

# 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: 9:00 AM Sunday and before or after evening services

**SUNDAY, APRIL 21**

**TONE 5**

**Fifth Sunday of Great Lent**

**St. Mary of Egypt**

“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 Fr David after the service so he can meet you. You are also invited to *Coffee Fellowship* in the parish hall following the Liturgy this morning.

**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 by others in respect and love.

### St. Mary of Egypt

While it is not possible to establish with any certainty what part history and what part legend play in the traditions that relate to St. Mary of Egypt, one may as well simply admit the fact that the Church wished to make her an example of repentance, as we sing in the hymns relating to her (*The Year of Grace of the Lord*, p. 126). Her journey of repentance led her on a path of healing from severe trauma that occurred early in her life. Her “Yes!” to God also led to the continued salvation of one of the most respected priests in that part of the world, the Elder Zosimas. On this last Sunday of Lent, she expresses the urgent call we have heard throughout this season which proclaims that we too can experience healing through the love of God, and our healing will have a great impact on those around us! Note: next year we anticipate having our own building making it possible to add the Great Canon of St. Andrew with the reading of the life of St. Mary of Egypt on the evening of the 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday of Holy Lent. More resources relating to the Great Canon: <https://www.christthesavioroca.org/greatcanon>

### Announcements:

**Welcome to our new members: Peter and Chezelle (Petrana) Serev** come to us by transfer of membership (Chezelle) from Ss. Cyril & Methodius Orthodox Church, in Terryville, CT. They have a rich heritage in the Orthodox Church, having received pastoral care through priests such as Archpriest John Hopko. They moved to Palm Coast this past December. They have a daughter who resides in NY. It is a privilege to welcome them to our parish. God grant them many years!

### **Palms and Pussy Willow Preparation!**

Mark your calendars: **Friday April 26 after Presanctified Liturgy** volunteers will gather in the Parish Hall for the joy of preparing the palms and pussy willows that will be blessed and distributed to all who attend the Divine Liturgy of Palm Sunday, April 28. No prior experience required! **Lisa Madara** has graciously offered to head up this stewardship ministry – let her know that you will join this joyful task! It will be made much easier and quicker the more volunteers who show up!

**We are having more services this year and want YOU to participate in Holy Week and Pascha!** See Jim Humphries (904 540 2476, [jim@humphriesengineering.com](mailto:jim@humphriesengineering.com)) with questions or for assistance on any of the following ministry opportunities:

- Need a Ride? Offering a Ride? Please let us know if you or someone you know needs transportation to any of the services, or if you are available to offer a ride to someone in need!
- Reading of the Acts of the Apostles: The book of Acts will be read May 4, starting at 10:00 PM, before the Midnight Office (Nocturne) of Great and Holy Pascha. There is a sign-up sheet posted on our bulletin board next to the door to the church hall. We will have slots available for all who wish to read. All languages are welcome!
- Eggs for Paschal Celebration: We can provide the eggs, dye, and/or onion skins, so all you need to do is boil and color them and bring them to church Great and Holy Friday afternoon, Holy Saturday morning, OR before 11:00 PM Holy Saturday night. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

### **Receiving the Catechumens and Pascha Baskets for the “Newly Illumined”**

- Please plan to be present on **Great and Holy Saturday morning, May 4<sup>th</sup>**, as we receive Jeremy and Sonya Drouare and Charlie Fausey into the Holy Orthodox Church. We begin at **9:00am** with the Preparation of the Gifts on the body of Christ entombed. This is an opportunity to witness this service normally done behind the iconostasis before each Liturgy.
- It is our tradition to prepare the first Pascha basket for each household being received. You are invited to put something in their baskets as a gift. Baskets labeled with their names will be under the icon of St. Alexis where you can add your gift beginning this Sunday through Great and Holy Saturday morning.

**Resources for your “Little Church”:** New books are being added to our “Church Bookstore” on the back table in the Nave. There is an envelope inside each book showing the discounted cost. Please place the envelope with payment in the offering box. **Interested in helping with the stewardship of this ministry?** We need a person or two who would like to work with Fr David in providing good books and resources for our members and guests. We hope this ministry will grow when we have our own building. See Fr David to talk about how you can help.

**Making confession at least once during Great Lent is practiced by all Orthodox faithful.** Great Lent ends on the eve of Lazarus Saturday, which is Friday, April 26 this year. **Please make your confession before Holy Week!** Fr David will usually be available before each Sunday morning Liturgy from 9:00 until 9:25, before or after any evening service during Lent, and by appointment every week until Palm Sunday.

