

It pulls my knees to the ground and lifts my arms toward heaven.

My faith is my soul's contact with You. It prompts my heart to dance and my throat to sing.

When a swallow draws near, the baby swallows become excited in the nest. For even in the distance they sense the coming of their mother.

My faith is my excitement, for You are coming, my Mother.

If my friend is thinking of me while writing a letter in a distant city, I also dismiss other thoughts and think of my friend.

My faith is my thinking about You, which prompts You, all-encompassing Lord, to think of me.

When a lion is separated from his lioness, the lion's eyes are distraught with longing for the lioness.

My faith is my longing for You, when You are far from me, my Beauty.

When there is no sun, the most terrifying storms lash the sea.

My faith is the calming of the storm within my soul, for Your light pours into me and pacifies me.

My eyes said to me: "We do not see Him." But I pacified them with the words: "The truth is, that you were not created to see Him but to see what is His."

My ears said to me: "We do not hear Him." But I brought them to their senses with the words: "The truth is, that you were not created to hear Him but to hear what is His."

Nothing of all that is created can see or hear Him but only what is His. What is created sees and hears what is created. Only what is begotten of Him can see Him. And only what is begotten of Him can hear

Him. A painting cannot see the painter, but the son of a painter can see the painter. A bell cannot hear a bell-caster, but the daughter of a bell-caster can hear her father.

The eye cannot see Him because it was not created for the purpose of seeing Him. The ear cannot hear Him, because it was not created for the purpose of hearing Him. But vision can see Him, and hearing can hear Him. My faith sees You, Lord, just as what is begotten sees its begetter. My faith hears You, Lord, just as what is begotten hears its begetter.

The God within me sees and hears the God in You. And God is not created but begotten.

My faith is like diving into the abyss of my soul and swimming out with You.

My faith is my only genuine knowledge.

Everything else is like the children collecting motley pebbles by the lake.



St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre Orthodox Church

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Services Schedule

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

Bulletin for Sunday, March 10, 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/Lidbeck - 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

Sunday, March 31st

We will be having an extended coffee hour/potluck to help support the Watson Family. Sharon and William are trying to raise funds in order to provide a service dog for their two sons, Zeke and Eli. The fund raiser is called "4 Paws for Ability" (<https://www.facebook.com/donate/354720098>) and they need to raise \$17000.

Sharon writes:

"I'm raising money for 4 Paws For Ability

that will be credited to the \$17,000 fee for service family responsibility for a Multipurpose Service Dog for Zeke and Eli, and your contribution will make an impact, whether you donate \$5 or \$500. Every little bit helps. \$17,000 seems like a lot, but it's only a fraction of the \$40,000-60,000 it takes to raise and train each service dog! Thank you for your support. I've included information about 4 Paws For Ability below.

Zeke and Eli are both diagnosed with Autism and ADHD, and Eli also has Epilepsy. A task-trained service dog, trained in Behavior Disruption, Tethering and Scent Tracking, and Seizure Alert will help to increase their independence and daily functioning, and provide unique comfort and companionship.

4 Paws for Ability, Inc. mission is to:

-Enrich the lives of children with disabilities by the training and placement of quality, task trained service dogs to provide increased independence for the children and assistance to their families.

-Enrich the lives of veterans from recent conflicts who have lost the use of their limbs or their hearing while in active combat.

-Educate the public to accept the use of service dogs in public places.

-Assist with animal rescue when possible."

Church Directory

You will be receiving an electronic copy of a new church directory that Susan Egan is working on complete. Please review your contact information and send

judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.

Gospel Reading

Forgiveness Sunday

The Reading is from Matthew 6:14-21

The Lord said, "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

"And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Wisdom of the Fathers

Here it were well to sigh aloud, and to wail

bitterly: for not only do we imitate the hypocrites, but we have even surpassed them.

St. John Chrysostom

Homily 20 on Matthew 6, 4th Century

For I know, yea I know many, not merely fasting and making a display of it, but neglecting to fast, and yet wearing the masks of them that fast, and cloaking themselves with an excuse worse than their sin.

St. John Chrysostom

Homily 20 on Matthew 6, 4th Century

Reflection



Prayers by the
Lake by Bishop
Nikolai
Velimirovich
Prayer XXXII

My faith sees You, Lord.

It is the light and the farseeing vision of my eyes.

It is the sensing of Your omnipresence.

Serapion, Papias, Leonidas, Chariessa, Nunechia, Basilissa, Nice (Nika, Victoria), Galla, Galina, Theodora, and many others, at Corinth (258, 267-268). Martyrs Quadratus, Saturninus, Rufinus, and the rest, of Nicomedia (3rd c.). St. Anastasia the Patrician, of Alexandria (567-568).

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 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 6 Kontakion (from the Lenten Triodion)

O Master, Teacher of wisdom,
Bestower of virtue,
Who teach the thoughtless and protect the
poor,
strengthen and enlighten my heart!
O Word of the Father,

let me not restrain my mouth from crying to
You:
"Have mercy on me, a transgressor, //
O merciful Lord!"

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 Letter to
the Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4.**

Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than
when we first believed; the night is far gone,
the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the
works of darkness and put on the armor of
light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as
in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness,
not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in
quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord
Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the
flesh, to gratify its desires.

