

What do you have to yearn for, my heart?
 Wherever the eye looks, it sees death.
 Whatever the hand touches it feels death.
 Whatever you find, you also find the fear that
 you may lose it. Whatever you fall in love with
 fills you with the sorrow of its loss.
 My restless thoughts, you push your way
 through my mind like drunkards at a fair, and
 you keep falling and dying like locusts on a
 highway. Everything that sent you into me will
 die, and not one of you will be saved from my
 grave, except those which have tied
 themselves to the Graveless, Undying Lord.
 Truly, you entered a sepulcher when you
 entered me, and like gravediggers you are
 preparing my grave.
 But when the trumpet, the long-tubed blaring
 trumpet, sounds in my soul, and heralds the
 coming of the Son of God!2 Then will all the
 mortal yearnings of my heart, and all the
 mortal thoughts of my mind be separated to
 the left, and the field of my heart and mind
 will be cleansed.3

And the Son of God will enter this field, and
 will level all the tombs you have prepared for
 me like molehills. And the Son of God will
 wash me and bathe me and make me fragrant
 with myrrh -- not for death but for life.4
 I myself immured myself, O Lord, walling
 myself off from Your grace. And I did not dare
 to poke my head outside, for You are like a
 fearsome wind. I built shacks and shanties in
 my soul and was afraid that You would
 demolish them. But You have not demolished
 them in order to leave me homeless, but have
 done so in order to take me into a palace more
 spacious and radiant than the star-filled
 universe.

People rejected Your cornerstone, because

it is too immense for their shacks and
 shanties.5 Insane builders rejected it, because
 they do not know what to build on it. Being
 forgetful, they cannot remember that You are
 the builder, and that their whole job is not to
 interfere with You in Your work.
 Your cornerstone is too immense, and giants
 are afraid to approach it. They say: "If we
 begin with this, when shall we finish?"
 The wretches, how death frightens them off
 from every good beginning!
 How time compels them to build one-day
 edifices!
 Extend Your grace to me, grace which
 penetrates further than sunbeams, my Rich
 Lord, and I shall dare to stand beside the
 rejected stone.
 Indeed, You are grace. Come down and lift me
 up.
 Expel death and time from me and, together
 with You, I shall build what the earthly giants
 did not dare.

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1. Cf. Luke 12:49.
 2. Cf. Matt. 24:31, 1 Cor. 15:52, and 1 Thess. 4:16.
 3. Cf. Matt. 25:33 and 41.
 4. Cf. John 9:39.
 5. Cf. Ps. 118:22, 23; Matt. 21:42.



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, April 07, 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

Thank you everyone, for your generous support of the Watson family in their quest to obtain a service dog for their children. We collected just over \$880. I talked with Sharon earlier this week and they are truly moved by the continued generosity and support that this parish offers them.

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We would like to do "Pascha" boxes for our college students. We will be collecting items for the boxes over the next two weeks (until April 14th). There will be Easter cards

for members to sigh as well. If you have any questions about what you might include, please talk with Fr Steven.

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There will be no Bible Study on Thursday night, April 11th

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The Connecticut Bible Lecture Series (CBLS) is pleased to announce the eighteenth of its Lecture Series hosted by Christ The Savior Orthodox Church, 1070 Roxbury Rd. Southbury.

On Saturday, May 4, the Very Rev. Dr. Paul Nadim Tarazi will lead us in teaching about *St. Paul's Understanding of the Church*. This topic is most relevant in understanding all of scripture and our life today. Registration will start at 2:00 pm with the first lecture beginning at 2:30 pm. The day will conclude with Great Vespers at 6:00 pm. All are welcome. For further information or to register please contact Fr. Vladimir Aleandro at 203 267 1330 or visit our web site www.christsaviorchurch.org

Saints and Feasts



April 07

Tikhon, Pat. of Moscow

Born in 1865 in the region of Pskov, our Father among

and when he is killed, after three days he will rise."

Wisdom of the Fathers

Seest thou how He now proceeds to lay beforehand in them the foundation of His doctrine about fasting? ... See, at any rate, how many blessings spring from them both. For he that is praying as he ought, and fasting, hath not many wants, and he that hath not many wants, cannot be covetous; ...

St. John Chrysostom

Homily 57 on Matthew 17,4,5. B#54, pp.355,356., 4th Century

... he that is not covetous, will be also more disposed for almsgiving. He that fasts is light, and winged, and prays with wakefulness, and quenches his wicked lusts, and propitiates God, and humbles his soul when lifted up. Therefore even the apostles were almost always fasting.

St. John Chrysostom

Homily 57 on Matthew 17,4,5. B#54, pp.355,356., 4th Century

Reflection



Prayers by the
Lake by Bishop
Nikolai
Velimirovich

LXXXVIII

I raise my arms to You, my Shepherd, but my arms do not reach very far.

In vain does a sheep in a hole try to raise himself to the top; if the shepherd does not stoop down to help it, it will fall back in. Your grace reaches further than the rays of the sun. Take hold of my hands, and lead me out of this dungeon. Just one ray of Your grace -- and I shall lift myself up on the wings of an eagle.

Beneath a stone grass is trying to grow, having become hunchbacked from seeking light and ashen-faced from lack of light. Great is my joy as a mortal, when I lift the stone and see the grass straightening itself up and becoming green.

Was not Your joy even greater, Immortal Lord, when You lifted the stone that the world had rolled over my soul, hunchbacked and ashen-faced?

