



St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre Orthodox Church

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Rector

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Services Schedule

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

Bulletin for Sunday, July 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 - General Confession;
First Wed of the Month
(The Church is open at 4:30p for "Open Doors" - during fasting seasons or by appointment).
Thursday at 8:30a - Daily Matins
Saturday at 5:30p - Great Vespers
Sunday at 9:30a - Divine Liturgy

Members of our Parish Council are:

Deacon Timothy Skuby - Attached
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

Anne and I will be taking our vacation from Sunday, July 28th through Sunday, August 4th.

Fr Sergei Bouteneff will be the celebrant on the 28th and Fr. David Mezynski will be the celebrant on the 4th. Vespers will be held the Saturday's before each Liturgy. Fr Dn Timothy will be the celebrant.

Beginning when I return from vacation in August, Open Doors will only be held only on the FIRST WEDNESDAY of the month, to be followed by General Confession: except during fasting seasons, when Open Doors will continue to be held every Wednesday. I will be available, by appointment, for all other Wednesdays.

Here is the link to last week's sermon...

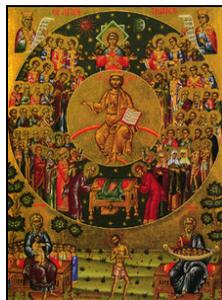
<https://stalexichurch.org/files/sermons/All-Saints-of-America.mp3>

Saints and Feasts

July 07

Akakios of Sinai

Saint Acacius of Sinai lived during the sixth century and was a novice at a certain monastery in Asia. The humble monk distinguished himself by his patient and



unquestioning obedience to his Elder, a harsh and dissolute man. He forced his disciple to toil excessively, starved him with hunger, and beat him without mercy. Despite such treatment, Saint Acacius meekly endured the affliction and thanked God for everything. Saint Acacius died after suffering these torments for nine years.

Five days after Acacius was buried, his Elder told another Elder about the death of his disciple. The second Elder did not believe that the young monk was dead. They went to the grave of Acacius and the second Elder called out: "Brother Acacius, are you dead?" From the grave a voice replied, "No, Father, how is it possible for an obedient man to die?" The startled Elder of Saint Acacius fell down with tears before the grave, asking forgiveness of his disciple.

After this he repented, constantly saying

to the Fathers, "I have committed murder." He lived in a cell near the grave of Saint Acacius, and he ended his life in prayer and in meekness. Saint John Climacus (March 30) mentions Saint Acacius in THE LADDER (Step 4:110) as an example of endurance and obedience, and of the rewards for these virtues.



July 07

Thomas the Righteous of Malea

Saint Thomas of Mt. Maleon was a military commander before he became a monk. Strong and brave, he had participated in many

battles, and brought victory to his countrymen, for which he gained glory and esteem. But, striving with all his heart towards God, Thomas abandoned the world and its honors, and he took monastic vows.

With great humility he visited monastic Elders, asking for guidance in the spiritual life. After several years Thomas received the blessing for solitary wilderness life and, led by a pillar of fire at night by the holy Prophet Elias, he settled on Mount Maleon (on the eastern part of Athos). Dwelling in complete seclusion, Saint Thomas fought with invisible enemies with as much courage as he had displayed against the visible enemies of his country.

The life and deeds of Saint Thomas could not be concealed from the surrounding area. People began to flock to him seeking spiritual guidance, and even those suffering from

sickness, since he received from God the blessing to heal infirmities.

Many believers received help through the prayers of the holy monk. Even after his death, he does not cease to heal those who seek his aid, from every passion and sickness.

Parish Calendar

Service and Events

July 7 to July 15, 2019

Sunday, July 7

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

Monday, July 8

Sitka Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos
The Holy Great Martyr Procopius

Tuesday, July 9

The Holy Hieromartyr Pancratius, Bishop of Tauromenium in Sicily
Jordan Veneri - B
8:30AM Daily Matins

Wednesday, July 10

Akathist to Sts Anthony & Theodosius
45 Holy Martyrs of Nikopolis, Armenia
4:30PM Open Doors
6:00PM Evening Prayers

Thursday, July 11

Euphemia the Great Martyr
Sonia Geyer - B
Nancy Dudchik - B

St. Olga, Princess of Russia
8:30AM Daily Matins

Friday, July 12

Proclus & Hilary the Martyrs of Ancyra
Akathist to Venerable Fr Paisios
John Skrobat - B

Saturday, July 13

Synaxis of Archangel Gabriel
5:30PM Great Vespers

Sunday, July 14

Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the 4th
Ecumenical Council
Fellowship and Stewardship Ministry
9:15AM Reading of the 3rd Hour
9:30AM Divine Liturgy

Monday, July 15

St. Vladimir Equal to the Apostles
The Holy Martyrs Cyricus and His Mother
Julitta
Skip & Deborah Bray - A

Prayers, Intersessions and Commemorations



William, Sophia, Robert,
Ann, Evelyn, Nina, John,
Alex, Vincent, James,
Luke, Aaron, Kathryn,
Anastasia, Malcolm,
Veronica, Richard,
Darlyne, Irene, Nancy,
Susanne

All of our College

Students: Alex, Sam, Nadia, Isaac and
Matthew.

