



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, September 27, 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

Book Study

We continue our study of the work of St. Innocent: Indication of the Way into the Kingdom of Heaven. This is a brief read, and full of interesting discussion points. There is a copy of this work, as well as "points of reflection" in our parish shared folder. I encourage you to join our discussions every Wednesday evening (after Evening Prayers @ 6:30p) or Thursday morning (after Daily Matins @ 8:30a)

as they are very open ended. With the exception of this Wednesday (Sept 30)... as I have a strategic planning session for the Diocese scheduled.

Parish Grant

With the help of the Diocesan Parish Grant, we have procured and installed a new audio system for living streaming services. This equipment will have it's place behind the choir. I have spent a few hours getting things set up and would appreciate having some feedback as to how things sound during services. I would also appreciate it if no one would putz with the equipment as well. Thank you.

Memorial Service

On Friday, Oct 2nd at 6:30p, there will be a memorial service remembering Nadine Faro on the tenth anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord.

A note from a member of our community

Greetings everyone from the St. Alexis community! I want to tell you all something very important about what's going on now with me. It's not very easy for me to say it, but I feel you need to know. I trust you all & I love you all.

Without going into too much detail (& long story short), I am going to be at the hospital to have a surgical procedure done on October 21st to get a 1 cm small mass removed (no, it has nothing to do with my back). It won't be an overnight stay & I should only be there for a few hours. I found this out right after I had my shot in my back

so I didn't have enough time to process this. Out of the 33 years of my life, this is the first time I'm getting surgery. Yes, I have to get a COVID test before the surgery. Yes, Justin & I will have to quarantine between October 16-21. Don't hesitate to call/FaceTime/Zoom me during my quarantine time. I know I'm not allowed visitors at my house during the quarantine period, but I can work something out of having people over & being social distance (even if I have to sit in the sunroom while everyone is outside) but I would need to know first so plans can be arranged. Please keep me in your prayers as I go through this for the first time ever.

Sarah Gaulin

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;

Many Years! to Phyllis Sturtevant on the occasion of her birthday; and to Loyd and Susan Davis; and to Alex and Luba Martins on the occasion of their anniversaries; and to Kyle (Romonas) on the occasion of his Name's Day.

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- 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:

Martyrs Callistratus and his company (49 Martyrs—ca. 304). Ven. Savvatii (Sabbatius), Wonderworker of Solovétsky Monastery (1435). Apostles Mark, Aristarchus, and Zenas, of the Seventy (1st c.). Martyr Epicharis of Rome (3rd c.). Ven. Ignatius, Abbot in Asia Minor (963-975).

Parish Calendar

Services and Events

September 27 to October 5, 2020

Sunday, September 27

Phyllis Sturtevant - B
1st Sunday of Luke
9:30AM Divine Liturgy

Monday, September 28

Chariton the Confessor

Tuesday, September 29

Cyriacus the Hermit of Palestine
8:30AM Daily Matins

Wednesday, September 30

Gregory the Illuminator, Bishop of Armenia
Davis - A
Matushka Cindy - B
6:30PM Evening Prayers

Thursday, October 1

Akathist to Protection of the All-Holy
Theotokos
The Holy Protection of the Theotokos
8:30AM Daily Matins followed by Book Study

Friday, October 2

Akathist to St Cyprian
The Holy Hieromartyr Cyprian and the
Virgin Martyr Justina
Repose of Nadine Faro
6:30PM Memorial for Nadine Faro

Saturday, October 3

Dionysios the Areopagite

Alex & Luba Martins - A
5:30PM Great Vespers

Sunday, October 4

2nd Sunday of Luke
9:30AM Divine Liturgy

Monday, October 5

Charitina the Martyr

Saints and Feasts

September 27

Callistratus the Martyr & his 49 Companions

These Martyrs contested for the Faith during the reign of Diocletian, in the year 288. Saint Callistratus was arrested as a Christian, and after being tormented, was enclosed in a sack and cast into the sea. The sack burst, and the Saint came to dry land safe and sound. Forty-nine soldiers, seeing this, also confessed Christ, and with him were cast into prison, then beheaded.

