



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, October 18, 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

Once again: the parish shared folder can be accessed by going to the following link: <http://bit.ly/St-Alexis>.

Annual Parish Meeting

Our Annual Meeting this year will be held on Sunday, November 22nd. This will be entirely on Zoom and will begin at 12:00p, so that those who wish to attend Liturgy

may do so, and then return home before the meeting starts. More information will be posted in the upcoming weeks. If anyone has a report or a resolution they wish to present, they should submit it to me no later than Sunday, Nov 15th.

Diocesan Assembly

If you are interested in "attending" the Diocesan Assembly as an observer (Nov 5th and 6th) please fill out the attached form and return it to me before the end of the day, Sunday.

Prayers, Intercessions and Commemorations

Metropolitan
 Theodosius, Archpriest
 Michael, 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

Many Years! to Luke Hosking and Jim Pepiton on the account of their Name's

Days; Susan Hayes, Victor Hoehnebart and Greg Jankura on the account of their birthdays.

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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:

Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke (1st c.).
Martyr Marinus the Elder at Anazarbus (4th c.).
Ven. Julian the Hermit, of Mesopotamia (4th c.).

Parish Calendar

Services and Events

October 18 to October 26, 2020

Sunday, October 18

Luke the Evangelist
9:30AM Divine Liturgy

Monday, October 19

Varys the Martyr
Susan Hayes - B

Tuesday, October 20

Victor Hoehnebart
Artemius the Great Martyr of Antioch
8:30AM Daily Matins
6:30PM Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, October 21

Hilarion the Great
6:30PM Evening Prayers

Thursday, October 22

Abercius, Equal-to-the-Apostles and
Wonderworker of Hierapolis
8:30AM Daily Matins followed by Book Study

Friday, October 23

James (Iakovos) the Apostle, brother of Our Lord

Saturday, October 24

Arethas the Great Martyr & Syncletiki and
her two daughters
Greg Jankura -B
5:30PM Great Vespers

Sunday, October 25

6th Sunday of Luke
Victor & Gail Kuziak - A
9:30AM Divine Liturgy

Monday, October 26

The Holy Great Martyr Demetrius the Myrrh-streamer

Saints and Feasts

October 18

Luke the Evangelist

This Apostle was an Antiochean, a physician by trade, and a disciple and companion of Paul. He wrote his Gospel in Greek after Matthew and Mark, after which he wrote the Acts of the Apostles, and dedicated both works to Theophilus, who, according to some, was Governor of Achaia. He lived some eighty-six years and died in Achaia, perhaps in Patras, the capital of this district. His emblem is the calf, the third symbolical beast mentioned by Ezekiel (1:10), which is a symbol of Christ's sacrificial and priestly office, as Saint Irenaeus says.

October 19

John of Rilas

Saint John of Rilas founded the renowned monastery of that name in Bulgaria in the tenth century. Over the centuries, great and wondrous healings have flowed from his holy relics.

October 21

Hilarion the Great

This Saint was born at Tabatha, near Gaza in Palestine, of pagan parents. Sent as a young man to Alexandria to be educated, he learned the Christian Faith and was baptized. While in Egypt he heard the fame of Saint Anthony the Great, and upon meeting that truly great man, the Father of monks, Saint Hilarion determined to devote himself also to the ascetical life. He returned to Gaza, when, he gave himself over to extreme fasting and unceasing prayer. Because of the miracles which he soon began to work, he found himself compelled by his growing renown to leave Gaza, to escape from the throngs of people coming to ask his prayers. In his journeys he visited Egypt, and came again with longing to the place where Saint Anthony had lived; but he was not able to remain in any one place for long, since despite all his attempts to conceal himself, the light of the grace that was in him could not be hid. After passing through Egypt and Libya, and sailing to Sicily, he came at last to Cyprus, where he ended the course of his life at the age of eighty, in the year 372.

October 22

Abercius, Equal-to-the-Apostles and Wonderworker of Hierapolis

Saint Abercius, Bishop of Hierapolis in Phrygia in the times of Marcus Aurelius, was adorned with the grace

of wonderworking and with apostolic zeal. During a festival in honour of Apollo, the chief deity of Hierapolis, the holy bishop was instructed in a revelation to destroy the idols. He went to the temple by night and overturned the statues of Apollo and the others. When this was discovered, the Saint boldly cried out that the gods, becoming drunk from the wine of the libations offered them, had struck one against another in their confusion. A multitude of furious pagans came to avenge the insult to their gods, but when the Saint cast the demons out of three afflicted young men, fear fell upon the idolaters and they with the whole city became Christian. After many labours, and afflictions, Saint Abercius reposed in peace about the year 167 (or, according to some, 186).

October 23

James (Iakovos) the Apostle, brother of Our Lord

According to some, this Saint was a son of Joseph the Betrothed, born of the wife that the latter had before he was betrothed to the Ever-virgin. Hence he was the brother of the Lord, Who was also thought to be the son of Joseph (Matt. 13: 55). But some say that he was a nephew of Joseph, and the son of his brother Cleopas, who was also called Alphaeus and Mary his wife, who was the first cousin of the Theotokos. But even according to this genealogy, he was still called, according to the idiom of the Scriptures, the Lord's brother because of their kinship.

