



The Sisterhood of St Elisabeth (Minsk, Belarus)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ!

We are happy to welcome you to our booth **Market**  
**Holiday**

at Columbus Circle  
November 28 -  
December 24, 2018

Intersection of Columbus Circle,  
Central Park  
West and Central Park South,  
Manhattan, NYC

We will offer you handmade crafts, icons,  
Christmas gifts and ornaments,  
CDs and religious articles



# St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre Church

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

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**Fr Steven Hosking**

Rector

**Phone:** 860-866-5802

**Email:** [frsteve@stalexischurch.org](mailto:frsteve@stalexischurch.org)

Services Schedule

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

Bulletin for Sunday, November 25, 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



**Members of our Parish Council are:**

Susan Hayes - Council President  
Susan Egan - Council Treasurer  
Greg Jankura - Member at Large  
Glenn PenkoffLedbeck - Council Secretary  
James Pepitone - 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**

Effective immediately, James Pepitone has, for health reasons, resigned from the Parish Council of Stewards. We will need to have nominations and a special election to fill this open position. I would like to have the election by Sunday, Dec 9th. Please see Fr

Steven if you are willing to be nominated for this council position. Thank you.

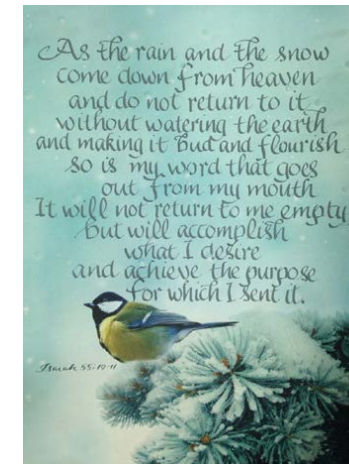
**Fri, 28 Dec: "Rally after Rally" Youth Retreat @ All Saints - Hartford**

On Friday December 28th at All Saints in Hartford, all our Orthodox Youth are invited to a "Rally after Rally" event from 6:30pm-9:30pm. In addition to having time for fun, food, and fellowship, our Youth will be continuing a discussion on the theme from Youth Rally (John 10:10b --"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.") Having looked at doing this "daily" in October, we'll now be looking at how to live an abundant life "weekly." Using the service of the Great Blessing of Water (which we'll celebrate the next weekend, in conjunction with the Feast of Theophany), as a starting point for brainstorming how we can change the way we look at the blessings God gives us, , we'll be asking ourselves: "How does the blessing & setting aside of items, people, things, change our use of them... and our thinking about them?"

**Schedule:**

**Friday, 28 December 2018**  
**@ All Saints Orthodox Church--Hartford, CT**  
6:30pm Small Blessing of Water  
7:15pm "Fast-Free" Dinner & Fellowship  
7:45pm Discussion – "Living

**Orthodox New England Youth Event**  
**"Rally after Rally" Youth Retreat**



**"Great are You, O Lord and marvelous are Your works!"**  
***Living an Abundant Life Weekly***

*Speaker: Fr. James Parnell*  
*Pastor, All Saints Church – Hartford, CT*

**All Saints Orthodox Church**  
**205 Scarborough Street, Hartford, CT 06105**

**Friday, 28 December 2018**

6:30pm Small Blessing of Water  
7:15pm "Fast-Free" Dinner & Fellowship  
7:45pm Discussion – "Living an Abundant Life -- Weekly"  
8:30pm Group Activity / Fellowship  
9:15pm Night Prayers (Small Compline)  
9:30pm Dismissal

\*\*\*FREE ADMISSION\*\*\*

conclusion of the Liturgy, Father Alexander took from his pocket a short written sermon, in the form of a prayer, which he proceeded to read. This was uncharacteristic of Father Alexander, since he never wrote his liturgical homilies, but delivered them extemporaneously. These were his words, which proved to be the last ever spoken by him from the ambo in church, yet which resound as clearly today, 35 years later, as they did the day they were spoken.

### Thank You, O Lord!

Everyone capable of thanksgiving is capable of salvation and eternal joy.

Thank You, O Lord, for having accepted this Eucharist, which we offered to the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and which filled our hearts with the joy, peace and righteousness of the Holy Spirit.

Thank You, O Lord, for having revealed Yourself unto us and given us the foretaste of Your Kingdom.

Thank You, O Lord, for having united us to one another in serving You and Your Holy Church.

Thank You, O Lord, for having helped us to overcome all difficulties, tensions, passions, temptations and restored peace, mutual love and joy in sharing the communion of the Holy Spirit.