September 28

Chariton the Confessor

Saint Chariton was born in the city of Iconium during the reign of Aurelian, about the year 274. He was arrested, tortured, and condemned to death because of his Christian Faith, but finally set free by imperial edict. He came to Palestine, where he took up the ascetic life. He also brought many Jews and pagans to the Faith. Having dwelt in the desert of Judea for many years,

and established several monasteries throughout the region, he reposed in peace.

September 28

Baruch the Prophet

The Prophet Baruch was the son of Nerias, and the disciple of the Prophet Jeremias (Jer. 39:12; 43:4 LXX). The extant prophetic book that he wrote is divided into five chapters; it was composed in the fifth year of the Babylonian Captivity of the Jews during the years of Sedekias, 583 B.C. The prophetic lection that is read on the eve of the Feast of Christ's Nativity, which bears Jeremias' name, is taken from the prophecy of Baruch (Bar. 3:35-4:4). His name means "blessed."

September 30

Gregory the Illuminator, Bishop of Armenia

This Saint, a Parthian by race, was the son of Anak. He was born about the year 240 and was taught the Faith of Christ in Caesarea of Cappadocia. He entered the service of Tiridates, King of Armenia, but when discovered to be a Christian, he was subjected to many horrible torments at the King's hands, then was cast into a pit of mire with poisonous serpents and left to die. By the power of God, however, he abode there unharmed for fourteen years, his needs provided by a certain widow, until he was made known by revelation and set free. He converted to piety innumerable

multitudes of Armenians, including Tiridates himself, and was consecrated bishop by Leontius, Archbishop of Caesarea, to shepherd the vast flock he had gained for Christ. He spent the last part of his life in retirement in the ascetical discipline, and reposed in peace about the year 325. Saint Gregory is honoured as the Illuminator of Armenia.

October 01

The Holy Protection of the Theotokos

The Feast of the Protection commemorates the appearance of the most holy Theotokos in the Church of Blachernae in Constantinople in the tenth century, as recorded in the life of Saint Andrew the Fool for Christ's sake. While the multitudes of the faithful were gathered in church, Epiphanius, the friend of Saint Andrew, through the Saint's prayers, beheld the Virgin Mary above the faithful and spreading out her veil over them, signifying her unceasing protection of all Christians. Because of this we keep a yearly feast of gratitude, imploring our Lady never to cease sheltering us in her mighty prayers.

In the Greek tradition, this feast is celebrated on October 28, while in the Slavic tradition, this feast is celebrated on October 1.

October 01

Romanos the Melodist

Saint Romanos flourished during the reign of Anastasius (491-518). He was from Emesa of Syria, and apparently was born of Jewish parents, for a hymn written in his honour in Greek says he was "of Hebrew stock," and it has furthermore been noted that he uses many Semitic idioms in his writings. He was baptized an Orthodox Christian, and at some time became a deacon in the Church of Beirut. He was the first composer of the kontakia, the foremost of which is that of the feast of Christ's Nativity, On this day the Virgin In composing many of his kontakia. Saint Romanos was inspired by the hymns of Saint Ephraim of Syria.

Hymns of the Day



Tone 7 Troparion (Resurrection)

By Your Cross You destroyed death.
To the thief You opened Paradise.
For the Myrrhbearers
You changed weeping

into joy. And You commanded Your disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that You are risen, // granting the world great mercy.

Tone 3 Troparion (Martyr Callistratus)

In contest you were strengthened by the Holy Spirit, O Martyr Callistratus, and were glorious in casting down the Enemy. You offered a noble army of athletes as sweet-smelling incense to Christ. // With them pray for us who praise you with

hymns!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

Tone 7 Kontakion (Resurrection)

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry:

"The Savior has come to those in faith; // enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!"

now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 4 Kontakion (Martyr Callistratus)

Like stars you have shone upon the world, shedding the light of your contests and miracles upon all who cry to you: "Rejoice, Martyr Callistratus and fellow company of martyrs.

