



## St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre Orthodox Church

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**Fr Steven Hosking**

Rector

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### Services Schedule

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

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Bulletin for Sunday, May 05, 2019

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### Welcome



### Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

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*

*Michael Kuziak - Council Vice President*

*Natalie Kucharski - Council Treasurer*

*Glenn PenkoffLidbeck - Council Secretary*

*Kyle Hollis - Member at Large*

*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

Christ is Risen!

Thank you to everyone who made this Holy Week and Paschal celebration so joyful: to those who helped clean, and arrange decor; to those who sang and participated; to those who cooked and provided refreshment; and to those whose presence reminded us all that this is such a special community.

This coming Tuesday, May 7th, marks the 110th anniversary of the repose of St. Alexis Toth. It is simultaneously the 25th

anniversary of the observance of his commemoration (he was glorified on May 28-29th, 1994). This observance also coincides with the 25th anniversary of this parish.

I have asked that we celebrate the legacy of St Alexis with various events held throughout the entire year, offering back something to the community and diocese in which this parish has existed over the past two and a half decades. On Monday (May 6th), beginning at 6pm, we will celebrate Great Vespers with Litya. Liturgy will be celebrated on Tuesday beginning at 9am. The CT Deanery has been invited to share in this celebration. This is our patronal feast day, and it would be wonderful if each of you could find the time to attend these services. The church will still be adorned from our paschal celebration, it would be nice if we could adorn the icon of St Alexis with flowers as well.

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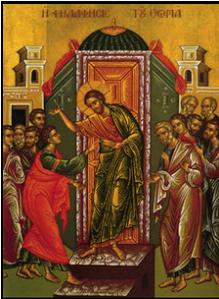
If anyone has pictures from Holy Week and Pascha that they would like to share for our website, Facebook and Instagram accounts, I would appreciate if you would make them available to me. As always, if you do not want your picture to appear on any social media postings for the parish, you have simply to let me know.

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**WE ARE ABOUT TO CANCEL YOUTH RALLY!!!** We do not have enough counselors to hold rally this year! If we do not have enough counselors by Monday May 6, we will need to inform the camp that

we are not coming. This would be a tremendous loss for our youth and our diocese. Please do not allow this to happen. If you feel that you can fill this calling, please let me know ASAP, so that I might provide your contact information to Fr John Hopko.

## Saints and Feasts



**May 05**

### Thomas Sunday

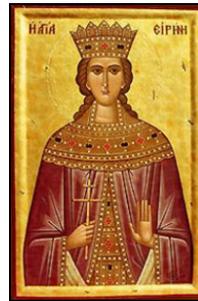
Though the doors were shut at the dwelling where the disciples were gathered for fear of the Jews on the evening of the Sunday after the Passover, our Saviour

wondrously entered and stood in their midst, and greeted them with His customary words, "Peace be unto you." Then He showed unto them His hands and feet and side; furthermore, in their presence, He took some fish and a honeycomb and ate before them, and thus assured them of His bodily Resurrection. But Thomas, who was not then present with the others, did not believe their testimony concerning Christ's Resurrection, but said in a decisive manner, "Except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe." Wherefore after eight days, that is, on this day, when the disciples were again gathered together and Thomas was with them, the Lord Jesus came while

the doors were shut, as He did formerly. Standing in their midst, He said, "Peace be unto you"; then He said to Thomas, "Bring hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and bring hither thy hand, and thrust it into My side: and be not unbelieving, but believing."

And Thomas, beholding and examining carefully the hands and side of the Master, cried out with faith, "My Lord and my God." Thus he clearly proclaimed the two natures - human and divine - of the God-man (Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-29).

This day is called Antipascha (meaning "in the stead of Pascha," not "in opposition to Pascha") because with this day, the first Sunday after Pascha, the Church consecrates every Sunday of the year to the commemoration of Pascha, that is, the Resurrection.



**May 05**

### Irene the Great Martyr

Saint Irene was the daughter of a princelet called Licinius; named Penelope by her parents, through a divine revelation she was brought to faith in

Christ and at Baptism was renamed Irene. In her zeal for piety she broke in pieces all the idols of her father, who commanded that she be trampled underfoot by horses. But while she remained unharmed, one of the horses rose up and cast down her father, killing him. By her prayer she raised him to life

again, and he believed and was baptized. Afterwards, in many journeyings, Saint Irene suffered torments and punishments for her faith, but was preserved by the power of God, while working dread miracles and converting many thousands of souls. At last she came to Ephesus, where she fell asleep in peace, in the first half of the fourth century. Two days after her death, her gravestone was found lifted off, and her grave empty. At least two churches were dedicated to Saint Irene in Constantinople, and she is also the patroness of the Aegean island of Thera, which is commonly called Santorin (or Santorini), a corruption of "Saint Irene."

