



## 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, September 15, 2019

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### 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**

Please mark your calendars: [Saturday the 28th](#) will be our parish picnic. The Kuziak's have offered to host once again. I will have more information for you next week.

As we will be hosting the Diocesan Assembly this coming [October 24th](#) and 25th, you have a unique privilege of attending the meeting. Metropolitan Tikhon will be presiding (this will be the first time that His Beatitude will be at St Alexis). If you would like to attend any of the scheduled meetings, please talk with me about signing up as an observer. I have the necessary form to be filled out.

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LYRA Concert

<https://stalexischurch.ticketleap.com/>

**LYRA**, an a cappella group or professional singers from St. Petersburg, Russia, The first part of the concert - sacred music of Russian Orthodox church, includes ancient songs to works of famous masters and little-known but remarkable Russian composers of 18th - 20th centuries. The second part of their program is made up of Russian folk songs: comic, lyric, dancing, and love songs. The duration of the concert is 60 - 70 minutes.

As part of its 25th Anniversary celebration, St. Alexis Church of Clinton, Connecticut, is proud to host this cultural event for the town of Clinton. We're very excited to welcome these professional musicians and singers for their only Connecticut performance during their current six-week East Coast tour.

**Ticket prices** are \$15 General Admission; \$10 Student (w/ID). Children 12 and younger are free. A Special Rate for student groups is available (\$5 each, (balcony seats). Tickets available online or at the door.

ANDREWS MEMORIAL TOWN HALL  
AUDITORIUM [54 E Main St, Clinton, CT 06413](#)

[SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19 2019 4:00 PM — 5:30 PM](#)

<https://stalexischurch.ticketleap.com/>

In Christ,  
Fr Steven

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There are several flyers attached to the electronic bulletin; please take a look at them when you have the chance.

The link for last week's sermon on the Sunday of the Nativity of the Theotokos is <https://stalexischurch.org/files/sermons/12th-Sunday.mp3>

## 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 Melissa Josefiak on the occasion of her birthday.

Memory Eternal +Archbishop Nikon

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:

**Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross. Sunday after Elevation.** Greatmartyr Nicetas (Nikita) the Goth (ca. 372). Uncovering of the Relics of St. Acacius, Bishop of Melitene (3rd c.). Martyrs Theodotus, Asclepiodotus, and Maximus, of Adrianopolis (305-311). Martyr Porphyrius the Actor (361). Uncovering of the Relics of the Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen (415). St. Philotheus the Presbyter, in Asia Minor (10th c.). Ven. Joseph, Abbot, of Alaverdsk in Georgia (570). St. Joseph the New of Partos, Metropolitan of Timisoara (1656).

## Parish Calendar

### Services and Events

September 15 to September 23, 2019

#### Sunday, September 15

Evangelism and Outreach Ministry meeting

9:15AM Reading of the 3rd Hour  
9:30AM Divine Liturgy

### Monday, September 16

Melissa Josefiak

### Tuesday, September 17

Akathist to Sts Faith, Hope, Charity & Sophia  
8:30AM Daily Matins  
9:00AM Book Study  
6:30PM Parish council

### Wednesday, September 18

Eumenius the Wonderworker, Bishop of Gortynia

### Thursday, September 19

Trophimus, Sabbatius, & Dorymedon the Martyrs  
8:30AM Daily Matins

### Friday, September 20

Eustathius the Great Martyr, his wife and two children

### Saturday, September 21

Luft - A  
9:00AM Parish Tag Sale  
4:30PM Great Vespers

### Sunday, September 22

Buildings and Grounds Ministry Meeting  
1st Sunday of Luke  
9:15AM Reading of the 3rd Hour  
9:30AM Divine Liturgy

### Monday, September 23

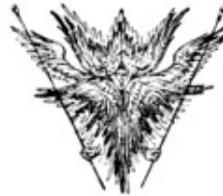
The Conception of St. John the Baptist

## September 15

### Nikitas the Great Martyr

This Saint was of high birth among the Goths beyond the Danube River. He was taken by Athanaric, pagan ruler of the Goths, and after being tortured, was burned to death for his confession of Christ. According to some, this took place during the reign of Saint Constantine the Great; according to others, under the Emperor Gratian.

### 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**

O Lord, save Your people  
and bless Your inheritance!  
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians  
over their adversaries;  
and by virtue of Your Cross, //  
preserve Your habitation!

## Saints and Feasts

**Tone 3 Troparion (Greatmartyr Nicetas)**

You defeated error and triumphed in martyrdom,  
 Nicetas, namesake of victory;  
 for you conquered the ranks of the enemy  
 and ended your † contest by fire.//  
 Pray to Christ our God to grant us His great  
 mercy!

**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 2 Kontakion (Greatmartyr Nicetas)**

You stood firm and defeated delusion  
 and have received your martyr's crown,  
 Nicetas, namesake of victory;  
 you are rejoicing with the Angels,  
 together with them you are praying  
 unceasingly to Christ God for us all.

**Tone 4 Kontakion****Elevation of the Cross Elevation of the Cross**

As You were voluntarily raised upon the Cross  
 for our sake,  
 grant mercy to those who are called by Your  
 Name, O Christ God;  
 make all Orthodox Christians glad by your  
 power,  
 granting them victories over their  
 adversaries//  
 by bestowing on them the invincible trophy,  
 Your weapon of peace!

**(Instead of "It is truly meet ...," we sing:)**

Tone 8  
 Magnify, O my soul, the most precious Cross  
 of the Lord!  
 You are a mystical Paradise, O Theotokos,  
 who, though untilled, have brought forth  
 Christ;  
 through Him the life-bearing wood of the  
 Cross was planted on earth.  
 Now at its Elevation,  
 as we bow in worship before it, we magnify  
 you.

