



Hurricane Florence is gone, but the work of response and recovery is just beginning.

IOCC is on the ground in North Carolina:

- IOCC **Frontliners have deployed** to a Red Cross shelter in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where they're **providing emotional and spiritual care** to residents and emergency workers.
- An IOCC **emergency response vehicle** has arrived in Wilmington, where the parish of St. Basil the Great Orthodox Church will serve as a base for emergency action teams in the coming days.
- Trained team leaders will conduct **rapid needs assessments** and guide **volunteers** as they do muck outs, clearing water-damaged homes of sludge and removing debris for Wilmington residents.

[A gift to IOCC's Hurricane Response Fund](#) helps address immediate needs following a hurricane and supports long-term recovery efforts.

DONATE TODAY



St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre Church

Address: PO Box 134, 108 E Main St, Clinton, CT 06413-0134

Phone: 860-664-9434

Web: <http://www.stalexischurch.org>

Email: stalexis@ dneoca.org

Fr Steven Hosking

Rector

Phone: 860-866-5802

Email: frsteve@stalexischurch.org

Services Schedule

Please see our [online calendar](#) for dates and times of Feast Day services.

Bulletin for Sunday, September 23, 2018

Welcome



Jesus Christ taught us to love and serve all people, regardless of their ethnicity or nationality. To understand that, we need to look no further than to the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). Every time we celebrate the Divine Liturgy, it is offered "*on behalf of all, and for all.*" As Orthodox Christians

we stand against racism and bigotry. All human beings share one common identity as children of God.

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatian 3:28)

Weekly Services

Tuesdays at 8:30a - Daily Matins
Wednesdays at 6:00p - Daily Vespers (The Church is open at 4:30p for "Open Doors" - confession, meditation and reflection).
Thursday at 8:30a - Daily Matins
Saturday at 5:30p - Great Vespers
Sunday at 9:30a - Divine Liturgy

Saint Thecla was a contemporary of Saint Paul who became an evangelizer, as Paul was, after hearing his teachings.

Thecla was born to a rich family in Iconium, a town in Asia Minor. She was expected to marry, and marry well. In fact, her mother had a young man picked out for her. He had an excellent position, and could offer Thecla a secure life. This was important in Thecla's day. An unmarried woman could find herself with no support and no money. Marriage assured a stable place in society, with children to carry on the family name.

But something happened to Thecla that made her turn away forever from her mother's dream. The apostle Paul, who had been in Antioch, traveled to Iconium and began teaching at a house near Thecla's. She sat in her open window for three days and nights, listening as Paul spoke about the blessings of giving everything to God. Thecla decided not to marry, and to devote her life to Jesus Christ.

Her fiancé Thamyris was furious, and complained to the local governor that Paul was a bad influence. Because Thamyris was so prominent, Paul was arrested and imprisoned.

Late at night, Thecla secretly went to the prison, bribed the guards, and stayed to hear Paul's teachings. When her family found her, they turned her and Paul over to the authorities. Paul was driven from the city, and Thecla was sentenced to death. Her mother was so angry at her daughter's disobedient "madness" that she wouldn't intervene.

Thecla was tortured, but God delivered her from death. She found her way to Antioch, and soon met Paul there. She helped him preach, and together they did good work for the Lord.

Once again, though, a powerful man—the city governor—tried to turn Thecla toward marriage, and when she hurt his pride by refusing, he denounced her to the authorities. She was arrested and sentenced to die in the arena. But the wild beasts wouldn't harm her, and when their attempt to drown her also failed, the officials were so frightened that they let her go. She retreated to a rocky desert cave in the mountains near the town of Maloula, Syria. Though her prayer converted many and gathered other women monastics around her. She counseled people and healed the sick, never asking for money..

Even here, though, she was pursued. Jealous pagan doctors sent young men to harm the saint, now an old woman. But God, hearing her prayers, opened up a fissure in the rock of the cave. Thecla rushed into the space, which immediately closed up again.

Today you can visit Thecla's cave, and see in it the still-running spring that provided water for her. The nuns who live in the "Mar Thecla" monastery there will tell you her story, and show you the fissure in the rock where this saint, "Equal to the Apostles", left the world and joined her Lord in the Kingdom.

