



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, March 01, 2020

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:

Joseph Barbera - Council Member at Large
Dori Kuziak - Council Secretary
Natalie Kucharski - Council Treasurer
Glenn PenkoffLidbeck - Council President
Kyle Hollis - Member at Large
Roderick Seurattan - Council Vice President

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**Prayer for the Beginning of the Forty Day Fast**

O GOD, thou Hope of all the ends of the earth, and of those far off at sea, who didst foretell these holy days of fasting in the Law and the Prophets and the Evangelists: count all of us worthy to pass the course of the Fast in purity, to preserve the Faith undivided, and to keep thy commandments all the days of our lives. Bid an Angel of peace to preserve our comings-in and our

goings-out for every good work, being obedient together, and together pleasing thee, unto a perfect communion of thy most pure Mysteries. Accept, O Master, the bending of our knees and the fasting of thy servants, granting them and all of us spiritual blessing, in Christ Jesus, our Lord, with whom thou art blessed, together with thy most holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

Day Light Savings Time begins Sunday, March 8th**Confessions**

Through out Lent, I will be available for confessions during "Open Doors" on Wednesdays from 4:30p to 6p: Also after morning Matins on Tuesdays and Thursdays: Before and after Compline on Firdays (if scheduled); and before and after Vespers on Saturdays. Please do not expect to give confession on Sundays before Liturgy or throughout Holy Week. Part of Lent is to prepare and offer confession. I would appreciate it if you would do so in a timely fashion. Thank you.

Lenten Services

Throughout Lent, services will follow a typical pattern of Lenten Matins on Tuesdays and Thursdays (beginning at 8:30a); Presanctified Liturgy on Wednesdays (beginning at 6p), Compline on Fridays (also beginning at 6p) and Lenten Vespers on Sundays (beginning 4p - please see the schedule included with this bulletin). Saturday Vespers and Sunday

Liturgy are not Lenten Services, but this doesn't mean that they should be ignored.

Many Thanks

My gratitude for everyone who participated in last weekend's Chilli/Chowder Cook-off: to everyone who cooked, provided food, brought canned goods and non-perishable foods; to those who setup and helped clean up afterwards. This year's "winner" was Sharon Hanson! We were able to raise over \$600 for IOCC. Thank you all.

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, Jack and Matthew.

- 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.

Many Years! to Michael and Zachary Neiss on the occasion of their birthday.

Today we commemorate:

SUNDAY OF CHEESEFARE — The Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise. Martyr Eudoxia of Heliopolis (ca. 160-170). Ven. Martyrii (Martyrius) of Zelenétsk (Pskov—1603). Martyrs Nestor and Tribimius (3rd c.). Martyr Antonina of Nicæa in Bithynia (3rd-4th c.). Martyrs Marcellus and Anthony. Virgin Domnina of Syria (ca. 450-460). Ven. Agapius of Vatopedi (Mt. Athos).

Parish Calendar

Services and Events

March 1 to March 9, 2020

Sunday, March 1

Forgiveness Sunday
Mission Sunday
9:15AM Reading of the 3rd Hour
9:30AM Divine Liturgy
12:00PM Forgiveness Vespers

Monday, March 2

Akathist to St Chad (Ceadda)
Hesychius the Martyr
6:00PM Canon of St Andrew

Tuesday, March 3

The Holy Martyrs Eutropius, Cleonicus, and Basiliscus
Michael and Zachary Neiss
8:30AM Daily Matins
9:00AM Bible Study
6:00PM Canon of St Andrew

Wednesday, March 4

Gerasimus the Righteous of Jordan
4:30PM Open Doors
6:00PM Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

Thursday, March 5

Conon the Gardener
8:30AM Daily Matins
6:00PM Canon of St Andrew

Friday, March 6

42 Martyrs of Amorion in Phrygia
6:00PM Lenten Compline

Saturday, March 7

First Saturday of Lent: The Commemoration of the Miracle of Kollyva wrought by Saint Theodore the Tyro
5:30PM Great Vespers