Thank You, O Lord, for the sufferings You bestowed upon us, for they are purifying us from selfishness and reminding us of the “one thing needed;” Your eternal Kingdom.

Thank You, O Lord, for having given us this country where we are free to worship You.

Thank You, O Lord, for this school, where the name of God is proclaimed.

Thank You, O Lord, for our families: husbands, wives and, especially, children who teach us how to celebrate Your holy Name in joy, movement and holy noise.

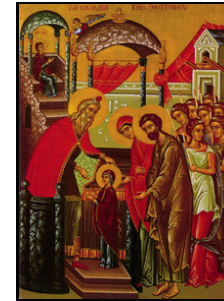
Thank You, O Lord, for everyone and everything.

Great are You, O Lord, and marvelous are Your deeds, and no word is sufficient to celebrate Your miracles.

Lord, it is good to be here! Amen!

an Abundant Life -- Weekly”  
8:30pm Group Activity / Fellowship  
9:15pm Night Prayers (Small  
Compline)  
9:30pm Dismissal

## Saints and Feasts



**November 25**

### Apodosis of the Presentation of the Theotokos into the Temple



**November 25**

### Mercurius the Great Martyr of Caesarea in Cappadocia

Saint Mercurius came from Cappadocia, and was the son of Gordian, a Scythian.

A young man, and a soldier of high rank, he refused to offer sacrifice to the idols, and after torments was beheaded during the reign of Valerian (253-260).



**November 25**

### Catherine the Great Martyr of Alexandria

Saint Catherine, who was from Alexandria, was the daughter of Constat (or Cestus). She was an

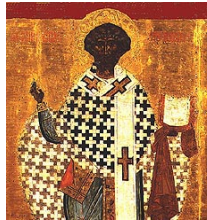
exceedingly beautiful maiden, most chaste, and illustrious in wealth, lineage, and learning. By her steadfast understanding, she utterly vanquished the passionate and unbridled soul of Maximinus, the tyrant of Alexandria; and by her eloquence, she stopped the mouths of the so-called philosophers who had been gathered to dispute with her. She was crowned with the crown of martyrdom in the year 305. Her holy relics were taken by Angels to the holy mountain of Sinai, where they were discovered many years later; the famous monastery of Saint Catherine was originally dedicated to the Holy Transfiguration of the Lord and the Burning Bush, but later was dedicated to Saint Catherine. According to the ancient usage, Saints Catherine and Mercurius were celebrated on the 24th of this month, whereas the holy Hieromartyrs Clement of Rome and Peter of Alexandria were celebrated on the 25th. The dates of the feasts of these Saints were interchanged at the request of the Church and Monastery of Mount Sinai, so that the festival of Saint Catherine, their patron, might be celebrated more festively together with the Apodosis of the Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos. The Slavic Churches, however, commemorate

these Saints on their original dates.

## Lives of the Saints

### Hieromartyr Clement the Pope of Rome

Commemorated on [November 25](#)



Troparion & Kontakion

The Hieromartyr Clement, Pope of Rome, was born at Rome into a rich and illustrious family. Separated from his parents from childhood by force of circumstances, Clement was raised by strangers. Living in Rome, the youth received a fine education, he was surrounded by luxury, and had access to the imperial court. But these comforts brought him no joy, and pagan wisdom failed to attract him. He began to ponder the meaning of life.

When the news of Christ and His teaching began to reach the capital, Saint Clement left his home and estate and went to the lands where the Apostles were preaching. At Alexandria Saint Clement met the holy Apostle Barnabas, listening to his words with deep attention, and perceiving the power and truth of the Word of God.

Arriving in Palestine, Saint Clement was baptized by the holy Apostle Peter and became his zealous disciple and constant companion, sharing his toil and sufferings with him. Shortly before his own sufferings and death, Saint Peter consecrated Saint Clement as Bishop of Rome. After the death of the Apostle Peter, Saint Linus (67-79) was the next Bishop of Rome, succeeded by Saint Anacletus (79-91), and then Saint Clement (92-101).

The virtuous life, charitable works and prayerful activity of Saint Clement converted many to Christ. He once baptized 424 people on the day of Pascha. Among the baptized were people of all social classes: slaves, officials, and even members of the imperial family.

The pagans, seeing the success of his apostolic preaching, denounced Saint Clement to the emperor Trajan (98-117), accusing the saint of insulting the pagan gods. The emperor banished Saint Clement from the capital, sending him to the Crimea, to work at a stone quarry near the city of Cherson. Many of the saint's disciples followed after him voluntarily, preferring to go into exile rather than live without their spiritual Father.