Troparion - Tone 4

You were enlightened by the words of Paul, O Bride of God, Thekla, And your faith was confirmed by Peter, O Chosen One of God. You became the first sufferer and martyr among women, By entering into the flames as into a place of gladness. For when you accepted the Cross of Christ, The demonic powers were frightened away, O all-praised One, intercede before Christ God that our souls may be saved.



Saint Thecla

Members of our Parish Council are:

Susan Hayes - Council President
Susan Egan - Council Treasurer
Greg Jankura - Member at Large
Glenn PenkoffLedbeck - Council Secretary
James Peptone - Council Vice President
Vincent Melesko - Member at Large

Pastoral Care - General Information

- *Emergency Sick Calls* can be made at any time. Please call Fr Steven at (860) 866-5802, when a family member is admitted to the hospital.
- *Anointing in Sickness*: The Sacrament of Unction is available in Church, the hospital, or your home, for anyone who is sick and suffering, however severe. *Marriages and Baptisms* require early planning, scheduling and selections of sponsors (crown bearers or godparents). See Father before booking dates and reception halls!
- *Funerals* are celebrated for practicing Orthodox Christians. Please see Father for details. The Church opposes cremation; we cannot celebrate funerals for cremations.

Announcements

After services next Sunday (Sept 30th), we will need several volunteers to help move furniture and rugs from the Nave (Sanctuary). The hardwood floor needs to be completely uncovered so that

If you have not yet heard, the Orthodox parish in Wilmington, NC, was hard hit by hurricane Florence. There was an article related to this church community on the OCA web site. Please see the article and links below if you would like to provide assistance to this community.

<https://oca.org/news/headline-news/north-carolina-community-hit-hard-by-hurricane-florence>

From the website: "We have [established a GoFundMe page](#) with funds earmarked to go directly to parishioners in need of assistance," Father Peter added. "Our parish is not in a meaningful way right now, and most of our parishioners have evacuated at considerable expense, lost wages and uncertainty about what lies ahead. We will assist not only our own parishioners, but neighbors and the least of these' who come to us for help." Donations also may be sent directly to Saint Basil Church Hurricane Relief Fund, 4601 Blue Clay Road, Castle Hayne, NC 28429."

the refinishing can begin on Monday.

The Conception of the Venerable Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John: The holy Prophet Malachi prophesied that before the Messiah's birth His Forerunner would appear, and would indicate His coming. The Jews therefore in awaiting the Messiah also awaited the appearance of His Forerunner.

In a city of the hills of Judea in the land of Palestine lived the righteous priest Saint Zachariah and his wife Saint Elizabeth, zealously observing the commandments of the Lord. The couple, however, had a misfortune: they remained childless in their old age, and they prayed unceasingly to God to grant them a child.

Once, when Saint Zachariah took his turn as priest at the Temple of Jerusalem, he went into the Sanctuary to offer incense. Going behind the veil of the Sanctuary, he beheld an angel of God standing at the right side of the altar of incense.

Saint Zachariah was astonished and halted in fear, but the angel said to him, "Fear not, Zachariah, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John." But Zachariah did not believe the words of the heavenly messenger, and then the angel said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stand in the presence of God; and I was sent to speak to you, and to bring you the good news. Behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things come to pass, because you did not believe my words...."

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zachariah and they were astonished that he had not come out from the Sanctuary after

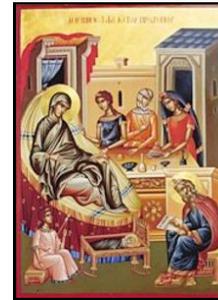
so long a time. And when he did come out, he was supposed to pronounce a blessing upon the people, but could not do so because he had been struck speechless. When Zachariah explained by gestures that he was unable to speak, the people then understood that he had experienced a vision. The prophecy of the Archangel was fulfilled, and Righteous Elizabeth was delivered from her barrenness, and gave birth to John, the Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord.