This Iakovos is called the Less (Mark 15:40) by the Evangelists to distinguish him from Iakovos, the son of Zebedee, who was called the Great. He became the first Bishop of Jerusalem, elevated to this episcopal rank by the Apostles, according to Eusebius (Eccl. Hist., Book II: 23), and was called Obliah, that is, the Just, because of his great holiness and righteousness. Having ascended the crest of the Temple on the day of the Passover at the prompting of all, he bore testimony from there concerning his belief in Jesus, and he proclaimed with a great voice that Jesus sits at the right hand of the great power of God and shall come again upon the clouds of heaven. On hearing this testimony, many of those present cried, "Hosanna to the Son of David." But the Scribes and Pharisees cried, "So, even the just one hath been led astray," and at the command of Ananias the high priest, the Apostle was cast down headlong from thence, then was stoned, and while he prayed for his slayers, his head was crushed by the wooden club wielded by a certain scribe. The first of the Catholic (General) Epistles written to the Jews in the Diaspora who believed in Christ was written by this Iakovos.

Hymns of the Day



Tone 2 Troparion (Resurrection)

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal, You destroyed hell with the splendor

of Your Godhead.
And when from the depths You raised the
dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out://
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!”

Tone 5 Troparion (St. Luke)

Let us praise with sacred songs the holy
Apostle Luke,
the recorder of the joyous Gospel of Christ
and the scribe of the Acts of the Apostles;
for his writings are a testimony of the Church
of Christ.
He is the physician of human weaknesses and
infirmities.
He heals the wounds of our souls,//
and constantly intercedes for our salvation.

Tone 2 Kontakion (Resurrection)

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior,
seeing the miracle of Your Resurrection from
the tomb!
The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld
this and rejoiced with You,//
and the world, my Savior, praises You forever.

Tone 2 Kontakion (St. Luke)

Let us praise the godly Luke;
he is the true preacher of piety,
the orator of ineffable mysteries
and the star of the Church,
for the Word, Who alone knows the hearts of
men,//
chose him, with the wise Paul, to be a teacher
of the Gentiles!

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him
in the highest! (Ps. 148:1)
Their proclamation has gone out into all the
earth, and their words to the
ends of the universe! (Ps. 18:4)
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Gospel and Epistle Readings

Epistle Reading

Prokeimenon. 4th Tone. Psalm 103.4,1.
Who makes his angels spirits and his ministers
a flame of fire

Verse: Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my
God you are very great.

The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 11:31-34; 12:1-6.

Brethren, if we judged ourselves truly, we
should not be judged. But when we are judged
by the Lord, we are chastened so that we may
not be condemned along with the world. So
then, my brethren, when you come together to
eat, wait for one another - if any one is hungry,
let him eat at home - lest you come together to
be condemned. About the other things I will
give directions when I come. Now concerning
the spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you
to be uninformed. You know that when you
were heathen, you were led astray to dumb
idols, however you may have been moved.
Therefore I want you to understand that no
one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says
"Jesus be cursed!" and no one can

say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one.

Gospel Reading

The Reading is from Luke 8:5-15

The Lord said this parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold." And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures

of life, and their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience." As he said these things, he cried out "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Wisdom of the Fathers

As the beloved physician and disciple, O Luke, heal with thy mystical surgery the passions of both my soul and body, and grant that I may enjoy complete health, and may honour thine all-lauded festival with gladness, and may shower thine august and most precious body with a rain of tears instead of myrrh; for like an inscribed monument of life in the wondrous temple of the Apostles, it crieth out unto all, even as thou didst before, when thou didst write the divine Gospel of Christ God.

Oikos for the Feast of St. Luke, October Menaion, p.115

Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Brookline, MA

Beyond the Sermon



Apostle and Evangelist
Luke
Commemorated on
October 18

The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, was a native of Syrian Antioch, a companion of the holy Apostle Paul (Phil.1:24, 2 Tim. 4:10-11), and a physician enlightened in the Greek medical arts. Hearing about Christ, Luke arrived in Palestine and fervently accepted the preaching of salvation from the Lord Himself. As one of the Seventy Apostles, Saint Luke was sent by the Lord with the others to preach the Kingdom of Heaven during the Savior's earthly life (Luke 10:1-3). After the Resurrection, the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to Saints Luke and Cleopas on the road to Emmaus.

Luke accompanied Saint Paul on his second missionary journey, and from that time they were inseparable. When Paul's coworkers had forsaken him, only Luke remained to assist him in his ministry (2 Tim. 4:10-11). After the martyric death of the First-Ranked Apostles Peter and Paul, Saint Luke left Rome to preach in Achaia, Libya, Egypt and the Thebaid. He ended his life by suffering martyrdom in the city of Thebes.

