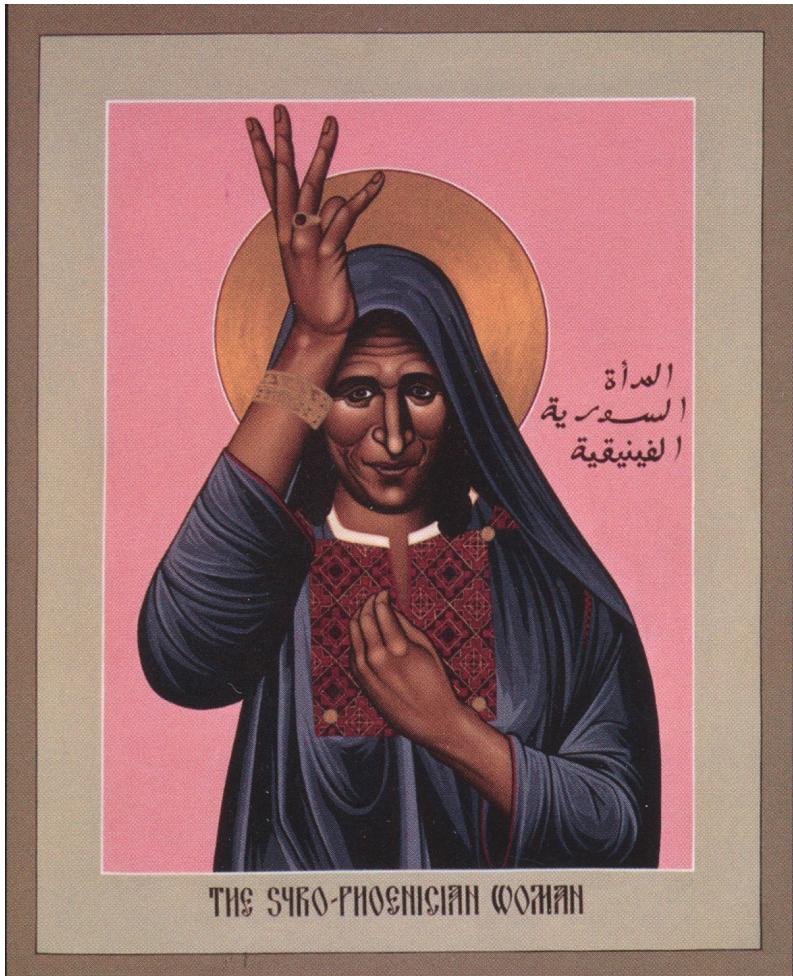




St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre Orthodox Church



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

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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, February 03, 2019

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:

*Greg Jankura - Council President
Natalie Kucharski - Council Treasurer
Kyle Hollis - Member at Large
Glenn Penkoff Ledbeck - Council Secretary
Michael Kuziak - Council Vice President
Roderick Seurattan - 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

Soup Kitchen

We are hosting the Soup Kitchen this coming Wednesday (Feb 6). Volunteers are welcome!

Painting Party is on!

On Saturday, Feb 9th, we will come together to paint the sanctuary. The paint has been purchased, and volunteers have stepped forward. We will begin at 8:30a and work through the day to complete the job.

Book/Bible Study

We will begin our new bible study on February 5th (9am) and again on February 7th (7pm). We will study the Apocalypse of St. John, also known as the Book of Revelation. Because of the complexity of this *prophecy*, we will take a rather unique approach to studying this book of the Bible, in that we will look into the liturgical implications and impact rather merely taking a textual review. All you will need for the bible study is a copy of the Orthodox Study Bible; at this point I do not recommend reading any particular commentary as a preparation.

25th Anniversary Events and Dates

- *Great Vespers with LITYA for the Feast of St Alexis (May 6th), Divine Liturgy (May 7th)*
- *25th Anniversary Dinner (May 18th)* - More specific details for this will be forth coming soon.
- *Guest Speaker, Nicole Roccas, author of "Time and Despondency" (Jun 1st)* - Dr Roccas has agreed to visit and talk with us about her book and other

We Invite **you** to a CBSRZ fundraiser

Come Taste the Wine!

Stay for the Raffle, the Silent Auction, Music, Dancing and Delectable Eats

**Saturday, February 9th
7-10 pm**

Wine Selections from:

- Moodus Package Store
- Tony's Package Store/Haddam
- Shore Discount Liquors/Deep River
- Chester Package Store
- The Wine Press/North Haven

Catering by:

- Nancy Isa/Cafe Otis/Norwich
- Lenny & Joe's/Westbrook

**\$35 in advance
\$40 at the door**

Bid and win!

