



St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre Orthodox Church

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Fr Steven Hosking

Rector

Phone: 860-866-5802 (Message)

Email: frsteve@stalexischurch.org

Services Schedule

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

Bulletin for Sunday, March 24, 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 PenkoffLidbeck - 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

A note from the Moore Family (whom we sponsored on Souper Bowl Sunday).

Dear Fr. Stephen and Matushka,

Greetings in Christ! We pray this finds you well. Thank you for your gift to our support account last month. We were also blessed to receive several gifts from the St. Alexis parish, one from the parish as a whole and a few from individuals. We will be reaching out to the individuals through email or post as we have contact info available, but please pass along our sincere thanks to

the parish as a whole for all your support and prayers.

We've felt the prayers of so many so strongly as we've been transitioning to life here in South Korea. We're honored and blessed to be ministering here on behalf of so many faithful in the US. As we journey together through the Lenten season, we've been able to hear prayers in both Korean and in English and to process in the Sunday of Orthodoxy not only with Koreans but with the expat Greeks, Romanians, and Russians for whom the parish in Ulsan is their home parish. Sometimes the absence of other native English speakers can feel a little lonely, but more often than not, the diversity feels like an icon of heaven.

Please continue to remember us in prayer. Language acquisition is of utmost importance, but so many other aspects of life come in, and often the urgent takes precedent over the important. Also, that our boys, Andrew and Gideon (age 3 and 5) would continue to adapt well, and most importantly, that we would love well each other and the people God places in our lives.

Here is a link to our latest e-update: [https://mailchi.mp/4e0b3d13d927/moo-december-1382833?e=\[UNIQID\]](https://mailchi.mp/4e0b3d13d927/moo-december-1382833?e=[UNIQID])

We can subscribe anyone who would like to receive updates. They can contact me at this email or at j.moore@ocmc.org, or Fr. Chris at c.moore@ocmc.org. We'd love to keep anyone who's interested informed. We also post sometimes to our FB page: Chris and Jen Moore - South Korea.

2019 SCHEDULE

February 27 Free Chant Seminar
 April 7 Pysanky Egg Decorating
 April 14 Pysanky Egg Decorating
 April 28 Sacred Oil Painting
 May 5 Week Long Waterscolor Workshop
 May 14 Chant Express
 May 26 Our Lady Under of Knoss Icon
 June 23 Sacred Drawing Workshop
 June 25 Kirtale Evening Series I
 July 14 Painted Glass Workshop
 July 28 House Blessing Illumination
 August 4 Illuminated Christmas Card
 August 18 Mary, Gate of Dawn Icon
 September 1 Stained Glass Workshop
 September 7 Waterscolor Day Class
 September 15 Mosaics Workshop
 September 23 Christmas Chant Express
 October 18 Miniature Icon of Christ
 October 20 Calligraphy Workshop
 October 28 Byzantine Icon Drawing
 November 3 Byzantine Icon Painting

Join our Facebook Group!

A place for instructors and students of the Sacred Art Institute to gather, interact, learn, discuss sacred art, materials, techniques and workshops.

<http://enders.is/FacebookGroup>

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

Workshops and Classes

All our workshops are grounded in the theology of sacred art. Each is specially designed to teach the history and techniques of the discipline in a way that is both accessible to the beginner and challenging for the experienced artist. Because we limit enrollments and employ only select instructors with significant experience, we are able to accommodate participation at all levels of proficiency. All our workshops are paced so that participants leave with a finished work of art.

Accommodations

We provide our students with comfortable overnight accommodations, including the early 20th century arts and crafts style mansion known as the Enders House. All rooms are subject to availability. The studio space is newly renovated and fully outfitted with all the necessary supplies. Meals are chef-prepared, plated and served in one of the dining rooms of the Enders House. During their stay, students are welcome to walk about the island and enjoy the breathtaking gardens and waterviews.

Spirituality

An authentic Catholic spirituality is the beating heart of the Sacred Art Institute. Our workshops are uniquely designed to combine hands-on instruction with the sacraments and prayer life of the Church. Mass is offered daily in the beautiful Chapel of Our Lady of the Assumption which features the sacred art of several masters who have taught at the Institute. During week-long workshops, each morning session begins with a brief centering prayer and each afternoon closes with twenty minutes of spiritual input and sharing. Students are always free to engage or decline any religious practice, and we work hard to ensure that students of all faiths—and even those without faith—feel equally welcome and at home in the Institute.