Communion Hymn

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

Gospel and Epistle Readings

Epistle Reading

Prokeimenon. 7th Tone. Psalm 28.11,1.

The Lord will give strength to his people.
Verse: Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord honor and glory.

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 6:1-10.

Brethren, working together with him, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Gospel Reading

1st Sunday of Luke

The Reading is from Luke 5:1-11

At that time, as Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had ceased

speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all who were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

Wisdom of the Fathers

There is an old saying: 'Excesses meet.' Too much fasting and too much eating come to the same end. Keeping too long a vigil brings the same disastrous cost as ... sluggishness... Too much self-denial brings weakness and induces the same condition as carelessness. Often I have seen men who would not be snared by gluttony fall, nevertheless, through immoderate fasting and tumble in weakness into the very urge which they had overcome. Unmeasured vigils and foolish denial of rest overcame those whom sleep could not overcome. Therefore, 'fortified to right and to left

in the armor of justice,' as the apostle says (2 Cor. 6:7), life must be lived with due measure and, with discernment for a guide, the road must be traveled between the two kinds of excess so that in the end we may not allow ourselves to be diverted from the pathway of restraint which has been laid down for us nor fall through dangerous carelessness into the urgings of gluttony and self-indulgence.

St. John Cassian

Conferences, Conference Two: On Discernment no. 16; Paulist Press pg. 76, 5th century

For now they were well instructed beforehand...But mark both their faith and their obedience. For though they were in the midst of their work when they heard His command, they delayed not, they procrastinated not, they said not, "let us return home, and converse with our kinsfolk," but "they forsook all and followed."

St. John Chrysostom

Homily 14 on Matthew 4, 4th Century

Beyond the Sermon



Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh CALLING OF THE APOSTLES

From a parish talk on
December the 5th, 1972

It is essential for us to realise the link there is between Christ and the apostles. <...> If you read the Gospels you will see that the apostles and the Lord Jesus Christ were born and lived in the same area. Christ came to live in Nazareth as a child; the apostles lived all about the place of His abode. We know nothing about the early years of these men, but if we think that Cana of Galilee was less than 4 miles away from Nazareth, if we think that all the cities and all the villages in which Peter and Andrew, John and James and others lived were around the same place, we can imagine that they had met and seen and heard the Lord Jesus Christ as a child, as a youth. We know nothing about the impact of His personality growing harmoniously into the fullness of His human stature, but links of personal knowledge and familiarity existed. The disciples of John the Baptist, Andrew and John, were the disciples of a cousin of the Lord. James was the brother of John, Peter was the brother of Andrew. When they first met Christ, they sought out their friends Nathanael and Phillip. Even the words of Nathanael 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' is not a mysterious saying. What would any one of us say if he was told that God Himself had become man in a village four miles away from his own

village?

And then there is a whole process which we can trace in the Gospels in which one can see how, gradually, the disciples discover the Lord Jesus Christ, how He becomes gradually more and more to them. And one day their relatedness to Him is such that they could not leave Him even if they wanted to. When most of Christ's disciples abandoned Him the Lord said to the Twelve: 'Are you also going to go?' And Peter answers: 'Where should we go? Thou hast the word of eternal life'. This relatedness between the disciples and Christ that began perhaps in friendship, then in admiration grew to the relationship of disciples and Master, on the way to Caesarea Philippi becomes a recognition, proclaimed by one of them as a gift of God, of what He truly is: 'Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God'.

