



St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre Orthodox Church

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Rector

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Attached

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Services Schedule

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

Bulletin for Sunday, September 13, 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

During this COVID era, services dates and times are subject to change. Please read the schedule provided withing the bulletin itself for the dates and times of services, and whether they will be held "in person" or streamed via Zoom.

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

What will it take for you to return to Church? Seriously... I would like your thoughts!

It's a simple question, but very difficult to answer: What will it take for you to return to Church?

I am honestly interested in your answers. Please give this question some thought and provide me with your answer, by phone, text or email.

Annual Meeting

We are still in need of nominations for the following: 2 positions on the parish council, 1 representative for the Diocesan Assembly, 1 representative for the All-American Council. Please talk with Fr Steven or Dori Kuziak if you are willing to be nominated for any of these positions.

Status

As a reminder, according to the ByLaws of the Parish, if you are not receiving the sacraments, you are considered a NON-voting member of the community. A VOTING member is someone who receives the sacraments and has received Communion at least once during the past year AND contributes to the parish with their Time, Treasure and (or) Talent. Please refer to the ByLaws ([available here](#)) or consult with Fr Steven should you have any questions about your status within the parish.

Please be sure to double check the times of services on the schedule! If you wish to attend Liturgy, be sure to email Fr Steven to ask for a blessing. It is imperative that we have an accurate count of attendees.

Services will still be held via Zoom. The invitation for which I am including below: [HERE](#)

Topic: All Services

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4716784843?
pwd=dzB0MjY1cnVIUUFWNXBCako1ekZ0ZzC](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4716784843?pwd=dzB0MjY1cnVIUUFWNXBCako1ekZ0ZzC)

Meeting ID: 471 678 4843
Passcode: 1994
One tap mobile
+19292056099,,4716784843#,,,,,0#,,1994#
US (New York)
+13017158592,,4716784843#,,,,,0#,,1994#
US (Germantown)

Dial by your location
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
Meeting ID: 471 678 4843
Passcode: 1994
Find your local number:
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4716784843?
pwd=dzB0MjY1cnVIUUFWNXBCako1ekZ0ZzC](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4716784843?pwd=dzB0MjY1cnVIUUFWNXBCako1ekZ0ZzC)

I am also including the link where texts for
services may be download:
[HERE](http://bit.ly/St-Alexis) - <http://bit.ly/St-Alexis>

[https://stalexischurch-
my.sharepoint.com/:f/g/personal/schosk_stalex
e=0VpHla](https://stalexischurch-my.sharepoint.com/:f/g/personal/schosk_stalex_e=0VpHla)

Prayers, Intercessions and Commemorations



Metropolitan
Theodosius, Archpriest
Dennis, Deacon
Timothy, Evelyn,
Katheryn,
Anne, Veronica, Richard,
Nancy, Susann, Carol,
Luke, Aaron, Alexander,
Gail, Vincent, Nina,
Ellen, Maureen
Elizabeth, Christopher,
Joshua, Jennifer Petra,
Olivia, Jessica, Sean,
Sarah, Justin, Arnold, Michael, Kirk, Carol-
Anne, Anthony, Natasha, Janice, Gene, John

The newly departed and ever memorable
Becky and Robert;

-
- 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 Isaac Freeman and Melissa Josefiak on occasion of their birthdays and Sophia, Luba and Nadia on the occasion of their Name's Day.

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Today we commemorate:

Forefeast of the Elevation of the Cross. Commemoration of the Founding of the Church of the Resurrection (Holy Sepulcher) at Jerusalem(335). Sunday before Elevation. Hieromartyr Cornelius the Centurion (1st c.). Martyrs Chronides, Leontius and Serapion, of Alexandria (237). Martyrs Macrobius and Gordian at Tomi in Romania (4th c.). Hieromartyr Julian of Galatia (4th c.). St. Peter of Atroë (9th c.). Greatmartyr Ketevan, Queen of Georgia (1624). Ven. Hierotheus the Younger of Iveron (Mt. Athos—1745).

Parish Calendar

Services and Events

September 13 to September 21, 2020

Sunday, September 13

Sunday before Holy Cross
9:30AM Divine Liturgy
6:30PM Vespers for the Elevation of the Cross

Monday, September 14

The Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Giving Cross
Isaac Freeman - B
8:30AM Divine Liturgy for the Elevation of the Cross

Tuesday, September 15

Nikitas the Great Martyr
8:30AM Daily Matins
6:30PM Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 16

Melissa Josefiak
Euphemia the Great Martyr
6:30PM Evening Prayers

Thursday, September 17

Sophia & her three daughters: Faith, Hope, and Love
8:30AM Daily Matins followed by Book Study

Friday, September 18

Eumenius the Wonderworker, Bishop of Gortynia

Saturday, September 19

Saturday after Holy Cross
5:30PM Great Vespers

Sunday, September 20

Sunday after Holy Cross
9:30AM Divine Liturgy

Monday, September 21

Apodosis of the Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Giving Cross
Luft - A

Saints and Feasts

September 13

Cornelius the Centurion & Martyr

Saint Cornelius was a Roman by race, a pagan by religion, a centurion in rank, an inhabitant of Caesarea of Palestine, a man pious and God-fearing who gave many alms to the people and prayed continually unto God. In accordance with an angelic vision granted to him, he sent to Joppa that they might bring the Apostle Peter. Saint Peter catechized him in the Faith of Christ and baptized all his household (Acts, ch.10). This became the beginning and the first fruits of the calling of the nations. It is said that, after this, he became a bishop, as some say, of Caesarea; but others say of Scepsis, which is not far from Troas; and that he died as a martyr.