Tradition credits Saint Luke with painting the first icons of the Mother of God. "Let the grace of Him Who was born of Me and My mercy be with these Icons," said the All-Pure Virgin after seeing the icons. Saint

Luke also painted icons of the First-Ranked Apostles Peter and Paul. Saint Luke's Gospel was written in the years 62-63 at Rome, under the guidance of the Apostle Paul. In the preliminary verses (1:1-3), Saint Luke precisely sets forth the purpose of his work. He proposes to record, in chronological order, everything known by Christians about Jesus Christ and His teachings. By doing this, he provided a firmer historical basis for Christian teaching (1:4). He carefully investigated the facts, and made generous use of the oral tradition of the Church and of what the All-Pure Virgin Mary Herself had told him (2:19, 51).

In Saint Luke's Gospel, the message of the salvation made possible by the Lord Jesus Christ, and the preaching of the Gospel, are of primary importance.

Saint Luke also wrote the Acts of the Holy Apostles at Rome around 62-63 A.D. The Book of Acts, which is a continuation of the four Gospels, speaks about the works and the fruits of the holy Apostles after the Ascension of the Savior. At the center of the narrative is the Council of the holy Apostles at Jerusalem in the year 51, a Church event of great significance, which resulted in the separation of Christianity from Judaism and its independent dissemination into the world (Acts 15:6-29). The theological focus of the Book of Acts is the coming of the Holy Spirit, Who will guide the Church "into all truth" (John 16:13) until the Second Coming of Christ.

The holy relics of Saint Luke were taken from Constantinople and brought to Padua, Italy at some point in history. Perhaps this was during the infamous Crusade of 1204.

In 1992, Metropolitan Hieronymus (Jerome) of Thebes requested the Roman Catholic bishop in Thebes to obtain a portion of Saint Luke's relics for the saint's empty sepulchre in the Orthodox cathedral in Thebes.

The Roman Catholic bishop Antonio Mattiazzo of Padua, noting that Orthodox pilgrims came to Padua to venerate the relics while many Catholics did not even know that the relics were there, appointed a committee to investigate the relics in Padua, and the skull of Saint Luke in the Catholic Cathedral of Saint Vico in Prague.

The skeleton was determined to be that of an elderly man of strong build. In 2001, a tooth found in the coffin was judged to be consistent with the DNA of Syrians living near the area of Antioch dating from 72-416 A.D. The skull in Prague perfectly fit the neck bone of the skeleton. The tooth found in the coffin in Padua was also found to fit the jawbone of the skull.

Bishop Mattiazzo sent a rib from the relics to Metropolitan Hieronymus to be venerated in Saint Luke's original tomb in the Orthodox cathedral at Thebes.

Prokeimenon. 8th Tone. Psalm 18.4,1.
Their voice has gone out into all the earth.
Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 4:5-11, 14-18.

Brethren, conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned

with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer every one. Tychicos will tell you all about my affairs; he is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, and with him Onesimos, the faithful and beloved brother, who is one of yourselves. They will tell you of everything that has taken place. Aristarchos my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions if he comes to you, receive him), and Jesus who is called Justos. These are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me. Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you. Give my greetings to the brethren at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. And when this letter has been read among you, have it read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you read also the letter from Laodicea. And say to Archippos, "See that you fulfill the ministry which you have received in the Lord." I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my fetters. Grace be with you. Amen.

Luke the Evangelist

The Reading is from Luke 10:16-21

The Lord said to his disciples, "He who hears you hears me, and he who rejects you rejects me, and he who rejects me rejects him who sent me." The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from

heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you; but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to babes; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will."



Diocese of New England

Orthodox Church in America

Strategic Plan Implementation Volunteer Form
(PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)

1. Full Name: _____

2. Full Mailing Address: _____

3. Email: _____

4. Phone number: _____

5. I agree to give my time and talents to work on the following Strategic Wildly Important Goal (WIG):

_____ **WIG 1 - Leadership Training**

_____ **WIG 2 - Parish Ministry & Liturgical Life Engagement**

_____ **WIG 3 - Parish Health Assessment**

6. I am willing to volunteer to be considered to co-lead the implementation of a WIG (identify the **specific** WIG number which you are willing to co-lead):

I am willing to be considered to serve as Co-Captain for: **WIG Number** _____

7. Any other people you think would serve on a Goal Team, or as a Goal Captain (please specify the **specific** Goal full number and provide their name and any contact information you have):

8. Any other comments / suggestions: _____

(Please email this completed form to: Fr. Steven Hosking at: frsteve@stalexischurch.org)



DIOCESE OF NEW ENGLAND

57th DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Salem, MA

Virtual Zoom Meeting

NOVEMBER 6-7, 2020

OBSERVER REGISTRATION FORM

PARISH: _____

CITY _____ STATE: _____

The undersigned observer has been duly authorized by his/her parish to participate in the 57th Annual Diocesan Assembly of the Diocese of New England.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: () _____ EMAIL: _____

Signature of Rector _____

PARISH SEAL

Signature of Parish Secretary _____

APPROVED: _____

Credentials _____