

I believe in one baptism

“I believe in one baptism” is said by every Christian every day when he recites the Symbol of Faith (the Creed). Since there is only one church, there is only one baptism. Nothing outside the church, even if it resembles Christian baptism, is true baptism. This is why those desiring to become Orthodox Christians who come from another belief, even one that has a baptismal rite, should be baptized. Certain innovators have begun to accept people into Orthodoxy by chrismation only, and espouse an ecumenical rhetoric which accepts their baptismal rite outside the church as fully Christian in every way. They have made up a service for this, as there is no separate service for chrismation - it is part of the baptismal rite. Any chrismation service written in our modern days and intended for those who desire to enter Holy Orthodoxy is an innovation, and was unknown by the Holy Fathers of the Church.

Announcements

Shoreline---The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries new Westbrook meal site is open for dinner 6-7pm every Friday. The site is located at the Westbrook Congregational Church, 1166 Boston Post Road. All are welcome to attend.

Don't be shy, bring the whole family and enjoy a meal with wonderful dinner companions and nutritious food. You don't need to call ahead or "make a reservation". We look forward to welcoming you!

Did you know that last year over 900,000 meals worth of food were distributed to individuals and families during The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries grocery distribution program? And, that over 17,000 nutritious and delicious meals were provided at our 9 meal sites, serving 7 days a week?

There are those among us who are hungry and alone. You can change that; you can make a difference in the lives of those who are hungry in body and spirit. Please contact us to learn about the many opportunities to volunteer.

The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries offers food and fellowship to the communities of Chester, Clinton, Deep River, East Lyme, Essex, Killingworth, Lyme, Madison, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook and Westbrook.

Our family oriented meal sites serving nutritious and delicious food are located in Centerbrook, Chester, Clinton, Deep River, Essex, Old Lyme, Westbrook and Old Saybrook. And, our food pantries are located in Clinton, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, East Lyme and Westbrook. Also, provided to those who have limited cooking facilities are heat-n- meals that can be picked up at any of our pantries.

Thank you for your support of The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries. If you have any questions or for a more information, please call 860.388.1988 or email at pdowling@shorelinesoupkitchens.org.

St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre Orthodox Christian Church

108 East Main Street

PO Box 134

Clinton, CT 06413

Scripture Readings

Acts 20:16-18, 28-36

John 17:1-13

Commemorations

Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council. Afterfeast of Ascension. St. Nicetas, Bishop of Chalcedon (9th c.). St. Ignatii (Ignatius), Bishop and Wonderworker of Rostov (1288). St. Euty chius, Bishop of Melitene (1st c.). Martyr Heliconis of Thessalonica (244). Hieromartyr Helladius, Bishop in the East (6th-7th c.). St. Germanus (Germaine, Herman), Bishop of Paris (576).

Information

Rev. Steven Hosking, attached
frsteve@stalexischurch.org
860.664.9434 (church)
860.866.5802 (message)
www.stalexischurch.org



Welcome to our Guests

We welcome all visitors to our Divine Liturgy and services. While Holy Communion may only be received by prepared Orthodox Christians, our non-Orthodox guests are welcome to participate in our prayers and hymns and to join us in venerating the Cross and receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Liturgy. Please sign our guest card and join us for refreshments and fellowship after the services.

Feel free to ask questions before or after the services. Any member of our Council or Congregation are glad to assist you. Literature about the Orthodox faith and this parish can be found in the narthex (back of the Church).

Our Parish Council Representatives are:

President - Susan Hayes
Vice President - Deborah Bray
Secretary - SubDeacon Joseph Brubaker
Treasurer - Susan Egan
Member at Large - James Pepitone
Member at Large - Demetra Tolis



This week's services and events

Tuesday, May 30, 2017
8:30a - Daily Matins

Wednesday, May 31, 2017
4:30p - Open Doors
6:30p - Daily Vespers

Thursday, June 1, 2017 - International Children's Day
8:30a - Daily Matins

Saturday, June 3, 2017 - Soul Saturday
4:30 - Akathist for the Departed
5:30p - Vigil for Holy Pentecost

Sunday, June 4, 2017
9:30a - Divine Liturgy
12:00(-ish) - Vespers of Pentecost with
Kneeling Prayers

Announcements

I would like to start an adult study for the summer, to begin approximately June 8th. If you have any particular topics you are interested in studying, please let me know. - Fr S

Please continue to pray for...

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Deborah, Robert, Olga, Daria, Daria, Dori, John, Evelyn, June, Nina, Joan, John, Alex, Alan, Luke, Kathryn, Veronica, Darlyne, Irene, Nancy, Dionysian, Elena, Jevon, Ivan and Joscean. And for...John, Jennifer, Nicholas, Isabel, Elizabeth, John, Jordan, Michael, Lee, Eva, Neil, Gina, Joey, Michael, Madelyn, Sofie, Katrina, Olena, and Valeriy.

This week we celebrate:

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Stephen Wexell and Kyle Hollis on their reception into the Holy Orthodox Church; and to Christine and Gregory Jankura on the occasion of their anniversary.

Thoughts on Baptism

An Entry into the Church

Baptism is the entry into the Holy Church. It was commanded by our Savior, and has always been understood to be the entry of a believer into the Christian Life in the Holy Church: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (St. Matthew 28:19-20).

Baptism is not only the entry for the believer into the church; it also washes him clean of all sins prior to his holy baptism, no matter how grievous and frequent they were. Here he must remember the admonition the Lord gave to the paralytic, whom He healed of not only his physical infirmity, but of his sins also: "Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee" (St. John 5:14). We believe this because baptism is a complete rebirth, where the old man, with his sinful inclinations, dies, and is reborn in the Spirit. Our Lord said: "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." (John 3:5). Therefore, baptism is necessary for our salvation.

The Gift of the Holy Spirit

Chrismation is the imparting of the gift of the Holy Spirit unto the newly-baptized believer. Christians are "temples of the Holy Spirit", and this sacrament bestows the Holy Spirit upon them. The Christian must always remember St. Paul's admonition: "know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" (1 Cor 6:19).

After a person is baptized and chrismated, all his sins are remitted, and he is illumined with the grace and power of the Holy Spirit to enable him to embark upon the life in Christ within the ark of the Holy Church. This is also the case for infants, who are also empowered to live a Christian life. The grace of baptism, especially if it is nurtured by strong faith and piety in the household, will operate invisibly in such little ones, and strengthen them so that when they acquire reasoning powers, they will choose the Christian way of life.

Baptisms are public events.

Baptisms should be public, before the entire local parish, so that all the Christians can pray for the ones to be illumined, and may listen again to the vows that are made, remembering their own vows. It is good for every Christian to examine himself during this time, to see whether he be "in Christ" or not, that is, whether he has kept the vows of his baptism.