**Communion Hymns**

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him  
 in the highest!  
 The light of Your countenance has shone on  
 us, O Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**Gospel and Epistle Readings****Epistle Reading****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 Galatians 2:16-20.**

Brethren, knowing that a man is not justified  
 by works of the law but through faith in Jesus  
 Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus,  
 in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and  
 not by works of the law, because by works of  
 the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our  
 endeavor to be

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justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

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## Gospel Reading

### Sunday after Holy Cross

#### The Reading is from Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

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## Wisdom of the Fathers

And see how He also makes His discourse unexceptionable: not saying at all, "whether you will, or no, you must suffer this," but how? "If any man will come after me."

### St. John Chrysostom

*Homily 55 on Matthew 16, 1. B#54, p.339., 4th Century*

"I force not, I compel not, but each one I make lord of his own choice; wherefore also I say, 'If any man will.' For to good things do I call you, not to things evil, or burdensome; not to punishment and vengeance, that I should have to compel.

### St. John Chrysostom

*Homily 55 on Matthew 16, 1. B#54, p.339., 4th Century*

## Beyond the Sermon

Saint John Maximovitch



The Cross, The  
Preserver of the  
Universe  
Icon  
September 14

In the prophet Ezekiel (9:6) it is said that when the Angel of the Lord was sent to punish and destroy the sinning people, it was told him not to strike those on whom the "mark" had been made. In the original text this mark is called "tau," the Hebrew letter corresponding to the letter "T," which is how in ancient times the cross was made, which then was an instrument of punishment.

And so, even then was foretold the power of the Cross, which preserves those who venerate it. Likewise by many other events in the Old Testament the power of the Cross was indicated. Moses, who held his arms raised in the form of a cross during the battle, gave victory to the Israelites over the Amalekites. He also, dividing the Red Sea by a blow of his rod and by a transverse blow uniting the waters again, saved Israel from Pharaoh, who drowned in the water, while Israel crossed over on the dry bottom (Exodus, Chs. 14, 17).

Through the laying on of his hands in the form of a cross on his grandsons, Jacob gave a blessing to his descendants, foretelling at the same time their future until the coming of the "expectation of the nations" (Genesis, Ch. 48).

By the Cross, the Son of God having become man, accomplished our salvation. He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross (Phil. 2:8). Having stretched out His hands upon the Cross, the Saviour with them, as it were, embraced the world, and by His blood shed on it, like a king with red ink, He signed the forgiveness of the human race.

The Cross of the Lord was the instrument by which He saved the world after the fall into sin. Through the Cross, He descended with His soul into hell so as to raise up from it the souls who were awaiting Him. By the Cross, Christ opened the doors of paradise which had been closed after our first ancestors had been banished from it. The Cross was sanctified by the Body of Christ which was nailed to it when He gave Himself over to torments and death for the salvation of the world, and it itself was then filled with life-giving power. By the Cross on Golgotha, the prince of this world was cast out (John 12:31) and an end was put to his authority. The weapon by which he was crushed became the sign of Christ's victory.

The demonic hosts tremble when they see the Cross, for by the Cross the kingdom of hell was destroyed. They do not dare to draw near to anyone who is guarded by the Cross.

The whole human race, by the death of Christ on the Cross, received deliverance from the authority of the devil, and everyone who makes use of this saving weapon is inaccessible to the demons.

When legions of demons appeared to St. Anthony the Great and other desert-dwellers, they guarded themselves with the Sign of the Cross, and the demons vanished.

When they appeared to Saint Symeon the Stylite, who was standing on his pillar, what seemed to be a chariot to carry him to heaven, the Saint, before mounting it, crossed himself; it disappeared and the enemy, who had hoped to cast down the ascetic from the height of his pillar, was put

to shame.

One cannot enumerate all the separate examples of the manifestation of the power of the Cross in various incidents. Invisibly and unceasingly there gushes from it the Divine grace that saves the world.

The Sign of the Cross is made at all the Mysteries and prayers of the Church. With the making of the Sign of the Cross over the bread and wine, they become the Body and Blood of Christ. With the immersion of the Cross, the waters are sanctified. The Sign of the Cross looses us from sins. "When we are guarded by the Cross, we oppose the enemy, not fearing his nets and barking." Just as the flaming sword in the hands of the Cherubim barred the entrance into paradise of old, so the Cross now acts invisibly in the world, guarding it from perdition.

The Cross is the unconquerable weapon of pious kings in the battle with enemies. Through the apparition of the Cross in the sky, the dominion of Emperor Constantine was confirmed and an end was put to the persecution against the Church. The apparition of the Cross in the sky in Jerusalem in the days of Constantius the Arian proclaimed the victory of Orthodoxy. By the power of the Cross of the Lord, Christian kings reign and will reign until Antichrist, barring his path to power and restraining lawlessness (Saint John Chrysostom, Commentary on 11 Thes. 2:6-7).

The "sign of the Son of Man" (Matt. 24:30), that is, the Cross, will appear in the sky in order to proclaim the end of the present

world and the coming of the eternal Kingdom of the Son of God. Then all the tribes of the earth shall weep, because they loved the present age and its lusts, but all who have endured persecution for righteousness and called on the name of the Lord shall rejoice and be glad. The Cross then will save from eternal perdition all who conquered temptations by the Cross, who crucified their flesh with its passions and lusts, and took up their cross and followed their Christ.

But those who hated the Cross of the Lord and did not engrave the Cross in their soul will perish forever. For "the Cross is the preserver of the whole universe, the Cross is the beauty of the Church, the Cross is the might of kings, the Cross is the confirmation of the faithful, the Cross is the glory of angels and the scourge of demons" (Monday Matins).