Saints and Feasts



September 23

1st Sunday of Luke



September 23

The Conception of St. John the Baptist

This came to pass fifteen months before the birth of Christ, after the vision of the Angel that Zacharias, the father of the

Forerunner, saw in the Temple while he executed the priest's office in the order of his course during the feast of the Tabernacles, as tradition bears witness. In this vision, the Archangel Gabriel appeared to Zacharias and said to him, "Thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elizabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John" (Luke 1:13). Knowing that Elizabeth was barren, and that both he and she were elderly, Zacharias did not believe what the Angel told him, although he had before him the example of Abraham and Sarah, of Hannah, mother of the Prophet Samuel, and of other barren

women in Israel who gave birth by the power of God. Hence, he was condemned by the Archangel to remain speechless until the fulfilment of these words in their season, which also came to pass (Luke 1:7-24).

Parish Calendar

Service and Events

September 23 to October 1, 2018

Sunday, September 23

Buildings and Grounds Ministry Meeting
1st Sunday of Luke
9:30AM Divine Liturgy

Monday, September 24

The Commemoration of the Miracle of the Theotokos Myrtidiotissis in Kythyra
New Martyrs of Alaska, Hieromonk Juvenaly & Peter the Aleut

Tuesday, September 25

Euphrosyne of Alexandria
8:30AM Daily Matins
9:00AM Study Session

Wednesday, September 26

The Falling Asleep of St. John the Evangelist and Theologian
Akathist to St John the Theologian
4:30PM Open Doors
6:00PM Daily Vespers

Thursday, September 27

Callistratus the Martyr & his 49 Companions
Phyllis Sturtevant - B

8:30AM Daily Matins
7:00PM Study Session

Friday, September 28

Chariton the Confessor

Bill Kokis - B

Saturday, September 29

Cyriacus the Hermit of Palestine

Annette Andrews - B

Veneri - A

5:30PM Great Vespers

Sunday, September 30

2nd Sunday of Luke

Davis - A

Matushka Cindy - B

9:30AM Divine Liturgy

Monday, October 1

Refinishing the Nave Floor

Akathist to Protection of the All-Holy

Theotokos

Ananias, Apostle of the 70

Prayers, Intercessions and Commemorations



William, Sophia, Robert,
Ann, Evelyn, Nina, John,
Alex, Luke, Kathryn,
Anastasia, Malcolm,
Veronica, Daryne, Irene,
Nancy, Elena, Jevon,
their unbornchild, Ivan
and Josecan.
And for... Sofie, Katrina,
Olena, Valery, Olga, Tatiana, Dimitri,
Alexander and Maxim.

All of our College Students: Katy, Kaitlyn, Jack,
Connor, Nadia and Matthew.

Many Years! to:

Phyllis Sturtevant on the occasion of her

birthday

Pray for: All those confined to hospitals,

nursing homes, and their own homes due to
illness; for all those who serve in the armed
forces; widows, orphans, prisoners, victims of
violence, and refugees;

All those suffering chronic illness, financial
hardship, loneliness, addictions, abuse,
abandonment and despair; those who are
homeless, those who are institutionalize, those
who have no one to pray for them;

All Orthodox seminarians & families; all
Orthodox monks and nuns, and all those
considering monastic life; all Orthodox
missionaries and their families.

All those who have perished due to hatred and
intolerance and all those departed this life in
the hope of the Resurrection.

Today we commemorate:

**The Conception of the Honorable Glorious
Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John, Ss.**
Xanthippa and Polyxena, disciples of the
Apostles, who died in Spain (109). Virgin
Martyr Irais (Rhais, Raissa) of Alexandria (ca.
308). Martyrs Andrew, John, and John's
children: Peter and Antonius,

As he listened to their apostolic fervor, Saint
Herman says he "went from joy to rapture"
(Letter to Abbot Nazarius, May 19, 1795).

In 1795, Father Juvenal baptized over 700

Chuqatchi at Nushek, then he crossed Kenai
Bay and baptized the local people there. In
1796, according to native oral tradition, Saint
Juvenal came to the mouth of the Kuskokwim
near the present village of Quinahgak, where
he was killed by a hunting party (There is a
forged diary attributed to Ivan Petroff which
gives a slanderous version of Father Juvenal's
death, and alleges that he was martyred at
Lake Iliamna).