- Weekend rental in NYC,
- Week House Rental in Nantucket,
- Week in a Provence, France Villa,
- 74' Yacht w/crew for a day,
- Golf for 4 (with cart!) in Wallingford,
- NY Yankees, NE Patriots Tickets,
- Tickets to the Bushnell, Hartford Stage,
- Art from past Main Street Gallery shows,
- Handcrafted Jewelry,
- Ski Passes at Jay Peak, VT and Okemo,
- Waters Edge Timeshare,
- Art Supplies,
- Software and Games,
- Gift Baskets,
- Gift Cards,
- Sports memorabilia from Ray Allen

**Meet Guest of Honor
Lt Governor
Susan Bysiewicz**

Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek 55 East Kings Highway in Chester
For information and tickets call (860) 526-8920 or www.cbsrz.org



FAMILIES HELPING FAMILIES & SHORELINE COMMUNITY WOMEN

Presents

CRAZY FOR CUPCAKES

...our ANNUAL DELICIOUS BAKING CONTEST!!

Sponsored by *Grove Gardens Landscaping*



Saturday, April 6, 2019 from 6 - 8 pm

Please come down and give a donation to try the delicious cupcakes that our contestants have baked! You could also stop by at 7:15 pm to buy some to bring home!!

Join us from 6-8pm in the Green Room--Clinton Town Hall for coffee & tastings!

FREE EVENT for the public. Cash donations are gratefully accepted to fund:

FHF Clinton Kids' Programs & SCW Boxes for Soldiers

We will also have a Children's Coloring Contest (ages 4-9) and some great prizes to raffle!!



- related events. This event will be open to the public. I would like to have a few volunteers to help with the coordinating this event.
- *Wedding of Anastasia Elliott and Malcolm Littlefield (Jun 30th)*
- *Visit to Holy Ghost, Bridgeport (July 13th TENTATIVE)*
- *Rummage Sale (Sept 21st)* - We will need a whole parcel of volunteers for this. More details will be forth coming.
- *Lyra Concert (Oct 19th TENTATIVE)*
- We have reserved the Clinton Town Auditorium for this event, which will be open to the public. We will need a few volunteers to help coordinate with this event.
- *Diocesan Assembly (Oct 25-26)*
- Planning for this event is well underway. We will still need a few volunteers for this very important event.

I am in the process of filing for a Diocesan Grant to help fund the activities.

Fri, 22 Feb: "Rally after Rally" Youth Retreat @ All Saints - Hartford

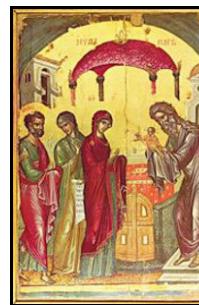
On Friday, February 22nd at All Saints in Hartford, all our Orthodox Youth are invited to a "Rally after Rally" event from 6:30pm-9:30pm. In addition to having time for fun, food, and fellowship, our Youth will be continuing a discussion on the theme from Youth Rally (John 10:10b --"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.") Having looked at doing this "daily" in October & "weekly" in December, we'll now be looking at how

to live an abundant life "Seasonally." We'll be using the service of the Presanctified Liturgy and the Prayer of St. Ephraim, as a starting point for looking at how the yearly cycle, including Great Lent, gives us a fuller and more beautiful life that helps us grow to appreciate and enjoy the years, and the months, and the days, and the moments that make it up.

Saints and Feasts

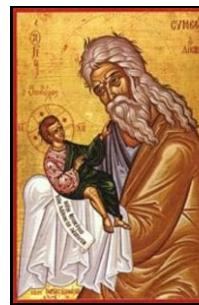
February 03

Afterfeast of the Presentation of Our Lord and Savior in the Temple



February 03

The Synaxis of the Holy and Righteous Symeon the God-Receiver and the Holy Prophetess Anna



Yesterday we celebrated the Meeting of our Lord in the Temple; today we honor the righteous Elder Symeon and Prophetess Anna, who prophesied concerning Him by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and were the first in Jerusalem

to receive Him as the Messiah.