Welcome to the

SACRED ART INSTITUTE

at

Enders Island

Here, students of the fine arts can experience an immersive, hands-on learning experience of the sacred arts in the Catholic tradition.

OUR MISSION

To study and teach artistic expression, to preserve our heritage, and to create fine sacred art while promoting the highest standards of excellence.

COMING IN

SEPTEMBER 2019

The Sacred Art Institute will have works on display at the

SHEEN CENTER

FOR THOUGHT & CULTURE

More details coming soon. Check our website for information!

reception@endersisland.com

1 Enders Island
 PO Box 399
 Mystic, CT 06355
 (860) 536-0565

OFFICE HOURS:
 Monday - Friday
 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
 Closed Noon - 12:45

SACRED ART INSTITUTE

Enders Island
 EST. 1995

www.sacredartinstitute.org
 (860) 536-0565

Congregation safety Workshop

Wednesday, May 22nd, 2019 7-9pm

A program on safety in places of worship

For clergy and parish lay leadership

Offered by:

The Connecticut State Police Training
Academy



To be held at:

**Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church
285 Alden Avenue
New Haven, CT 06515**

(Please park in lot behind the church)

This is a program open to all, and free of charge;

However, in order to have adequate sets of materials, for distribution
(and refreshments), please

RSVP: to **voice-mail**, 203.387.3882

Or by e-mail: holytransfigurationnh@gmail.com

No later than May 14, 2019

We will be remembering your parish with joy as we all journey toward the Empty Tomb and our Risen Lord.

In Christ,
Jen for the Moore family

Community for All Garden

HAPPY 1st DAY OF SPRING!!!

I thought I would give everyone a quick update of the garden since it is the first day of spring and it is time to start thinking about gardening. The days are getting longer and the temperatures are getting warmer (well, maybe a little warmer?).

I was at the garden on Monday hoping we could start working soon. Trellis fencing in the NW quadrant needs to be put up for the peas and the beds need to be racked (compost has drifted into the pathways). There is still frost in the ground so it is a little early to begin working in the garden. Maybe in the next week or two - and then we will be in full swing!!! I will keep you posted!!!

Other news...

I want to remind everyone that if you shop a **Stewards Ace Hardware in Clinton** from now until March 30th you can **Round Up** your purchase and it will benefit the **Food for All Garden**. Ace Hardware supports local charities and organization so please consider shopping local.

Beth and committee have been working

hard on our Sponsor A Bed fundraiser campaign. Beth has updated the pamphlet and letter and they will soon go to print.

Save the Date..

We will be having a Pot Luck Supper to kick off the garden season on Friday April 12th at 6pm in the Parish Hall. I hope you will be able to attend. And If you know anyone that might be interested in volunteering in the garden please invite them to the dinner. it will be a good opportunity to find out more about what we do in the garden and meet the volunteers. Please send me an email if you will be attending at foodforallgarden@gmail.com

Enjoy the day,
Holly

Saints and Feasts

March 24

Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas



This divine Father, who was from Asia Minor, was from childhood reared in the royal court of Constantinople, where he was instructed in both

religious and secular wisdom. Later, while still a youth, he left the imperial court and struggled in asceticism on Mount Athos, and in the Skete at Beroea. He spent some time in Thessalonica being treated for an illness that came from his harsh manner

of life. He was present in Constantinople at the Council that was convened in 1341 against Barlaam of Calabria, and at the Council of 1347 against Acindynus, who was of like mind with Barlaam; Barlaam and Acindynus claimed that the grace of God is created. At both these Councils, the Saint contended courageously for the true dogmas of the Church of Christ, teaching in particular that divine grace is not created, but is the uncreated energies of God which are poured forth throughout creation: otherwise it would be impossible, if grace were created, for man to have genuine communion with the uncreated God. In 1347 he was appointed Metropolitan of Thessalonica. He tended his flock in an apostolic manner for some twelve years, and wrote many books and treatises on the most exalted doctrines of our Faith; and having lived for a total of sixty-three years, he reposed in the Lord in 1359.

His holy relics are kept in the Cathedral of Thessalonica. A full service was composed for his feast day by the Patriarch Philotheus in 1368, when it was established that his feast be celebrated on this day. Since works without right faith avail nothing, we set Orthodoxy of faith as the foundation of all that we accomplish during the Fast, by celebrating the Triumph of Orthodoxy the Sunday before, and the great defender of the teachings of the holy Fathers today.