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

#### The Departed

- The Newly Departed Archpriest Anthony Karbo (March 19, 2024)
- Fr Svyatoslav Vasilyev (March 23, 2001)
- The Unborn (number of abortions in first six months of 2023 in USA: 511,000)

### Servants of God

- Seminarian Daniel Werner & his wife Aly & children at St Vladimir Orthodox Theological Seminary
- Fr Aleksandr Yu Shi, Church of the Protection of the Mother of God (Harbin, China)
- Fr Patrick, Mka Lauren, James, Walter, Henry, Kathryn, Ethan, Marissa, Andrew
- Ilya, Yelena, Christopher, Cindy, Penny, Elizabeth, Deashon, E'Lyla, Za'khi, Alexander, Mary
- Joseph, Jaiden, Mike, Emily, Helen, Oleg
- St Gerard Campus staff and the mothers and babies they serve
- All who are homeless or unemployed or under-employed in our community
- Catechumens Jeremy, Sonya, Charlie, and their sponsors (Ed, Helen, and Jim)

### **Prayer for our own building/land according to God's will and time:**

*As You led Israel to the promised land, so lead us in unity of heart and mind to find a permanent building for worship and, in time, property where we might build what is necessary to continue becoming Your disciples as we 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 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 8      Troparion      (St. Mary of Egypt)**

The image of God was truly preserved in you, O Mother,  
for you took up the Cross and followed Christ.  
By so doing, you taught us to disregard the flesh for it passes away;  
but to care instead for the soul, for it is immortal.//  
Therefore your spirit, O holy Mother Mary, rejoices with the angels.

#### **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 3      Kontakion      (St. Mary of Egypt)**

Having been a sinful woman,  
you became through repentance a bride of Christ.  
Having attained angelic life,  
you defeated demons with the weapon of the Cross.//  
Therefore, O most glorious Mary, you are a bride of the Kingdom.

#### **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!

**Today's Readings:**

**Epistle:** Hebrews 9:11-14  
**Gospel:** Mark 10:32-45

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## *Life in our Church*

### *Final Week of Lent and Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday*

|                    |                                                                                                                                                        |                      |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Saturday, April 20 | Catechism ( <i>Rucker House</i> )                                                                                                                      | 10:30 AM             |
| Sunday, April 21   | Divine Liturgy of St. Basil<br>( <i>Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt</i> )<br>Choir Practice 12-1pm                                                         | 9:30 AM              |
| Friday, April 26   | Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts<br>Preparation of Palms & Pussy Willows<br>( <i>after Presanctified</i> )<br><br>( <i>Lazarus Saturday - April 27</i> ) | 6:00 PM              |
| Saturday, April 27 | Catechism ( <i>Rucker House</i> )<br>Choir Practice ( <i>Karla Anna House</i> )<br>Rehearsal until 12:30 then soup/salad potluck                       | 10:30 AM<br>10:30 AM |
| Sunday, April 28   | Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom<br>( <i>Palm Sunday</i> )<br>Choir Practice 12-1pm                                                               | 9:30 AM              |

# Life in our Church (continued)

## Holy Week & Pascha

**PLEASE NOTE \*\*EARLIER START TIME ON GREAT & HOLY SATURDAY! MORNING!!**

### Holy Week and Pascha

|                                      |                                                                                                                        |                             |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Tuesday, April 30<br>(Holy Tuesday)  | Bridegroom Matins                                                                                                      | 6:00 PM                     |
| Wednesday, May 1<br>(Holy Wednesday) | Holy Unction                                                                                                           | 6:00 PM                     |
| Thursday, May 2<br>(Holy Thursday)   | Passion Gospels Matins                                                                                                 | 6:00 PM                     |
| Friday, May 3<br>(Holy Friday)       | Burial Vespers<br>Matins with Lamentations                                                                             | 4:00 PM<br>6:00 PM          |
| Saturday, May 4<br>(Holy Saturday)   | Service of Preparation of the Gifts<br><u>Reception of Catechumens by Chrismation</u><br>Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil | <b>**9:00 AM</b>            |
|                                      | Reading of Acts begins<br>Nocturnes (Midnight Office)                                                                  | 10:00 PM<br>11:30 <u>PM</u> |
|                                      | GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA                                                                                                  | Midnight                    |

[NOTE: There will be NO 9:30 AM service on Sunday, May 5]

**Christ is Risen!**

**Χριστος Воскресе!**

**Χριστός Ανέστη!**

**المسيح قام!**

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)  
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