Parish Calendar

Service and Events

February 3 to February 11, 2019

Sunday, February 3

Souper Bowl Sunday
16th Sunday of Matthew
Liturgical and Education Ministry meeting
9:30AM Divine Liturgy

Monday, February 4

Isidore of Pelusium

Tuesday, February 5

Agatha the Martyr
8:30AM Daily Matins
9:00AM Bible Study
3:30PM Deanery Retreat

Wednesday, February 6

Photius the Great, Patriarch of Constantinople
Akathist to Holy Photius
4:30PM Soup Kitchen
4:30PM Open Doors

Thursday, February 7

Parthenius, Bishop of Lampsacus
8:30AM Daily Matins
7:00PM Bible Study

Friday, February 8

Theodore the Commander & Great Martyr
Gabrielle Niess
Christine Hoehnebart

Saturday, February 9

Charlie Ruperto
Christine Schable
Leavetaking of the Presentation of Our Lord and Savior in the Temple
5:30PM Great Vespers

Sunday, February 10

Sunday of the Canaanite
Scout Sunday
Fellowship and Stewardship Ministry

Monday, February 11

Blaise the Holy Martyr of Sebastia

Prayers, Intersessions and Commemorations



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: Christine Hoehnebart and Gabrielle Niess on the occasion of their

in this man she encountered the salvation of God for her daughter, and she let nothing deter her. She refused to be denied.

This Canaanite woman is a tremendous model for us as Christians, for we so easily give up on the Lord and on ourselves. We are tempted to think that we are who we are, that there is no point in trying to change, and that even God can't heal and transform us. Now it certainly would have been less stressful for this Gentile woman to have stayed home that day and not made a scene about Christ healing her daughter. She could have said "I'm a Gentile and this Messiah is a Jew. Why should I even ask Him to help?" But then her life and that of her daughter would have remained miserable and without the Lord's blessing.

The same is true of us. We can assume that we are like the Gentiles of old, cut off from salvation, from God's blessing and transformation in our lives because of our failings, our weaknesses, and whatever mistakes we have made in life. Yes, we have all sinned against God and neighbor in thought, word, and deed. Yes, we may find it less stressful simply to give into our habitual sins, our passions that have been with us so long that they have become second nature. But if we accept the lie that the new life in Christ isn't really for us, that we are defined by our sins, that we're better off just accepting who we are than growing into the full stature of Christ, we will end up choosing misery over joy, death over life, and despair over hope.

This woman learned that she, too, is called to be a temple of the living God. God's promises extended even to her, and the same is true for us. Nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord, except for our own refusal to accept His love, to open our lives to Him as did this woman in humility, faith, and persistence.

She could have stayed away from the Lord on the grounds of her identity as a Gentile. That would have been an easy excuse, but she pressed on nonetheless. She didn't take an easy out, but persevered in opening her life to Him beyond what anyone in that time and place would have expected.

We all need to follow her example in our own lives. With patience, humility, and persistence, we must call upon the mercy of Christ for His healing and transformation. We must not be paralyzed with guilt or shame, no matter what we have done at any point in our lives. We must refuse to be distracted by our fears and reject the temptation to take the easy way out by making excuses. And then, like her, we will come to know that God's salvation really is for us, that there are no limits to His presence in our lives other than those we set by our own sins and lack of faith. Like her, let us refuse to be conquered by fear and instead throw ourselves upon the mercy of Christ with courage, patience, and perseverance. For this alone is the path to the Kingdom of God.

rest of the world. This Gentile woman knows enough about Christ to call Him “Son of David,” a Jewish term for the Messiah, and that He is a healer. But when her conversation with the Lord begins, it’s not clear what kind of faith she has in Him. By the end of the conversation, however, it’s quite clear that she has a faith in Him that surpasses that of most of the Jews and of the disciples. For she knows that in Jesus Christ God’s blessings extend to all people who believe in Him, that through Him the crumbs of the table of Abraham spill over to feed and bless the whole world.

The Lord’s apparent exclusion of the Gentiles from His ministry is a teaching tool to help her and the disciples see the truth about God’s salvation and blessing. She didn’t deny that, in the story of the Old Testament, the Jews are the Chosen People, the children of God. She didn’t balk at being called one of the dogs, one of the unclean Gentiles; she must have known that that was how the Jews thought of her and her kind. But she knew the message of the Scriptures even better than the Jews, for God told Abraham that through him and his family all the nations of the world would be blessed; and Hebrew prophets envisioned the day when all the nations would come to the mountain of the Lord. And now in Jesus Christ, Jew and Gentile alike become beloved children who share fully in God’s blessings.

Our Savior’s apparent delay in healing her daughter is also a teaching tool designed to strengthen her faith, to bring

her belief in Him to maturity. We have probably all learned important lessons through patience, by having to persist in getting what we want. The same is true for this woman. Her final insight in this conversation is like that of St. Simeon when the forty-day old Christ is presented in the Temple: “Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word. For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people: A light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of the Thy people Israel.” Simeon’s life of patient waiting for the Messiah came to fulfillment when he held the baby Jesus in his arms in the Jerusalem Temple. God’s anointed, the Savior, had finally come. And that is good news both for the Jew and the Gentile, for the whole world. The patience of the Canaanite woman and of St. Simeon was rewarded, for both received the Messiah with faith.