Sunday, March 8

Sunday of Orthodoxy
Fellowship and Stewardship Ministry
9:15AM Reading of the 3rd Hour
9:30AM Divine Liturgy

Monday, March 9

The Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebastia

Saints and Feasts

March 01

Forgiveness Sunday

The Holy Fathers have appointed the commemoration of Adam's exile from the Paradise of delight here, on the eve of the holy Forty-day Fast, demonstrating to us not by simple words, but by actual deeds, how beneficial fasting is for man, and how harmful and destructive are insatiety and the transgressing of the divine commandments. For the first commandment that God gave to man was that of fasting, which the first-fashioned received but did not keep; and not only did they not become gods, as they had imagined, but they lost even that blessed life which they had, and they fell into corruption and death, and transmitted these and innumerable other evils to all of mankind. The God-bearing Fathers set these things before us today, that by bringing to mind what we have fallen from, and what we have suffered because of the insatiety and disobedience

of the first-fashioned, we might be diligent to return again to that ancient bliss and glory by means of fasting and obedience to all the divine commands. Taking occasion from today's Gospel (Matt. 6:14-21) to begin the Fast unencumbered by enmity, we also ask forgiveness this day, first from God, then from one another and all creation.

March 01

The Holy Righteous Martyr Eudocia the Samaritan

This Saint, who was from Heliopolis of Phoenicia (Baalbek in present-day Lebanon), was an idolater and led a licentious life. Being beautiful beyond telling, she had many lovers, and had acquired great riches. Yet brought to repentance by a monk named Germanus, and baptized by Bishop Theodotus, she distributed to the poor all her ill-gotten gains, and entered a convent, giving herself up completely to the life of asceticism. Her former lovers, enraged at her conversion, her refusal to return to her old ways, and the withering away of her beauty through the severe mortifications she practiced, betrayed her as a Christian to Vincent the Governor, and she was beheaded, according to some, under Trajan, who reigned from 98 to 117, according to others, under Hadrian, who reigned from 117 to 138.

March 02

Hesychius the Martyr

Holy martyr Hesychius lived during the reign of king Maximian in 302. He was the first and the leader in the royal palace and the Senate, because he was magistrianus by office. When Maximian ordered that all Christians who were royal soldiers ought to be deprived of their belts (which were a sign of their royal merit) and live as civilians and without honour, many

Christians preferred to live without any outward honour due to this illegal order than to be honoured and lose their soul. St. Hesychius was numbered with these Christians as well. When the king heard this, he ordered that the saint ought to be stripped of the expensive clothes, which he used to wear, and be dressed with a shabby mantle without sleeves woven from hair and to be as disgraced and disdained as to consort with women.

When this had been carried out, the king invited him and asked him: "Aren't you ashamed, Hesychius, that you lost the honour and office of magistrianus and that you have been debased to this kind of life? Or maybe you don't know that the Christians, whose way of life you preferred, have no power to restore you to your previous great honour and office?" The saint replied: "Your honour, o king, is temporary but the honour and glory which Christ gives is eternal and without end." Because of these words the king got angry and ordered his men to tie a great millstone around the saint's neck and then to throw him in

the middle of river Orontus, which lies in Coele Syria and which is commonly called Oronge. Thus, the blessed man received the crown of martyrdom from the Lord.

