home censer, books, cards, tasty treats, gift cards, letters or cards of welcome. Most of all, keep Michael (*Seraphim of Sarov*) and Kenadea (*Mary of Egypt*) and their sponsors in your prayers in these days of preparation.

Capital Campaign 2025-2026 Begins 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



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 (2nd Thursdays)
- Questions? See Fr David or Mka Rozanne!

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.

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
- Protopresbyter Alexander (Schmemmann)
- Archpriest Ernesto (Rios)
- Mka Katrina Theodora (Davis)
- AJ (Naughton)
- Erin & Columkille (Bibeau)
- 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, 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.



Prosphora Baking at St. Alexis Mission

*Next prosphora 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 1 Troparion (Resurrection)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,
while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body,
Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior,
granting life to the world.
The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life:
“Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ!
Glory to Thy Kingdom!//
Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!”

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 1 Kontakion (Resurrection)

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory,
raising the world with Thyself.
Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished.
Adam exults, O Master!
Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee://
“Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

Tone 3 Kontakion (St. Ambrose)

You shone forth with divine doctrine, eclipsing the deception of Arius,
O shepherd and initiate of the mysteries, Ambrose.
You worked miracles through the power of the Spirit,
healing various passions;//
righteous Father, entreat Christ our God to grant us His great mercy.

Tone 6 Kontakion (Steadfast Protectress of Christians)

Steadfast Protectress of Christians,
Constant Advocate before the Creator;
despise not the entreating cries of us sinners,
but in your goodness come speedily to help us who call on you in faith.
Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos, //
for you always protect those who honor you!

Scripture Readings for this Sunday:

Epistle: Ephesians 5:9-19
Gospel: Luke 17:12-19

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

* Nativity Fast begins Saturday, November 15*

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

+++++

Sunday, Dec 7	Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom <i>Special visitor after Liturgy in celebration of St. Nicholas Day</i> <i>Coffee Fellowship Hour</i> Open House at prospective building for purchase	9:30 AM 1-2:45 PM
Thursday, Dec 11	Bible Study in St. Augustine (Ayer home)	6:00 PM
Thursday, Dec 11	Toward the Kingdom Study Group (Parish Hall)	5:30 PM
Saturday, Dec 13	Choir Rehearsal (Ayer home) BYOL (Bring Your Own Lunch) <i>Rehearsal for Nativity, Theophany, & more!</i>	10 AM-2 PM
+++++		
Sunday, Dec 14	Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom <i>(Sunday of the Forefathers)</i> Reception of Catechumens <i>Coffee Fellowship Hour</i> Parish Council Meeting	9:30 AM 9:30 AM 12-2 PM
Thursday, Dec 18	Bible Study in St. Augustine (Ayer home)	6:00 PM
Saturday, Dec 20	Snuggly Saints Sewing & Stuffing (Ayer home) Please RSVP if you plan to come churchoffice@stalexisoca.org	10 AM-12:30 PM
+++++		
Sunday, Dec 21	Choir Rehearsal (before Divine Liturgy) Service of Chrismation (x2) Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom <i>(Sunday Before the Nativity of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ & Sunday of the Holy Fathers)</i> <i>Coffee Fellowship Hour</i> Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs	8-9:10 AM 9:15 AM 9:30 AM 12-1:30 PM
Wednesday, Dec 24	Great Compline <i>(Feast of the Nativity of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ)</i>	5:00 PM
Thursday, Dec 25	Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom <i>(Feast of the Nativity of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ)</i> No Coffee Fellowship Hour today	9:30 AM
+++ Christ is Born! Glorify Him! +++		

Fast Free Period Dec 25 – Jan 6