Many of us admire teachers, coaches, parents, or other mentors and instructors who tested us, who did not make it easy because we grew through their tough guidance and high expectations. We became stronger, more mature, more capable and confident people by overcoming challenges that at first may have seemed insurmountable. The same is true of this woman’s relationship with Jesus Christ. He challenged her to see clearly where she stood before Him. Had she been full of pride, she would have walked away. Had she been impatient or insincere, she would have left. But she knew that

birthday.

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 institutionalized, 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:

Afterfeast of the Meeting. Holy and Righteous Simeon the God-receiver and Anna the Prophetess. Rt. Blv. Prince Roman of Uglich (1285). Prophet Azariah (2 Chronicles 15th-10th c. B.C.). Martyrs Papias, Diodorus and Claudianus, at Perge in Pamphylia (250). Martyrs Adrian and Eubulus, at Cæsarea in Cappadocia (ca. 308-309). Martyr Blaise of Cæsarea in Cappadocia (ca. 308-309).

Hymns of the Day

Tone 3 Troparion (Resurrection)

Let the heavens rejoice!
Let the earth be glad!
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.
He has trampled down death by death.
He has become the first born of the dead.
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,
and has granted to the world// great mercy.

Tone 1 Troparion (Meeting of Our Lord)

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace!
From you shone the Sun of Righteousness,
^Christ our God,
enlightening those who sat in darkness.
Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder,
you accepted in your arms the ^Redeemer of
our souls,
Who grants us the Resurrection!

Tone 3 Kontakion (Resurrection)

On this day You rose from the tomb, O Merciful One,
leading us from the gates of death.
On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;
with the Prophets and Patriarchs// they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Your power.

Tone 1 Kontakion(Meeting of Our Lord)

By Your Nativity You sanctified the Virgin's womb and blessed Simeon's hands, ^O Christ God. Now You have come and saved us through love. Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of Man!

Gospel and Epistle Readings

Epistle Reading

The Reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy 1:15-17

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And I am the foremost of sinners; but I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience for an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory to the ages of ages. Amen.

Gospel Reading

Sunday of the Canaanite

The Reading is from Matthew 15:21-28

At that time, Jesus went to the district

of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." And he answered, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

Wisdom of the Fathers

There is an old saying: 'Excesses meet.' Too much fasting and too much eating come to the same end. Keeping too long a vigil brings the same disastrous cost as ... sluggishness... Too much self-denial brings weakness and induces the same condition as carelessness. Often I have seen men who would not be snared by gluttony fall, nevertheless, through immoderate fasting and tumble in weakness into the very urge which they had overcome. Unmeasured vigils and foolish denial of rest overcame those whom sleep could not overcome. Therefore, 'fortified to right and to left in the armor of justice,' as the apostle says (2 Cor. 6:7), life must be lived with due measure and, with discernment for a guide,

the road must be traveled between the two kinds of excess so that in the end we may not allow ourselves to be diverted from the pathway of restraint which has been laid down for us nor fall through dangerous carelessness into the urgings of gluttony and self-indulgence.

St. John Cassian

Conferences, Conference Two: On Discernment no. 16; Paulist Press pg. 76, 5th century

Reflection



Homily for the Sunday of the Canaanite Woman in the Orthodox Church

February 16, 2013 · Fr. Philip LeMasters



Gospel According to St. Matthew 15: 21-18

We have all had the experience of being ignored, left out, and made to feel that we weren't included or recognized by others. Whether at school, among friends,

at work or wherever, that can be painful, no matter what our age or life circumstances. No one likes to be rejected or overlooked. But sometimes, what seems to be rejection really isn't; sometimes it is testing and preparation for a deeper relationship in which we learn more about ourselves, our neighbors, and God.

Such was our Lord's conversation with the Canaanite woman. She is a Gentile with a demon-possessed daughter, and probably at the end of her rope. So she calls out to Christ, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David!" But He doesn't answer her and says to the disciples that He was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, to the Jews. When the woman persists with her cries for help, He tells her that it is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs. In other words, God's blessings are for the chosen people of the Old Testament, the Jews, not for the Gentiles. The woman doesn't disagree with that answer, but says that "even the dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." Then Christ praises the woman's faith and her daughter is healed.

We may find it hard to understand this passage. Why doesn't the Lord heal her daughter immediately? Why does He seem to exclude the Gentiles from His salvation? Why does He call her a dog?

To answer these questions, we have to remember that the Jews of that time typically believed that their Messiah was for them only, that God's blessings were for the Jews to the exclusion of the