



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.

Bulletin for Sunday, August 25, 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

St Alexis is having our 4th Annual Rummage Sale!

Saturday September 21st 9:00 am-3:00pm

Dear Fellow Members of St Alexis,

It's time to start cleaning out those attics, cellars and garages, our 4th Annual St Alexis Parish Rummage Sale will be held on Saturday September 21st from 9:00-3:00, so please mark your calendars. As always, we are looking for volunteers to help again this year in whatever capacity you are able to. I will be putting a sign up sheet in the back of the church, please sign up before going down to coffee hour. Also, I will be printing up flyers, please take a few to post around your town!

We are also looking for someone (or a

group) to organize and run the Bake Sale. This has always been a great part of our sale! Thank you all in advance for your incredible sweet treats!

Below you will find the Rummage Sale schedule.

- Saturday Sept 14th.. first day to drop off donations
- Saturday Sept 14th through Wednesday 18th...bring donated items to church
- Monday Sept 16th through Wednesday Sept 18th (9:30-3:00) organize items
- Wednesday Sept 18th through Friday Sept 20th (9:30-3:00) organize and price items
- Saturday Sept 21st 7:00am....set up
- Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm..sale runs
- Saturday 3:00-4:00pm...clean up (bringing leftover items to goodwill)

Stations: bake sale, housewares, kitchen, bric'-a-brac'/holiday, treasures/jewelry, clothing/shoes, furniture, children's toys and games, books, lawn and garden,

We will be accepting donations starting on Saturday Sept 14th, please bring your clean and in working order items to the church and put them neatly downstairs towards the back of the room. The last day to drop off items will be on Wednesday, Sept 18th (please try to keep within this time frame, if you cannot make these dates and times, please make arrangements ahead of time with me). We are accepting most anything, however we would prefer that you do not bring old computer equipment, encyclopedias, camp fuel/sterno type

products. If you need any help getting your items to the church or have any questions, please do not hesitate to text/email or call me. Thank you in advance for your generous donations!!

Please join our team again, in whatever capacity you are able. Looking forward to working together in fun and fellowship.

Thank you!

Stasia

sx2vt@me.com call/text 860-395-9966

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Here is the link to last week's sermon: [The Church is One](#).

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Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries

OUR MISSION:

Our mission is to provide food and fellowship to those in need and educate our community about hunger and poverty.

Learn More ABOUT WHAT WE DO:

We provide enough food for over 1 million meals each year. This includes home-style meals served each day at one of our 9 meal sites, and groceries are available each week at one of our 5 food pantries. We are an interfaith ministry, with all locations hosted by faith communities.

APPLICANTS SOUGHT:

Executive Director

Are you looking for a place to make a difference in the community?

Do you have a passion for helping meet the needs of neighbors who are hungry?

SSKP is looking for someone to fill the position of Executive Director.

Download job description [here](#).

<https://www.shorelinesoupkitchens.org/images>,

Pantry Manager

We are seeking someone to join our team!

Are you ready to be part of a team that works to share food and fellowship with individuals in need?

We are looking for someone to join our team to help coordinate one of our food pantries.

Download job description [here](#).

<https://www.shorelinesoupkitchens.org/images>,

VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED!

New volunteer orientations are held monthly.

Our meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month at Grace Episcopal Church Parish hall, 336 Main Street, Old Saybrook, CT, 06475. No RSVP necessary. Times: 5:30 p.m.

for all mandatory community service volunteers only; 6:30 p.m. for all others - the minimum age for volunteers is 12 - youth and under need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Download our Volunteer Guide [here](#).

<https://www.shorelinesoupkitchens.org/images>,

Prayers, Intercessions and Commemorations



William, Sophia, Robert, Ann, Evelyn, Nina, John, Alex, Vincent, James, Luke, Aaron, Kathryn, Veronica, Richard, Darlyne, Irene, Nancy, Susanne
All of our College Students: Alex, Sam, Nadia, Isaac and Matthew.