March 25

Annunciation of the Theotokos

Six months after John the Forerunner's conception, the Archangel Gabriel was sent by God to Nazareth, a town of Galilee, unto Mary the

Virgin, who had come forth from the Temple a mature maiden (see Nov. 21). According to the tradition handed down by the Fathers, she had been betrothed to Joseph four months. On coming to Joseph's house, the Archangel declared: "Rejoice, thou Full of Grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women." After some consideration, and turmoil of soul, and fear because of this greeting, the Virgin, when she had finally obtained full assurance concerning God's unsearchable condescension and the ineffable dispensation that was to take place through her, and believing that all things are possible to the Most High, answered in humility: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." And at this, the Holy Spirit came upon her, and the power of the Most High overshadowed her all-blameless womb, and the Son and Word of God, Who existed before the ages, was conceived past speech and understanding, and became flesh in her immaculate body (Luke 1:26-38).

Bearing in her womb the Uncontainable One, the blessed Virgin went with haste from Nazareth to the hill country of Judea,

deluded in your hopes, and so you say: "What does the Lord do for us?"

Like a good host, the Lord sets His table and awaits His guests. The Lord listens attentively for knocking, and is quick to open the door to every guest.² Around His table are clustered undreamed-of mansions; at His table are many seats. Whoever strikes His door and knocks, will not be turned away, and yet you say: "Why did the Lord not open when we knocked?" Because you knocked at the door of the Lord with doubt, but at the door of the world with faith.³

The Lord stands at the door of your soul with a broom, ready, at your invitation, to clean the horrendous filth out of your soul, to make your newly-cleaned soul fragrant with incense and fragrance, and to adorn her with virginal jewelry --the Lord is standing and waiting for your invitation.⁴

At the edge of your heart the Lord is standing with a tall candle that burns without smoking or melting. The Lord is standing and waiting at your invitation, to bring the candle into your heart and enlighten it, to burn up all the fear in your heart, all its selfish passions and all its ugly desires, and to drive out of your heart all the smoke and foul stench.

At the edge of your mind the Lord is standing with His wisdom and with His tongue, ready, at your invitation, to enter into it and drive out all its foolish thoughts, all its filthy fancies, and all its mistaken notions, and to erase from your mind all nonexistent images -- the Lord is standing and waiting to introduce His reason, His seals, and His words.

Yet you say: "Where is the Lord?" At the edge of your life. Therefore your life

has become hunchbacked. If the Lord were in the center, where He was in the beginning and where His rightful place is, your life would be upright and you would see the Lord, and you would not be asking: "Where is the Lord?" You have become bad, therefore you ask: "Where is the Lord?"

The Lord is too good, therefore the bad do not recognize Him.

The Lord is too translucent, therefore the dusty do not see Him.

The Lord is too holy, therefore the unholy do not perceive Him.

If there are not enough people, who will confess the name of the Lord, the Lord will manifest Himself through objects.

If even the stars of heaven forget the name of the Lord, it will not be forgotten by the countless hosts of angels in heaven.

The weaker the confession of the Lord's name in one realm, the stronger it is in another.

Neither can the uttering of the name of God be decreased, nor can it be increased. If one brook dries up, another will begin to rise, and thus -- the sea maintains the same level.

1. Cf. Matt. 7:7-12.

2. Cf. Luke 11:9-13.

3. Cf. James 1:5-8, Matt. 21:20-22 and Mark 11:23-24.

4. Cf. Rev. 3:20.

in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins"-he said to the paralytic-"I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home." And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

Wisdom of the Fathers

Now Matthew indeed saith, that "they brought him," but the others, that they also broke up the roof, and let him down. And they put the sick man before Christ, saying nothing, but committing the whole to Him.

St. John Chrysostom

Homily 29 on Matthew 9, 1. B#54, pp. 195, 196, 4th Century

For though in the beginning He Himself went about, and did not require so much faith of them that came unto Him; yet in this case they both approached Him, and had faith required on their part. For, "Seeing," it is said, "their faith;" that is, the faith of them that had let the man down.

St. John Chrysostom

Homily 29 on Matthew 9, 1. B#54, pp. 195, 196, 4th Century

Reflection



Prayers by the Lake by Bishop Nikolai Velimirovich

LXXIX

People have become bad, and so they say: "What does the Lord do for us?"

The Lord gives life to every body; the Lord gives a face to every creature. The Lord is as tenderhearted as a child, and selfishness and gloominess are unknown to Him.