## Parish Calendar

### Service and Events

May 5 to May 13, 2019

#### **Sunday, May 5**

Thomas Sunday  
Liturgical and Education Ministry meeting  
9:15AM Reading of the 3rd Hour  
9:30AM Divine Liturgy

#### **Monday, May 6**

Sharon Marie Watson  
Job the Prophet  
Blessing of Grave Sites  
6:00PM Great Vespers with Litya

#### **Tuesday, May 7**

Commemoration of the Precious Cross that appeared in the sky over Jerusalem in 351 A.D.  
St. Alexis Toth

9:00AM Divine Liturgy

#### **Wednesday, May 8**

Synaxis of the Holy Powder (or manna) which emitted from the tomb of Saint John the Theologian  
Neil Luckianow  
4:30PM Open Doors  
6:00PM Evening Prayers

#### **Thursday, May 9**

The Holy Prophet Esaias (Isaiah)  
8:30AM Daily Matins

#### **Friday, May 10**

Akathist to St Simon the Zealot  
Simon the Zealot & Apostle

#### **Saturday, May 11**

Methodius & Cyril, Equal-to-the Apostles  
Illuminators of the Slavs  
5:30PM Great Vespers

#### **Sunday, May 12**

Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women  
Fellowship and Stewardship Ministry  
Luba Martins  
Elisha Liam Watson  
9:15AM Reading of the 3rd Hour  
9:30AM Divine Liturgy

#### **Monday, May 13**

The Holy Martyr Glyceria

## Prayers, Intersessions and Commemorations



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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*Blessing of Graves this week.*

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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:*

**St. Thomas Sunday.** Great Martyr Irene (1st-2nd c.). Uncovering of the Relics of Ven. Jacob (James), Abbot of Zheleznobórovsk.

## Hymns of the Day

*Priest: "Blessed is the Kingdom ... "*

*Choir: "Amen."*

*Priest: "Christ is risen from the dead ..." (2 ½ times)*

*Choir: "and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!"*

*(The Divine Liturgy is begun in this manner until the Leavetaking of Pascha.)*

## Tone 7 Troparion (from the Pentecostarion)

From the sealed tomb, You shone forth, O Life!  
Through closed doors You came to Your Disciples, O Christ God.  
Renew in us, through them, an upright spirit, // by the greatness of Your mercy, O Resurrection of all!

## **Tone 8 Kontakion (from the Pentecostarion)**

Thomas touched Your life-giving side with an eager hand, O Christ God, when You came to Your Apostles through closed doors. He cried out with all: "You are my Lord and my God!"

## **Gospel and Epistle Readings**

### **Epistle Reading**

#### **Prokeimenon. 4th Tone. Psalm 146.5;134.3.**

Great is our Lord, and great is his power.  
Verse: Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good.

#### **The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 5:12-20.**

In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honor. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they

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were all healed. But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

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### **Gospel Reading**

#### **Thomas Sunday The Reading is from John 20:19-31**

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them: "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him: "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them: "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe."

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Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said: "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

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## Wisdom of the Fathers

For great is the dignity of the priests. ... And hold them very exceedingly in honor; for you indeed care about your own affairs, and if you order them well, you give no account for others; ...

### **St. John Chrysostom**

*Homily 86, 4th Century*

... but the priest even if he rightly order his own life, if he have not an anxious care for yours and that of all those around him, will depart with the wicked into hell; and often when not betrayed by his own conduct,

he perishes by yours, if he have not rightly performed all his part.

### **St. John Chrysostom**

*Homily 86, 4th Century*

## Reflection



To-day we are keeping the day of St Thomas the Apostle. Too often we remember him only as a doubter; indeed he is the one who questioned the message which the other Apostles brought to him when they said: Christ is risen!

We have seen Him alive!

But he is not one who doubted throughout his life or who remained unfaithful to the fullness of the divine revelation of Christ. We must remember that when the Apostles and the Lord heard of the illness of Lazarus, Christ said to them: Let us return to Jerusalem. To which the others said: But the Jews wanted to kill you there. Why should we return? Only Thomas the Apostle answered: Let us go with Him and die with Him. He was prepared not only to be His disciple in words, not only to follow Him as one follows a teacher, but to die with Him as one dies with a friend and, if necessary, for a friend. So, let us remember his greatness, his faithfulness, his wholeness. But what happened then when after the Resurrection of Christ, the Apostles said

to the one who had not seen Christ risen, that they had actually seen the risen Christ? Why did he not accept their message? Why did he doubt? Why did he say that he must have proofs, material proofs? Because when he looked at them, he saw them rejoicing in what they had seen, rejoicing that Christ was not dead, rejoicing that Christ was alive, rejoicing that victory had been won. Yet, when he looked at them he saw no difference in them.. These were the same men, only full of joy instead of fear. And Thomas said: Unless I see, unless I probe the Resurrection, I cannot believe you.

Is it not the same thing that anyone can say to us who meets us?

We proclaimed the Resurrection of Christ, passionately, sincerely, truthfully, a few days ago. We believe in it with all our being; and yet, when people meet us in our homes, in the street, in our place of work, anywhere, do they look at us and say: Who are these people? What has happened to them?

The Apostles had seen Christ risen, but the Resurrection had not become part of their own experience. They had not come out of death into eternal life. So it is also with us; except with the saints, when they see them, they know that their message is true.

What is it in our message that is not heard? Because we speak, but are not. We should be so different from people who have no experience of the living Christ, risen, who has shared His life with us, who sent the Holy Spirit to us as, in the words of C.S. Lewis, a living person is different from a statue. A statue may be beautiful, magnificent, glorious, but it is stone. A human being can be much less moving in his outer presence, yet he is alive, he is a testimony of life.

So let us examine ourselves. Let us ask ourselves where we are. Why is it that people who meet us never notice that we are limbs of the risen Christ, temples of the Holy Spirit? Why?

Each of us has got to give his own reply to this question. Let us, each of us, examine ourselves and be ready to answer before our own conscience and do what is necessary to change our lives in such away that people meeting us may look at us and say: Such people we have never seen. There is something about them that we have never seen in anyone. What is it? And we could answer: It is the life of Christ abroad in us. We are His limbs. This is the life of the Spirit in us. We are His temple. Amen.

April 30,1995 - METROPOLITAN ANTHONY OF SOUROZH