In vain do I gather wood into a pile to warm my soul, if You do not kindle it with fire from heaven.1

In vain do I run; if I am going the wrong way, my running is futile.

All my effort and my sweat is a sacrifice to You. If You are unwilling to accept it, I shall be like a mountain climber buried in snow on the mountain's peak.

For You do not look at the multitude of efforts but at the yearning of hearts.

Prokeimenon. 4th Tone. Psalm 103.24,1.

O Lord, how manifold are your works. You have made all things in wisdom.

Verse: Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 6:13-20.

BRETHREN, when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore to himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

Gospel Reading

**Sunday of St. John Climacus
The Reading is from Mark 9:17-31**

At that time, a man came to Jesus kneeling

and saying: "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him;

the Saints Tikhon was tonsured a monk in 1891 and ordained to the priesthood in the same year. In 1897 he was consecrated Bishop of Lublin, and a year later appointed Bishop of Alaska and the Aleutian Islands, with his see extending to all of North America from 1900 onwards. He did much to unite the Orthodox Christians of a great many ethnic backgrounds in North America, so that there was indeed one flock under one shepherd. In 1907 he was made Archbishop of Yaroslavl and Rostov, and in 1913, Archbishop of Lithuania.

In 1917, when he was Metropolitan of Moscow, he was elected to be the first Patriarch of Russia in over 200 years, in times that could not have been more difficult. After the Revolution of 1917, the persecution of the Russian Church by the atheist government grew more bold and more fierce with every year. By nature a meek and peace-loving man, Tikhon sought to determine, while giving only to God that which is God's, what could be given to Caesar to preserve peace and avoid the shedding of blood. At his departure on the feast of the Annunciation in 1925, Saint Tikhon made the sign of the Cross thrice, pronouncing the words, "Glory to Thee, O God!" Because of the many unspeakable sufferings he endures as Patriarch, he is honoured as a Confessor.

Note: St. Tikhon's repose was on the Feast of the Annunciation according to the Old Calendar (March 25), but on the New Calendar his repose falls on April 7.



April 07

Sunday of St. John Climacus

The memory of this Saint is celebrated on March 30, where his biography may be found. He is celebrated today because his book, The Ladder of Divine Ascent, is a sure guide to the ascetic life, written by a great man of prayer experienced in all forms of the monastic polity; it teaches the seeker after salvation how to lay a sound foundation for his struggles, how to detect and war against each of the passions, how to avoid the snares laid by the demons, and how to rise from the rudimental virtues to the heights of Godlike love and humility. It is held in such high esteem that it is universally read in its entirety in monasteries during the Great Fast.

Parish Calendar

Service and Events

April 7 to April 15, 2019

Sunday, April 7

Sunday of St. John Climacus
Akathist to St Nilus of Sora
St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow, Apostle to America
Liturgical and Education Ministry meeting
9:30AM Divine Liturgy
4:00PM Deanery Vespers

Monday, April 8

The Holy Apostles of the Seventy Herodion, Agabus, Rufus, Asyncritus, Phlegon, and Hermes

Tuesday, April 9

The Holy Martyr Euphrosyne of Caesarea
8:30AM Daily Matins
9:00AM Bible Study

Wednesday, April 10

Terence and his Companions beheaded at Carthage
4:30PM Open Doors
6:00PM Presanctified Liturgy

Thursday, April 11

Akathist to St Guthlac of Crowland
8:30AM Daily Matins
7:00PM Bible Study

Friday, April 12

Basil the Confessor, Bishop of Parium
Watson

Saturday, April 13

Martin the Confessor, Pope of Rome
Nina Naumenko
5:30PM Great Vespers

Sunday, April 14

Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt
Fellowship and Stewardship Ministry
9:30AM Divine Liturgy
4:00PM Service of Unction

Monday, April 15

Crescens the Martyr



William, Sophia, Robert, Ann, Evelyn, Nina, John, Alex, Vincent, Luke, Kathryn, Anastasia, Malcolm, Veronica, Darlyne, Irene, Nancy, Elena, Jevon, 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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This week we celebrate:

Many Years to Nina Naumenko 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:

Repose of St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia and Enlightener of North America (1925—March 25 O.S.). **St. John Climacus (of The Ladder)**. St. George the Confessor, Bishop of Mytilene (9th c.). Ven. Daniel, Abbot of Pereslavl-Zalessky (1540). Martyr Calliopos at Pompeiopolis in Cilicia (304). Martyrs Rufinus the Deacon, Aquilina, and 20 soldiers with them at Sinope (ca. 310). Ven. Serapion of Egypt (5th c.). (Note: The service for St Tikhon is transferred to April 8.)

Hymns of the Day

Tone 4 Troparion (Resurrection)

When the women Disciples of the Lord learned from the Angel the joyous message of the Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the Apostles: "Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy!"

Tone 1 Troparion (for St John

Climacus)

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body, you were a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father John. You received heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil and prayer, healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to you by faith. Glory to Him Who gave you strength! Glory to Him Who granted you a crown! // Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!

Tone 4 Kontakion (Resurrection)

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master, // He has risen on the third day!

Tone 4 Kontakion (for St John Climacus)

The Lord truly set you on the heights of abstinence, to be a guiding star, showing the way to the universe, // O our father and teacher John.

Gospel and Epistle Readings Epistle Reading

Prayers, Intersessions and Commemorations