Many years! to Edward Hayes, Anastasia Littlefield and Irene Kaiser on the occasion of their birthday. And to Maureen and Dn Timothy Skuby on the occasion of their anniversary.

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:

Return of the Relics of the Apostle Bartholomew from Anastasiopolis to Lipari (6th c.). Holy Apostle Titus of the Seventy, Bishop of Crete (1st c.). Ss. Barse and Eulogius, Bishops of Edessa, and St. Protogenes, Bishop of Carrhæ, Confessors (4th c.). St. Menas, Patriarch of Constantinople (536-552).

Parish Calendar

Services and Events

August 25 to September 2, 2019

Sunday, August 25

Buildings and Grounds Ministry Meeting
10th Sunday of Matthew
9:15AM Reading of the 3rd Hour
9:30AM Divine Liturgy

Monday, August 26

The Holy Martyrs Adrian and Natalie
Ed Hayes

Tuesday, August 27

Holy Martyr Phanurius
8:30AM Daily Matins
9:00AM Book Study
6:00PM Diocesan Council

Wednesday, August 28

Moses the Black of Scete

6:30PM Parish Council

Thursday, August 29

Beheading of the Holy and Glorious Prophet,
Forerunner and Baptist John
8:30AM Daily Matins
7:00PM Book Study

Friday, August 30

Apodosis of the Feast of the Forerunner
Skuby - A
Anastasia Elliott - B
John, Amy & Kevin Andrews - B

Saturday, August 31

The Placing of the Honorable Sash of the
Most Holy Theotokos
Irene Kaiser - B
5:30PM Great Vespers

Sunday, September 1

Liturgical and Education Ministry meeting
Church New Year
9:15AM Reading of the 3rd Hour
9:30AM Divine Liturgy

Monday, September 2

Voytovich - A

Saints and Feasts

August 25

Return of the Body of Bartholomew the Glorious Apostle

Concerning the Apostle Bartholomew, see
June 11

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2019/06/11/10/apostle-bartholomew-of-the-twelve>

August 25

Titus the Apostle of the 70

Saint Titus was a Greek by race, and an idolater. But having believed in Christ through the Apostle Paul, he became Paul's disciple and follower and labored with him greatly in the preaching of the Gospel. When Paul ordained him Bishop of Crete, he later wrote to him the Epistle which bears his name. Having shepherded in an apostolic manner the flock that had been entrusted to him, and being full of days, he reposed in peace, some ninety-four years of age.

Hymns of the Day



Tone 1 Troparion (Resurrection)

When the stone had
been sealed by the Jews,
while the soldiers were
guarding Your most pure
^body,

You rose on the third
day, O Savior, granting life to the world.
The powers of heaven therefore cried to You,
O Giver of Life:
"Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ!
Glory to Your ^Kingdom!//
Glory to Your dispensation, O Lover of
mankind!"

Tone 3 Troparion (Holy Apostles Bartholomew and Titus)

Holy Apostles, Bartholomew and Titus,
entreat the merciful God,
to grant our souls forgiveness of
transgressions!

Tone 1 Kontakion (Resurrection)

As God, You rose from the tomb in glory,
raising the world with Yourself.
Human nature praises You as God, for death
has vanished.
Adam exults, O Master!
Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage
and cries to You://
"You are the Giver of Resurrection to all, O
Christ!"

Tone 4 Kontakion (Holy Apostle Bartholomew)

You appeared as a great sun to the world with
miracles and rays of teaching.
You guide to the Light all who venerate you,
O Apostle of the Lord, Bartholomew.

Tone 2 Kontakion (Holy Apostle Titus)

Titus, worthy of all praise and preacher of
Christ's mysteries,
you were Paul's companion, and with him
taught us the doctrine of God.
Therefore we cry out to you:
"Never cease to intercede for the sake of us
all!"

Gospel and Epistle Readings

Epistle Reading

Prokeimenon. 1st Tone. Psalm 32.22,1.
Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us.

Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 4:9-16.

Brethren, God has exhibited us apostles as last
of all, like men sentenced to death; because
we have become a spectacle to the world, to
angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's
sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak,
but you are strong. You are held in honor, but
we in disrepute. To the present hour we
hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted
and homeless, and we labor, working with our
own hands. When reviled, we bless; when
persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we
try to conciliate; we have become, and are
now, as the refuse of the world, the off-
scouring of all things. I do not write this to
make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my
beloved children. For though you have
countless guides in Christ, you do not have
many fathers. For I became your father in
Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you,
then, be imitators of me.

Gospel Reading

10th Sunday of Matthew The Reading is from Matthew 17:14-23

At that time, a man came up to Jesus and
kneeling before him said, "Lord, have mercy on
my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers
terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and
often into the water. And I brought him to your
disciples, and they could not heal him." And
Jesus answered, "O faithless

and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move hence to yonder place,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. But this kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting." As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day."

Wisdom of the Fathers

Yet if his unbelief was the cause ... why does He blame the disciples? Signifying, that even without persons to bring the sick in faith, they might in many instances work a cure.

St. John Chrysostom

Homily 57 on Matthew 17, 4th Century

For as the faith of the person presenting oftentimes availed for receiving the cure, even from inferior ministers; so the power of the doers oftentimes sufficed, even without belief in those who came to work the miracle.

St. John Chrysostom

Homily 57 on Matthew 17, 4th Century

Beyond the Sermon



I believe, O Lord, help my unbelief!

What a cry of inner struggle! This phrase has always befuddled me. I believe...yet, help my unbelief. Was the man who exclaimed this confused or was he

contradicting himself?

Contradiction - this is what Christianity is made up of. In fact, the late Fr Tom Hopko used to say that Christianity is paradox or Orthodoxy is paradox. To live we need to die. To be first we become last. To be rich we become poor. To be wise we become fools. To rule is to serve.

And then there is "I believe, help my unbelief." We can almost identify with this man. We believe, we really do, but there are moments, stretches of time when we struggle, we question our faith, we question God, we question His existence in our life.

I believe, help my...hold on, do I believe? Prayer sometimes isn't answered. Questions, doubts, even inner agony seem to be avoided at times when we need the response the most. I believe, help my unbelief!

But then we remember times when we came in contact with Christ, when we definitely

felt His presence in our life. It may have been for a fleeting moment, or maybe for a longer period, but He was there.

I believe, O Lord, help my unbelief!

We've heard stories from people we know, read about events that can't be rationally explained. The only thing left is to admit that there is God and He does act in our life. But the paradox is - He does it on His terms, not ours.

I believe, help my unbelief!

We begin to believe when we realize that we do not. You know the saying "you do not know what you have until you lose it"? To gain faith, we live our life as if we lost it, as if we lose it every day, in order to receive it every day.

I believe, help my unbelief!

This is one of the most powerful statements in the Bible because it is one of the most honest. Yet, we are not called today to admit that we have no faith because that is not true. We do believe, maybe a little, maybe a lot, but we do believe.

I believe, help my unbelief...

...is the call to realize that our faith, whatever it is, is still incomplete. Even when we believe, we look for reassurances from God, and that is perfectly normal. That's why Christ said, "Ask, and it will be given you. Knock, and the doors will be opened for you" (Matthew 7:7).

I believe, help my unbelief...

...is another paradox of our faith - no matter what we do or how much we believe, our faith will not be perfect in this life, it can't be perfect. In fact, the best confession of faith we are capable of, the strongest faith we can have in this life is precisely...

...I believe, O Lord, help my unbelief...

When we say this with the full conviction

of the man from today's Gospel reading we are (a) honest; and (b) ask Christ to complete whatever we are still lacking.

I believe, help my unbelief, O Lord, and if You are able to do anything, have mercy on us and help us.

Amen.

<http://www.singac.com/articles/sermon-i-believe-help-my-unbelief>