March 05

Conon the Gardener

This saint lived during the reign of emperor Decius in 251. He came from the town of Nazareth. He left his hometown and went to the city of Mandron, in the province

of Pamphylia. There he stayed at a place called Karmela or Karmena cultivating a garden which he used to water and plant with various vegetables. From this garden he obtained what is necessary for life. He had such an upright and simple mind that, when he met those who wished to arrest him and saw that they greeted him, he also greeted in return from the bottom of his soul and heart. When they told him that governor Publius called the saint to go to him, the saint answered with simplicity: "What does the governor need me, since I am a Christian? Let him call those who think the way he does and have the same religion with him." So, the blessed man was tied and brought to the governor, who tried to move him to sacrifice to the idols. But the saint sighed from the bottom of his heart, cursed the tyrant and confirmed his faith in Christ with his confession, saying that it is not possible to be moved from it even though he might be tortured cruelly. So, for this reason they nailed his feet and made the saint run in front of the governor's coach. But the saint fainted in the street.

Having fallen on his knees, he prayed and, thus, he commended his holy soul to the hands of God.

Hymns of the Day



Tone 4 Troparion (Resurrection)

When the women
disciples of the Lord
learned from the angel
the joyous message of
thy 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 6 Kontakion (from the Lenten Triodion)

O Master, Teacher of wisdom,
Bestower of virtue,
Who teach the thoughtless and protect the
poor,
strengthen and enlighten my heart!
O Word of the Father,
let me not restrain my mouth from crying to
You:
"Have mercy on me, a transgressor,//
O merciful Lord!"

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him
in the highest! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Gospel and Epistle Readings

Epistle Reading

Prokeimenon. 8th Tone. Psalm 75.11,1.

Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them.

Verse: God is known in Judah; his name is great in Israel.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4.

Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far

gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.

Gospel Reading

Forgiveness Sunday

The Reading is from Matthew 6:14-21

The Lord said, "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

"And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your

head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Wisdom of the Fathers

Henceforward then we must be free from our listlessness; "for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed."[*] You see how he puts the Resurrection now close by them. For as the time advances, he means, the season of our present life is wasting

away, and that of the life to come waxes nearer. If then thou be prepared, and hast done all whatsoever He hath commanded, the day is salvation to thee...Yes, for the day is calling us to battle-array, and to the fight. Yet fear not at hearing of array and arms. For in the case of the visible suit of armor, to put it on is a heavy and abhorred task. But here it is desirable, and worth being prayed for. For it is of Light the arms are! Hence they will set thee forth brighter than the sunbeam, and giving out a great glistening, and they place thee in security: for they are arms, and glittering do they make thee: for arms of light are they!...It is the deadly kind of passions then that he is for extinguishing, lust, namely, and anger.

Wherefore it is not themselves only, but even the sources of them that he removes. For there is nothing that so kindles lust, and inflames wrath, as drunkenness, and sitting long at the wine...

St. John Chrysostom

Homily 25 on Romans 13, 4th Century

Beyond the Sermon



Metropolitan Anthony of
Sourozh
SUNDAY OF
FORGIVENESS
LITURGY
12 March 1989

In the Name of the

Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

After these weeks of preparation during which we have examined our soul, our lives, all our relationship before the eyes and the judgement of God, we enter today into the joy of Lent; the joy of Lent. The word 'lent' means the spring; it is a beginning, and a beginning of life, a beginning of newness, a new time. It is a time when we will no longer be reminded of our own sins, no longer be confronted with images in parables of fall and repentance, but faced with the names of Saints who have started their lives as we start them: the frail, weak, vacillating, but who by the grace of God, by the power of God have become what they are: men, women, children whom we can

venerate, in whom we can rejoice, who can be set as examples to us, to whom we can turn for their prayers unto salvation.