The precise reason for Saint Juvenal's murder
by the natives is not known. However, they
later told Saint Innocent something about his
death. They said that Saint Juvenal did not try
to defend himself when attacked, nor did he
make any attempt to escape. After being
struck from behind, he turned to face his
attackers and begged them to spare the
natives he had baptized.

The natives told Saint Innocent that after they
had killed Saint Juvenal, he got up and
followed them, urging them to repent. The fell
upon him again and gave him a savage
beating. Once more, he got to his feet and
called them to repentance. This happened
several times, then finally the natives hacked
him to pieces. Thus, the zealous Hieromonk
Juvenal became the first Orthodox Christian in
America to receive the crown of martyrdom.
His unnamed guide, possibly a Tanaina Indian
convert, was also martyred at the same time.



Reflection

Saint Juvenal, in his tireless evangelization of
the native peoples of Alaska, served the
Church more than all the other missionaries
combined.

It is said that a local shaman removed Saint
Juvenal's brass pectoral cross from his body
and attempted to cast a spell. Unexpectedly,
the shaman was lifted up off the ground. He
made three more tries with the same result,
then concluded that there was a greater power
than his own at work here. Years later, a man
showed up at the Nushagak Trading Post

wearing a brass pectoral cross exactly like the
one worn by Saint Juvenal.
A column of light arose from his holy relics
and reached up to Heaven. It is not known
how long this phenomenon continued.

Conception of the
Honorable Glorious
Prophet,
Forerunner and
Baptist John



confession of the Faith, Saint Peter is the equal of the martyrs of old, and also of the New Martyrs who have shone forth in more recent times. Now he rejoices with them in the heavenly Kingdom, glorifying God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, throughout all ages.

Martyr Juvenal of Alaska



Saint Juvenal, the Protomartyr of America, was born in 1761 in Nerchinsk, Siberia. His secular name was John Feodorovich Hovorukhin, and he was trained as a mining engineer. In a letter to Abbot Nazarius of Valaam (December 13, 1819), Saint Herman says that Saint Juvenal “had been an assistant at our monastery and was a former officer.”

After his wife died in 1791, John entered a monastery at Saint Petersburg (Saint Herman’s Letter of December 13, 1819) and was tonsured with the name Juvenal. Three years later, he went to Alaska as a missionary.

During 1794, the hieromonks Juvenal and Macarius spent two months in the area

around Kodiak teaching the inhabitants about Christ and baptizing them. They traveled in small boats of hide in all sorts of weather, dividing up the territory among themselves. Saint Herman tells of a conversation he heard one day as he walked with the hieromonks to a small hill on the south side of the harbor. They sat down facing the sea, and spoke of various things. Soon they began to discuss where each of them should go to preach. Aflame with zeal and eager to set out on their journey, a friendly argument ensued between Father Macarius and Father Juvenal. Father Macarius said he intended to go north to the Aleutian Islands, and then make his way to the Alaskan mainland, where the inhabitants had invited him to visit. The monks had a map of Captain Cook’s which indicated that some Russians were living near a certain river in that particular area, and Father Macarius hoped to find them.

Father Juvenal interrupted, saying that he believed that the Alaskan mainland was his territory. “I beg you to yield to me and not offend me in this,” he told Father Macarius, “since the ship is leaving for Yakutan. I shall begin preaching in the south, proceeding north along the ocean, cross the Kenai peninsula, then from the port there I shall cross to Alaska.”

Father Macarius became sorrowful and said, “No, Father. Do not restrict me in this way. You know the Aleutian chain of islands is joined to Alaska, therefore it belongs to me, and also the whole northern shore. As for you, the southern part of America is sufficient for your whole lifetime, if you please.”

of Syracuse, martyred in Africa (9th c.).

Hymns of the Day

Tone 8 Troparion (*Resurrection*)

You descended from on high, O Merciful One!
You accepted the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!