September 14

The Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Giving Cross

Saint Helen, the mother of Saint Constantine the Great, when she was already advanced in years, undertook, in her great piety, the hardships of a journey to Jerusalem in search of the cross, about the year 325. A temple to Aphrodite had been raised up by the Emperor Hadrian upon Golgotha, to defile and cover with oblivion the place where the saving Passion had been suffered. The venerable Helen

had the statue of Aphrodite destroyed, and the earth removed, revealing the Tomb of our Lord, and three crosses. Of these, it was believed that one must be that of our Lord, the other two of the thieves crucified with Him; but Saint Helen was at a loss which one might be the Wood of our salvation. At the inspiration of Saint Macarius, Archbishop of Jerusalem, a lady of Jerusalem, who was already at the point of death from a certain disease, was brought to touch the crosses, and as soon as she came near to the Cross of our Lord, she was made perfectly whole. Consequently, the precious Cross was lifted on high by Archbishop Macarius of Jerusalem; as he stood on the ambo, and when the people beheld it, they cried out, "Lord have mercy." It should be noted that after its discovery, a portion of the venerable Cross was taken to Constantinople as a blessing. The rest was left in Jerusalem in the magnificent church built by Saint Helen, until the year 614. At that time, the Persians plundered Palestine and took the Cross to their own country (see Jan. 22, Saint Anastasius the Persian). Late, in the year 628, Emperor Heraclius set out on a military campaign, retrieved the Cross, and after bringing it to Constantinople, himself escorted it back to Jerusalem, where he restored it to its place.

Rest from labour. A Fast is observed today, whatever day of the week it may be.

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.

September 16

Euphemia the Great Martyr

Saint Euphemia was from Chalcedon and lived in virginity. According to some, she suffered martyrdom during the reign of Diocletian, in 303; according to others, in 307. Her sacred relics are preserved in the Patriarchate in Constantinople.

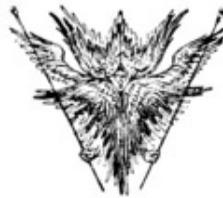
September 17

Sophia & her three daughters: Faith, Hope, and Love

These Saints were from Italy and contested for the Faith about the year 126, during the reign of the Emperor Hadrian. Faith was twelve years old, Hope, ten, and Love, nine; each was tormented and then beheaded, from the eldest to the youngest. Their mother Sophia mourned at their grave for three days, where she also fell asleep

in peace; because of her courageous endurance in the face of her daughters' sufferings, she is also counted a martyr. The name Sophia means "wisdom" in Greek; as for her daughters' names, Faith, Hope, and Love (Charity), they are Pistis, Elpis, and Agape in Greek, and Vera, Nadezhda, and Lyubov in Russian.

Hymns of the Day



Tone 5 Troparion (Resurrection)

Let us, the faithful,
praise and worship the
Word, co-eternal with
the Father and the
Spirit,
born for our salvation

from the Virgin;
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in
the flesh, to endure death,
and to raise the dead//
by His glorious Resurrection.

Tone 4 Troparion (Founding)

You have revealed the beauty of the holy
dwelling place of Your glory on earth
to be like the splendor of the heavenly
firmament, O Lord.
Through the prayers of the Theotokos,
strengthen it for ever and ever
and accept our supplication
which we ceaselessly offer to You therein, //
the life and resurrection of all!

Tone 4 Troparion (Forefeast)

We offer in supplication
the life-creating Cross of Your goodness, O
Lord,
which You have granted to us
although we are unworthy.
Through the Theotokos, save all Orthodox
Christians, O only Lover of man!

Tone 5 Kontakion (Resurrection)

You descended into hell, O my Savior,
shattering its gates as Almighty, resurrecting
the dead as Creator,
and destroying the sting of death.
You have delivered Adam from the curse, O
Lover of Man,
and we cry to You: "O Lord, save us!"

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the
Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of
ages. Amen.

Tone 4 Kontakion (Founding)

The Church has been revealed to be a heaven
filled with light, which enlightens all the
faithful.//
Standing within it we cry: "Establish this
house, O Lord!"

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him
in the highest!
I have loved the beauty of Your house, O Lord,
and the place where Your glory dwells.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Gospel and Epistle Readings

Epistle Reading

Prokeimenon. 6th Tone. Psalm 27.9,1.