It is a relationship so deep, so perfect and complete that they cannot leave Him even if terror comes upon them. When Christ tells His disciples that He is going to Bethany because Lazarus has died, His disciples say: 'Are you going back into Judaea? Were not the Jews about to kill you?' And one of them says, 'Let us go with Him and die with Him'. And that one is Thomas, the one who so often is thought as a doubter. No, he is not a doubter. He is ready to live and to die with his Master, but he is not prepared credulously to receive the news of Christ's Resurrection with all its resurrecting impact and life-giving power without being sure — because when Christ died on the cross His disciples scattered, afraid, in hiding, and yet, attached to Him with all the fibres of their heart and mind and soul, they felt that life had gone out of the world, life had gone

out of their lives. That happens to us when someone who is infinitely dear dies. Then we discover that because this person has died everything which is shallow, trivial, small, too small to be as great as life and death, becomes irrelevant. We turn away from it, we become as great as our perception of life and death can make us.

That is what happened to them, but then there was no life, there was only crushing, destructive death. They could no longer live because life had gone out of their lives, but they could continue to exist. And all of a sudden they discovered that Christ was alive and that they could live and, more than this, that in a mysterious way because they had died so deeply and completely through love and oneness with Him, they could, through love and oneness — both His and theirs — be alive, but alive with an unshaking certainty that no death can deprive them of life any more, no kind of death; death was defeated. This is what we sing at Easter, this is what we proclaim as the Gospel. Life has triumphed, death has no power over us. Our body has no power to kill us when it dies. This is one of the essential witnesses of the apostles: not simply that they are so faithful in their love for Christ that they are prepared to die, but that they are so certain from inner certainty, from the welling up of eternity within them, from the victory within them of the life of Christ, that death is no more. One can peacefully let go of temporariness, as St Paul says. For him death does not mean divesting himself of temporary life, it means to be clad with eternity, eternity fulfilled, what it was incipiently, germinally, fighting for the fulfilment in what he calls his body of corruption.

INVITATION TO A WALK THROUGH BAZAAR

WHERE: CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH
1070 ROXBURY RD. (172 INTERSECTION)
SOUTHBURY, CT. 06488 - 203-267-1330

DATE: **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2020**

TIME: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

**GIFT BASKETS TO BE AUCTIONED (6 TICKETS FOR \$5.00 ETC.)
OTHER GIFT ITEMS FOR PURCHASING. ALL GIFTS WRAPPED.**

**** CHANCE FOR DOOR PRIZE – FREE

****50/50 DROP RAFFLE

–NO NEED TO BE PRESENT. JUST FILL OUT YOUR TICKETS.

–FUND RAISER!! (RAIN DATE: SAT. OCT. 24)

*****ENTERTAINMENT ON CHURCH GROUNDS DURING THE DAY*****

COME ONE, COME ALL

*****FOOD BANK ITEM WELCOME*****

COVID-19 RULES FOLLOWED. FOR QUESTIONS: CALL RENATE -203-264-4445
GET OUT, COME SEE WHAT'S ON OUR TABLES. THINK HOLIDAY SHOPPING



CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH
1070 ROXBURY RD. (172 INTERSECTION)
SOUTHBURY, CT. 06488 --- 203-267-1330

COME ONE, COME ALL! SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10TH TO OUR WALK THROUGH BAZAAR

Back before January, I decided to start a fund raiser for our parish. It was to be a community project. Church members and neighborhood businesses were to get involved.

I started to collect baskets and gifted items, along with purchases I have made. As some family and friends contributed, I organized what I could into the baskets.

Then Covid-19 came along and everything changed. The letters and dates were no longer useful.

We are now in September and I am NOT giving up, since my basement has baskets and items to sell.

Therefore, the new date is Saturday, October 10, 2020, from 9:00 to 4:00 at Christ the Savior Orthodox Church.

Please have faith, not fear, and wear your masks, but come and check out our walk through parish bazaar.

Help me raise the funds for the Parish Hall floor and come purchase drop tickets for the larger baskets. All gifts are wrapped, ribboned and ready to give.

GET READY FOR THE HOLIDAY SHOPPING!

Any questions please contact Renate Sica – 203-264-4445

THANK YOU IN CHRIST