Tone 4 Troparion (*Conception of John the Baptist*)

Rejoice, O barren one, who formerly did not bear a child,
for you have conceived the Lamp of the Sun,
Who is to illumine
the whole universe darkened by blindness!
Rejoice, O Zachariah,
and cry out with boldness:
“The Prophet of the Most High desires to be born!

Tone 8 Kontakion (*Resurrection*)

By rising from the tomb, You raised the dead and resurrected Adam.
Eve exults in Your Resurrection,
and the world celebrates Your rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

Tone 1 Kontakion

Great Zachariah rejoices with his wife, the far-famed Elizabeth,
for she has fittingly conceived John the ^Forerunner,
whom an Angel announced in gladness;
and whom we rightly honor//
as an initiate of the grace of God.

Gospel and Epistle Readings

Epistle Reading

Prokeimenon. 8th Tone. Psalm 75.11,1.

Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them.
Verse: God is known in Judah; his name is great in Israel.

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 6:16-18; 7:1.

Brethren, you are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement

of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

Gospel Reading

1st Sunday of Luke The Reading is from Luke 5:1-11

At that time, as Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all who were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

Wisdom of the Fathers

For many have taken part with the holy apostles in their labors, and still do so, especially those who inquire into the meaning of what is written in the holy Gospels ... For the net is still being drawn, while Christ fills it, and calls to conversion those who, according to the Scripture phrase, are in the depths of the sea, that is to say, those who live in the surge and waves of worldly things.

St. Cyril of Alexandria

Homily XII, Taken from: Cyril of Alexandria.

Commentary on the Gospel of St. Luke, Trans. R. Payne Smith, Long Island, N.Y.: Studion Publishers, Inc., 1983, 105, 5th Century

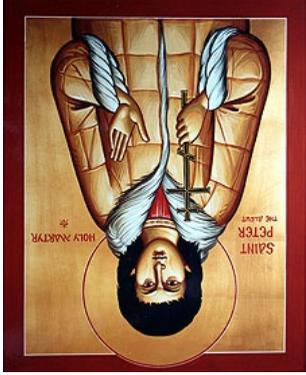
For now they were well instructed beforehand...But mark both their faith and their obedience. For though they were in the midst of their work when they heard His command, they delayed not, they procrastinated not, they said not, "let us return home, and converse with our kinsfolk," but "they forsook all and followed."

St. John Chrysostom

Homily 14 on Matthew 4, 4th Century

Lives of the Saints

Martyr Peter the Aleut



Saint Peter the Aleut is mentioned in the Life of Saint Herman of Alaska (December 13). Simeon Yanovsky (who ended his life as the schemamonk Sergius in the Saint Tikhon of Kaluga Monastery), has left the following account:

"On another occasion I was relating to him how the Spanish in California had imprisoned fourteen Aleuts, and how the Jesuits (actually Franciscans) were forcing all of them to accept the Catholic Faith. But the Aleuts would not agree under any circumstances, saying, 'We are Christians.' The Jesuits argued, 'That's not true, you are heretics and schismatics. If you do not agree to accept our faith then we will torture all of you to death.' Then the Aleuts were placed in prisons two to a cell. That evening, the Jesuits came to the prison with lanterns and lighted candles. Again they tried to persuade two Aleuts in the cell to accept the Catholic Faith. We are

"But that night an order was received from Monterey stating that the imprisoned Aleuts were to be released immediately, and sent there under escort. Therefore, in the morning all were sent to Monterey with the exception of the dead Aleut. This was related to me by a witness, the same Aleut who had escaped torture, and who was the friend of the martyred Aleut. I reported this incident to the authorities in Saint Petersburg. When I finished my story, Father Herman asked, 'What was the name of the martyred Aleut?' I answered, 'Peter. I do not remember his family name.' The Elder stood reverently before an icon, made the Sign of the Cross and said, 'Holy New Martyr Peter, pray to God for us!'"

We know very little about Saint Peter, except that he was from Kodiak, and was arrested and put to death by the Spaniards in California because he refused to convert to Catholicism. The circumstances of his martyrdom recall the torture of Saint James Both in his sufferings and in his steadfast