Many years! to John Skrobat on the occasion
of his birthday.

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:

All Saints of Britain and Ireland. Ven.
Thomas of Mt. Maleon (10th c.). Ven. Acacius
of Sinai, who is mentioned in The Ladder (6th
c.). Ven. Eudoxia, in monasticism Euphrosyne,
Grand Duchess of Moscow (1407). Martyrs
Peregrinus, Lucian, Ompeius, Hesychius,
Papius, Saturninus, and Germanus, of
Dyrrachium in Macedonia (2nd c.). Martyr
Evangelus, Bishop of Tomi (Constanța) in
Romania (3rd-4th c.). Martyr Cyriaca of
Nicomedia (4th 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 (for Saints Thomas and Acacius)

O God of our Fathers,
always act with kindness towards us;
take not Your mercy from us,
but guide our lives in peace//
through the prayers of Saints Thomas and
Acacius!

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 2 Kontakion (Venerable Acacius)

Forsaking the world, you followed Christ from
childhood.

emulating His voluntary humility, you cast
down the prideful tyrant.
All-wise and venerable Acacius,
unceasingly pray for us all!

Gospel and Epistle Readings

Gospel Reading

3rd Sunday of Matthew

The Reading is from Matthew 6:22-33

The Lord said, "The eye is the lamp of the
body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body
will be full of light; but if your eye is not
sound, your whole body will be full of
darkness. If then the light in you is darkness,
how great is the darkness! No one can serve
two masters; for either he will hate the one
and love the other, or he will be devoted to
the one and despise the other. You cannot
serve God and mammon. Therefore I tell you,
do not be anxious about your life, what you
shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about
your body, what you shall put on. Is not life
more than food, and the body more than
clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they
neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns,
and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are
you not of more value than they? And which of
you by being anxious can add one cubit to his
span of life? And why are you anxious about
clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how
they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell
you, even Solomon in all his glory was not
arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes
the grass of the field, which today is alive and
tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not
much more clothe you,

O men of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."

Wisdom of the Fathers

For God, He said, gave us understanding, that we might chase away all ignorance, and have the right judgment of things, and that using this as a kind of weapon and light against all that is grievous or hurtful, we might remain in safety. But we betray the gift for the sake of things superfluous and useless.

St. John Chrysostom

Homily 20 and 21 on Matthew 6, 4th Century

A brother, more thrifty than covetous, ... left behind him at his death a hundred pieces of money which he had earned by weaving linen. ... a council was held as to what should be done [with the money] ... However, Macarius, Pambo, Isidore and the rest of those called fathers, speaking by the Spirit, decided that they should be interred with their owner, with the words: "Thy money perish with thee."

St. Jerome

Letter 22 to Eustochium

Reflection



So Do Not Worry

Source: [Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh Archive](#)

If we want to live as Christ says, seeking only the Kingdom of Heaven and its righteousness in the hope that everything else will be added thereto, we must radically change our whole attitude to life, and stop living in the way we do.

METROPOLITAN ANTHONY OF SOUROZH | 31 MAY 2015

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

When we read the words of the Saviour which speak of the simple and carefree way in which we could live, not considering about food and drink, not bothering about how to clothe our bodies — we are filled with two conflicting feelings. On the one hand we think: yes, how simple that would be, and why not live like that? Why not cast off responsibility, why not cast off worry which

constantly torment us? On the other hand, the opposite view: but that is impossible! Them we are faced with the question: can something that Christ says really be impossible? Surely His commandments are a way of life?

It seems to me that we can reconcile the opposing reactions in our souls by taking account of the stringent conditions that this freedom imposes. If we want to live as Christ says, seeking only the Kingdom of Heaven and its righteousness in the hope that everything else will be added thereto, we must radically change our whole attitude to life, and stop living in the way we do. The righteousness of the Kingdom of Heaven consists in loving God with our whole heart, with all our mind, with all our strength, and our neighbour as ourselves. That means that nothing, absolutely nothing, must remain in our lives that cannot be called love of God and love of our neighbour. It means that all our thoughts, all our powers, our whole heart must be devoted not to ourselves but to another — to God and to our neighbour. It means that everything that we possess, which gives us comfort and joy, belongs to God and our neighbour; it means that whatever we make use of over and above strict necessity, we are taking away from God and our neighbour.

Nothing that we have belongs to us; whatever we make use of, beyond bare necessity, we have stolen from someone else; whatever we do not part with of our free will, lovingly, we are seizing away from the miracle of God's kingdom of love. If this were to become our attitude, it would be easy to live by faith in God and the mercifulness of one's neighbour, for it would mean living in spiritual poverty and physically in such

uncovetousness as we cannot conceive of.

Here we see what lies behind the easy words of Christ: forget everything, the Father will look after you. They mean: have only the cares which are God's, the crucified care of the living God on Golgotha, and then you will enter that Kingdom, where you need nothing, and God will indeed provide everything.