Tonight we will start on this journey; on the journey that leads us from our sinful condition, recognised, repentant unto a new time, unto the Resurrection of Christ which is the beginning for us of our own eternal life. We will start on this journey to-night as the people of Israel started from the land of Egypt for the Promised Land: still frail, still burdened, still incompletely free. But it is not by looking back at ourselves, but by looking towards the Living God Who is Life and salvation, and to the example of those who have been victorious by the power of God that we will find courage, inspiration to come to the final victory, to the newness of life which is our calling and God's promise. We will have to journey together, and we must not be in any delusion: we will be difficult for one another as companions on the journey; but we will

depend on one another if we want to achieve to come to an end, — in the same way in which the Israelites were in the desert: not always obedient to God, not always loyal to one another, and yet, needing each other in order to reach the promised goal. So, let us start now; let us think of the feast which we keep next Sunday: Triumph of Orthodoxy. It is not the triumph of the Orthodox over anyone else; it is the triumph of God over people. The triumph of His truth, the triumph of God in the lives of people. And then, let us look at one saint after the other, and listen to what he has got to say to us: Gregory Palamas, John of the Ladder, Mary of Egypt and all those who have

followed in the footsteps of Christ. And we will then reach the point at which we must forget everyone and everything, and remember nothing, no one but the Lord Jesus Christ: what He is, what He has done for us, what He is doing for us. Let us learn to forget ourselves in the course of those weeks, joyfully, gratefully, that we can now turn away from ourselves and look only Godwards. And when the time of Passion week comes, again, in a new way, with a new determination, with a new renunciation to ourselves, turn and look at God Who has become man that we may be saved, and be grateful, forget ourselves, remember only Him and He will remember us unto salvation. Amen.



CTd - OCAGB lenten vespers 2020



Sunday March 8

Sunday of Orthodoxy—Vespers

CT Deanery: Christ the Savior, Southbury 4:00 p.m.

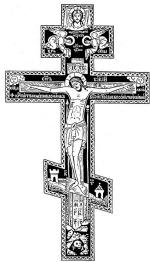
OCAGB: St. John the Baptist, Bridgeport 4:00 p.m.

Sunday March 15 2nd Sunday of Lent

St. Gregory Palamas—Vespers

CT Deanery: St. Alexis Church, Clinton — 4:00 p.m.

OCAGB: Holy Brancoveanu Martyrs, Fairfield 4:00 p.m.



Sunday March 22 3rd Sunday of Lent

Veneration of the Holy Cross—Vespers—

FORCC Sunday

Holy Trinity Church, Bridgeport—4:00 p.m.

Sunday March 29 4th Sunday of Lent

St. John Climacus—Vespers

CT Deanery: Holy Transfiguration, New Haven 4:00 p.m.

OCAGB: St. John the Baptist Church —

Silver Lane, Stratford 4:00 p.m.



Sunday April 5 5th Sunday of Lent -

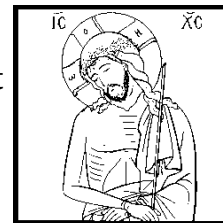
St. Mary of Egypt - Holy Unction Service

Three Saints Church – Ansonia 4:00 p.m.

Sunday April 12 6th Sunday of Lent

Bridegroom Matins

Holy Ghost Church, Bridgeport, (in cooperation with Saint George Church, Trumbull, CT) 4:00 p.m.



Lenten Retreat

Stewardship & Personal Evangelism

Retreat Master

Fr. John Parker, *Dean of St. Tikhon's Seminary*

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church
74 Joe's Hill Rd.
Danbury CT

Saturday, March 14

9:30 am – Morning Prayers

- 9:45 am to 10:45 am – Talk on Stewardship
- 10:45 am to 11 am - Break
- 11:15 am to 12 noon – Talk on Personal Evangelism
- 12 noon to 12:30 pm – Akathist of Repentance
- 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm – Lenten Lunch
- 1:30 pm to 3 pm - Talk and Summation on Personal Evangelism

3:30 PM Vespers

Free will offering and a collection for St. Tikhon's Seminary



○ Lord and Master of my
life, take from me the
spirit of sloth, despondency,
lust for power and idle talk.

But grant unto me, Thy
servant, a spirit of
chastity, humility, patience
and love.

Yea, O Lord and King, grant
me to see mine own faults
and not to judge my broth-
ers and sisters. For
blessed art Thou unto ages
of ages.

Amen