When he arrived at the place of exile, Saint Clement found many Christian believers there, sentenced to labor under harsh conditions amidst a scarcity of water. He prayed together with the condemned, and the Lord appeared to him in the form of a lamb and revealed the location of a spring, from which gushed forth a veritable river of water. This miracle attracted a multitude of people to Saint Clement. Hearing

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

## Wisdom of the Fathers

Their is a sound of grief and lamentation in the house of the soul still at the stage of ascetic practice, because of the suffering it endures; but in the house of the contemplative soul 'a voice of exultation and thanksgiving' (cf. Ps. 42:4 LXX) is heard, because of its spiritual knowledge. "On account of his sufferings, the man engaged in ascetic practice wants to leave this life and to be with Christ; the contemplative,

on the contrary, is quite content to remain in the flesh, both because of the joy that he receives from prayer, and because of the use that he can be to his fellow-men (cf. Phil. 1:23-24).

### Ilias the Presbyter

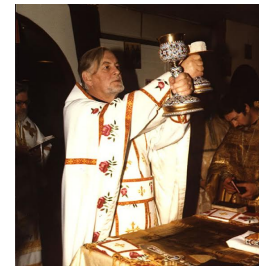
*Gnomic Anthology IV no. 55-56, Philokalia Vol. 3 edited by Palmer, Sherrard and Ware; Faber and Faber pg. 54-55*

## Reflection



Thank You, O Lord!

### Final words



Protopresbyter Alexander Schmemmann, the late Dean of [Saint Vladimir's Seminary](#), celebrated the Divine Liturgy for the last time on Thanksgiving Day 1983. Two weeks later, on December 13, he fell asleep in the Lord. As is well known, Father Alexander had devoted his entire life to teaching, writing and preaching about the Eucharist—the Greek word eucharist means thanksgiving. At the



“You are the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

#### **Tone 8 Kontakion (Hieromartyr Clement)**

As a branch bearing much fruit upon the earth,  
propagated by the cutting of tortures, O astonishing one,  
you put forth ripe bunches of grapes ever distilling the sweet-  
new vine of salvation, gladdening the hearts of the faithful.  
Therefore, as we gather to keep your holy memorial, we rejoice  
and magnify Christ.  
O greatly-suffering hierarch, intercede with Christ God//  
that remission of sins may be granted to those who celebrate the feast  
of your memorial with love!

#### **Tone 4 Kontakion (Entrance of the Theotokos)**

The most pure Temple of the Savior;  
the precious Chamber and Virgin;  
the sacred Treasure of the glory of God,  
is presented today to the house of the Lord.  
She brings with her the grace of the Spirit,  
therefore, the Angels of God praise her:  
“Truly this woman is the abode of Heaven!”

## Gospel and Epistle

## Readings

### Epistle Reading

**Prokeimenon. 1st Tone. Psalm 32.22,1.**

Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us.

Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

**The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 5:8-19.**

Brethren, walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light." Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.

### Gospel Reading

**The Reading is from Luke 13:10-17**

the zealous preacher, hundreds of pagans were converted to Christ. Each day 500 or more men were baptized. And there in the stone quarry, a church was built, in which he served as priest.

The apostolic activity of the saint aroused the wrath of the emperor Trajan, and he ordered that Saint Clement be drowned. They threw the martyr into the sea with an anchor tied to his neck. This occurred in the year 101.

The saint's faithful disciples Cornelius and Fibius asked the people to pray that the Lord would permit them to see the martyr's body. The sea drew back a distance of three miles from the shore and the people walked out on the seabed until they found a marble cave shaped like a church. There they found the incorrupt body of their archpastor in this "Angelic Church" formed by God. After this, each year on the anniversary of Saint Clement's martyric death the sea receded, and for seven days Christians were able to venerate his holy relics.

During the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Nicephorus (802-811), by divine providence, the sea failed to withdraw, and the relics of Saint Clement became inaccessible for fifty years. In the time of the emperor Michael and his mother Theodora (855-867), Saints Cyril and Methodius visited Cherson. When they learned of the concealed relics of Saint Clement, they asked Bishop George of Cherson to pray that the Lord would show them the relics of the hieromartyr.

Saints Cyril and Methodius walked along the shore in procession with the clergy who came with them from Constantinople.