The Lord gives to everyone whatever one asks of Him.¹ The Lord fills His eternity with giving, and yet you say: "What does the Lord give to us?" You would not even have been able to pose this question, if the Lord had not given you the power to do so.

The Lord collects the tears of those who mourn in the palms of His hands. The Lord visits captives. The Lord sits at the bedside of the sick.

The Lord keeps vigil over perilous paths, and keeps watch over the depths of the sea, and yet you say: "What does the Lord do for us?" Whatever you ask of the Lord, He also gives you. But because you began to seek more from the world than from the Lord, you feel

where Zacharias had his dwelling; for she desired to find Elizabeth her kinswoman and rejoice together with her, because, as she had learned from the Archangel, Elizabeth had conceived in her old age. Furthermore, she wished to tell her of the great things that the Mighty One had been well-pleased to bring to pass in her, and she greeted Elizabeth and drew nigh to her. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, she felt her six-month-old babe, Saint John the Baptist, prophesied of the dawning of the spiritual Sun. Immediately, the aged Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and recognized her as the Mother of her Lord, and with a great voice blessed her and the Fruit that she held within herself. The Virgin also, moved by a supernatural rejoicing in the spirit, glorified her God and Savior, saying: "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour," and the rest, as the divine Luke hath recorded (1:39-55)

Parish Calendar

Service and Events

March 24 to April 1, 2019

Sunday, March 24

Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas
Buildings and Grounds Ministry Meeting
9:30AM Divine Liturgy
4:00PM Deanery Vespers

Monday, March 25

Annunciation of the Theotokos
6:00PM Vesperal Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, March 26

Synaxis in honor of the Archangel Gabriel
8:30AM Daily Matins
9:00AM Bible Study
6:30PM Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 27

The Holy Matrona of Thessalonica
4:30PM Open Doors
6:00PM Presanctified Liturgy

Thursday, March 28

Hilarion the New
8:30AM Daily Matins
7:00PM Bible Study

Friday, March 29

Mark, Bishop of Arethusa
Luckianow

Saturday, March 30

John Climacus the Righteous, author of The Divine Ladder of Ascent
Alla Hamisevich
5:30PM Great Vespers

Sunday, March 31

Repose of St Innocent
Sunday of the Holy Cross
Akathist to St Innocent
9:30AM Divine Liturgy
4:00PM Deanery Vespers

Monday, April 1

Jack Jankura
Akathist to St Mary of Egypt
Mary of Egypt

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.

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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:

Forefeast of the Annunciation. St. Gregory Palamas. Synaxis of the Venerable Fathers of the Kiev Caves Lavra. Ven. Zachariah the Recluse. St. Artemius (Artemon), Bishop of Seleucia (1st-2nd c.). Ven. Zachariah, Ascetic, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—13th-14th c.). Martyrs Stephen and Peter of Kazan' (1552). St. James (Jacob, Iago) the Confessor, Bishop of Catania (8th-9th c.).

Hymns of the Day

Tone 2 Troparion (Resurrection)

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal,
You destroyed hell with the splendor of Your Godhead.
And when from the depths You raised the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out://
"O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!"

Tone 4 Troparion(Forefeast)

Today is the prelude of joy for the universe.
Let us anticipate the feast and celebrate with exultation:
"Gabriel is on his way to announce the glad tidings to the Virgin;
he is ready to cry out in fear and wonder://
'Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!'"

Tone 2 Kontakion (Resurrection)

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior,
seeing the miracle of Your Resurrection from the tomb!
The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with You, //
and the world, my Savior, praises You forever.

Tone 8 Kontakion (Forefeast)

You are the beginning of salvation for all of us on earth, Virgin Mother of God.
For the great Archangel Gabriel, God's minister, was sent from heaven to stand before you to bring you joy:
Therefore, we all cry to you: "Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!"

Gospel and Epistle Readings

Epistle Reading

Prokeimenon. 2nd Tone. Psalm 117.14,18.

The Lord is my strength and my song.
Verse: The Lord has chastened me sorely.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 1:10-14; 2:1-3.

"IN THE BEGINNING, Thou, Lord, didst found the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of thy hands; they will perish, but thou remainest; they will all grow old like a garment, like a mantle thou wilt roll them up, and they will be changed. But thou art the same, and thy years will never end." But to what angel has he ever

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said, "Sit at my right hand, till I make thy enemies a stool for thy feet?" Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation?

Therefore we must pay closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him.

Gospel Reading

Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas The Reading is from Mark 2:1-12

At that time, Jesus entered Capernaum and it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak thus? It is a blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving

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