O Lord, save your people and bless your
inheritance.

Verse: To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.

**The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to
the Galatians 6:11-18.**

Brethren, see with what large letters I am
writing to you with my own hand. It is those
who want to make a good showing in the flesh
that would compel you to be circumcised, and
only in order that they may not be persecuted
for the cross of Christ. For even those who
receive circumcision do not themselves keep
the law, but they desire to have you
circumcised that they may glory in your flesh.
But far be it from me to glory except in the
cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the
world has been crucified to me, and I to the
world. For neither circumcision counts for
anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new
creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who
walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God.
Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear
on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of
our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit,
brethren. Amen.

Gospel Reading

Sunday before Holy Cross

The Reading is from John 3:13-17

The Lord said, "No one has ascended into

heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

Wisdom of the Fathers

For since Nicodemus had said, "We know that Thou art a teacher come from God," on this very point He sets him right, all but saying, "Think Me not a teacher in such manner as were the many of the prophets who were of earth, for I have come from heaven (but) now. None of the prophets hath ascended up thither, but I dwell there."

St. John Chrysostom

Homily 27 on John 3, 4th Century

For not in heaven only is He, but everywhere, and He fills all things; but yet He speaks according to the infirmity of His hearer, desiring to lead him up little by little ... For after having spoken of the very great benefaction that had come to man by Baptism, He proceeds to mention another benefaction, which was the cause of this,

and not inferior to it; namely, that by the Cross ...

St. John Chrysostom

Homily 27 on John 3, 4th Century

Beyond the Sermon



Metropolitan Anthony of
Sourozh
THE EXALTATION OF
THE CROSS
September 28, 1986

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

We have been keeping these days the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. There is a passage in the Gospel in which the Lord says to us, "No one has greater love than he who gives his life for his neighbour". And these words resolve the antinomy between the horror of the Cross and the glory of it, between death and the Resurrection. There is nothing more glorious, more awe-inspiring and wonderful than to love and to be loved. And to be loved of God with all the life, with all the death of the Only-Begotten Son, and to love one another at the cost of all our life and, if necessary, of our death is both tragedy but mainly victory. In the Canon of the Liturgy we say, "Holy, most Holy art Thou and Thine Only-Begotten Son and Thine Holy Spirit! Holy and most Holy art Thou because Thou hast so loved

Thy world that Thou hast given Thine Only-Begotten Son that those who will believe in Him do not perish but have life eternal, Who hath come and hath fulfilled all that was appointed for our sakes, and in the night when He was betrayed - no! - when He gave Himself up, He took bread, and brake it and gave it to His disciples ..."

This is the divine love. At times one can give one's own life more easily than offer unto death the person whom one loves beyond all, and this is what God, our Father has done. But it does not make less the sacrifice of Him who is sent unto death for the salvation of one person or of the whole world.

And so when we think of the Cross we must think of this strangely inter-twined mystery of tragedy and of victory. The Cross, an instrument of infamous death, of punitive death to which criminals were doomed, because Christ's death was than of an innocent, and because this death was a gift of self in an act of love - becomes victory.

This is why Saint Paul could say, "It is no longer I, it is Christ Who lives in me." Divine love filled him to the brim and therefore there was no room for any other thought or feeling, any other approach to anyone apart from love, a love that gave itself unreservedly, love sacrificial, love crucified, but love exulting in the joy of life.

And when we are told in today's Gospel, 'Turn away from yourself, take up your Cross, follow Me' (Mark 8: 34) - we are not called to something dark and frightening. We are told by God: Open yourself to love! Do not remain a prisoner of your own self-centredness. Do not be, in the words of Theophane the Recluse, like a shaving of wood which is rolled around its own

emptiness. Open yourself up! Look - there is so much to love, there are so many to love! There is such an infinity of ways in which love can be experienced, and fulfilled and accomplished...

Open yourself and love - because this is the way of the Cross! Not the way which the two criminals trod together with Christ to be punished for their crimes. but the wonderful way in which giving oneself unreservedly, turning away from self, existing only for the other, loving with all one's being so that one exists only for the sake of the other - this is the Cross and the glory of the Cross.

So, when we venerate the Cross, when we think of Christ's crucifixion, when we hear the call of Christ to deny ourselves - and these words simply mean: turn away from yourself! Take up your cross! - we are called to open ourselves to the flood of Love Divine, that is both death to ourselves and openness to God and to each and to all.

In the beginning of the Gospel of St. John we are told, "And the Word was with God". In the Greek it says "Godwards". The Word, the Son had no other love, no other thought, no other movement but towards the Beloved One, giving Himself to Him Who gave Himself perfectly to Him. Let us learn the glory of crucified Love, of this Love sacrificial which is, in the words of the Old Testament, stronger than death, stronger than hell, stronger than all things because it is Divine Life conquering us and poured through us onto all those who need to be loved in order to come to Life, to believe in Love and themselves to become children of Love, children of Light, inherit the Life eternal. Amen.