Through the fervent prayers of everyone gathered there, the holy relics of Saint Clement miraculously appeared on the surface of the sea at midnight. They solemnly took them to the Church of the Holy Apostles at Constantinople. A portion of the relics were then brought to Rome by Saints Cyril and Methodius, but a large portion of the relics was later brought to Kiev by the holy Prince Vladimir (July 15) and placed in the Desyatin-Tithe church, together with the relics of Saint Fibius, where a chapel dedicated to Saint Clement had been built. The hieromartyr Clement is widely venerated in Russia. From ancient times, many churches have been dedicated to him.

Saint Clement, who belongs to the Apostolic Fathers, has left to us a spiritual legacy (two Epistles to the Corinthians) the first written examples of Christian teaching after the writings of the holy Apostles.

## Parish Calendar

### Service and Events

November 15 to December 3, 2018

#### Thursday, November 15

Nativity Fast

#### Sunday, November 25

Buildings and Grounds Ministry Meeting  
13th Sunday of Luke  
9:30AM Divine Liturgy

#### Monday, November 26

Alypius the Stylite of Adrianopolis

Christine Boyd - B

### **Tuesday, November 27**

James the Great Martyr of Persia  
Mike Veneri - B  
Page - A  
8:30AM Daily Matins

### **Wednesday, November 28**

Stephen the New  
Daria Krawchuk - B  
4:30PM Open Doors  
6:00PM Nativity Reflection

### **Thursday, November 29**

Paramonus, Philumenus, and their 370  
Companion Martyrs in Bithynia  
8:30AM Daily Matins

### **Friday, November 30**

Andrew the First- Called Apostle  
Akathist to St Andrew  
A Boyd - N  
Ezekiel Joseph Watson

### **Saturday, December 1**

Nahum the Prophet  
5:30PM Great Vespers

### **Sunday, December 2**

Akathist to St Prophyrius  
14th Sunday of Luke  
Liturgical and Education Ministry meeting  
9:30AM Divine Liturgy

### **Monday, December 3**

The Holy Prophet Sophonias (Zephaniah)



William, Sophia, Robert,  
Ann, Evelyn, Nina, John,  
Alex, Luke, Kathryn,  
Anastasia, Malcolm,  
Veronica, Darlyne, Irene,  
Nancy, Elena, Jevon, the  
new born Stella Anna,  
Ivan and Joscean.

And for... Sofie, Katrina,  
Olena, Valeriy, Olga, Tatiana, Dimitri,  
Alexander and Maxim.

All of our College Students: Alex, Kaitlyn, Jack,  
Sam, Connor, Nadia, Isaac and Matthew.

—

*Many Years! to:*

Dori (Kathrine) Kuziak, Katy Jankura and  
Kathryn Brubaker on the occasion of their  
Name's Day; Rick and Liberty Page on the  
occasion of their anniversary;

*Memory Eternal:*

Daria Krawchuk

—

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:*

Leavetaking of the Entry Into the Temple.  
Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Clement, Bishop of  
Ochrid and Enlightener of the Bulgarians  
(916). Hieromartyr Clement, Pope of Rome  
(101). Hieromartyr Peter, Archbishop of  
Alexandria (311). St. Peter Galata of Syria (ca.  
429).

## **Hymns of the Day**

### **Tone 1 Troparion (Resurrection)**

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,  
while the soldiers were guarding Your most  
pure ^body,  
You rose on the third day, O Savior, granting  
life to the world.  
The powers of heaven therefore cried to You,  
O Giver of Life:  
“Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ!  
Glory to Your ^Kingdom!//  
Glory to Your dispensation, O Lover of  
mankind!”

### **Troparion Tone 4 (Entrance of the Theotokos)**

Today is the prelude of the good will of God,  
of the preaching of the salvation of mankind.  
The Virgin appears in the Temple of God,  
in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all.  
Let us rejoice and sing to her://  
“Rejoice, O Fulfillment //  
of the Creator’s dispensation!”

### **Tone 4 Troparion (Hieromartyr Clement)**

O holy athlete,  
you gloriously amazed the ends of the earth  
with the miracles of God.  
On the day of your honored memorial,  
beyond nature, you caused the waters of the  
sea to withdraw  
for those who came earnestly to the divinely-  
built church holding  
Your precious relics.  
After the people left, you wondrously caused  
the sea to return  
to the shore.//  
All-wondrous Clement, entreat Christ God that  
our souls may be saved!

### **Tone 1 Kontakion (Resurrection)**

As God, You rose from the tomb in glory,  
raising the world with Yourself.  
Human nature praises You as God, for death  
has vanished.  
Adam exults, O Master!  
Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage  
and cries to You://

## **Prayers, Intersessions and Commemorations**