As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome
him, but not for disputes over opinions. One
believes he may eat anything, while the weak
man eats only vegetables. Let not him who
eats despise him who abstains, and let not him
who abstains pass judgment on him who eats;
for God has welcomed him. Who are you to
pass

any corrections to Susan Egan (lsb@snet.net).
There is also a copy of the directory at the
candle desk that you can review as well.

Saints and Feasts



Forgiveness Sunday

The Holy Fathers have appointed the
commemoration of Adam's exile from the
Paradise of delight here, on the eve of the
holy Forty-day Fast, demonstrating to us not
by simple words, but by actual deeds, how
beneficial fasting is for man, and how harmful
and destructive are insatiety and the
transgressing of the divine commandments.
For the first commandment that God gave to
man was that of fasting, which the first-
fashioned received but did not keep; and not
only did they not become gods, as they had
imagined, but they lost even that blessed life
which they had, and they fell into corruption
and death, and transmitted these and
innumerable other evils to all of mankind. The
God-bearing

**March
10**

Fathers set these things before us today, that
by bringing to mind what we have fallen from,
and what we have suffered because of the
insatiety and disobedience of the first-
fashioned, we might be diligent to return
again to that ancient bliss and glory by means
of fasting and obedience to all the divine
commands. Taking occasion from today's
Gospel (Matt. 6:14-21) to begin the Fast
unencumbered by enmity, we also ask
forgiveness this day, first from God, then from
one another and all creation.



March 12

Gregory Dialogos, Bishop of Rome

Saint Gregory was born in
Rome to noble and
wealthy parents about the
year 540. While the Saint
was still young, his father
died. However, his

mother, Sylvia, saw to it that her child
received a good education in both secular and
spiritual learning. He became Prefect of Rome
and sought to please God even while in the
world; later, he took up the monastic life;
afterwards he was appointed Archdeacon of
Rome, then, in 579, apocrisarius
(representative or Papal legate) to
Constantinople, where he lived for nearly
seven years. He returned to Rome in 585 and
was elected Pope in 590. He is renowned
especially for his writings and great
almsgiving, and also because, on his initiative,
missionary work began among the Anglo-
Saxon people. It is also from him that

Gregorian Chant takes its name; the chanting he had heard at Constantinople had deeply impressed him, and he imported many elements of it into the ecclesiastical chant of Rome. He served as Bishop of that city from 590 to 604.



March 16

First Saturday of Lent: The Commemoration of the Miracle of Kollyva wrought by Saint Theodore the Tyro

Julian the Apostate, knowing that the Christians purify themselves by fasting most of all during the first week of the Fast -- which is why we call it Clean Week -- planned to defile them especially at that time. Therefore he secretly commanded that during those days the markets be filled with foods that had been defiled with the blood of animals offered in sacrifice to idols. But by divine command the Martyr Theodore (see Feb. 17) appeared during sleep to Eudoxius, then Archbishop of Constantinople. The Saint revealed to him the tyrant's plan, then told him to call the faithful together immediately on Monday morning and prevent them from purchasing those foods, but rather to make *kollyva* to supply their needs. The bishop asked what *kollyva* might be, and the Saint answered, "*Kollyva* is what we call boiled wheat in Euchaita." Thus, the purpose of the Apostate was brought to nought, and the

pious people who were preserved undefiled for the whole of Clean Week, rendered thanks to the Martyr on this Saturday, and celebrated his commemoration with *kollyva*. These things took place in 362. Wherefore, the Church keeps this commemoration each year to the glory of God and the honour of the Martyr.

Parish Calendar

Service and Events

March 10 to March 18, 2019

Sunday, March 10

Forgiveness Sunday
Kyra Elliot
Fellowship and Stewardship Ministry
Mission Sunday
9:30AM Divine Liturgy
12:00PM Forgiveness Vespers

Monday, March 11

Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem
6:00PM Canon of St Andrew

Tuesday, March 12

Theophanes the Confessor
8:30AM Daily Matins
6:00PM Canon of St Andrew

Wednesday, March 13

Removal of the relics of Nicephorus, Patriarch of Constantinople
4:30PM Open Doors
6:00PM Presanctified Liturgy

Thursday, March 14

Raymond Boyd

Benedict the Righteous of Nursia
8:30AM Daily Matins
6:00PM Canon of St Andrew

Friday, March 15

Agapius the Martyr & His Companions
6:00PM Canon of St Andrew

Saturday, March 16

First Saturday of Lent: The Commemoration of the Miracle of Kollyva wrought by Saint Theodore the Tyro
5:30PM Great Vespers

Sunday, March 17

Akathist to Patrick of Ireland
Sunday of Orthodoxy
Stephanie Ruperto
Evangelism and Outreach Ministry meeting
Akathist to St Alexis, Man of God
9:30AM Divine Liturgy
4:00PM Deanery Vespers

Monday, March 18

Matthew Kuziak
Andrew Boyd

Prayers, Intercessions and Commemorations



Olena, Valeriy,

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,

Olga, Tatiana, Dimitri, Alexander and Maxim.

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

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Many Years! to: Kyra Seurattan on the occasion of her birthday.

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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.

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Today we commemorate:

The Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise. Martyr Quadratus and those with him: Cyprian, Dionysius, Anectus, Paul, Crescens, Dionysius (another), Victorinus, Victor, Nicephorus, Claudius, Diodorus,