



## St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre Orthodox Church

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Attached

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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, November 13, 2022

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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)

#### **Members of our Parish Council are:**

Joseph Barbera - Council Member at Large

Susan Davis- Council Member at Large

Carolyn Neiss - President

Marlene Melesko - Vice President

Susan Egan - Treasurer

Dn Timothy Skuby - Secretary

## **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**

### **Safe Futures**

OUTREACH COMMITTEE is once again collecting Christmas gifts for Safe Futures in New London. Safe Futures is a shelter for abused men, women and children who is currently housing 700 adults and families. You can find their gift list request attached and copies on the candle desk at church. Please be as generous as you have been in the past. Thank you!

Marlene Melesko at 860-739-4360

If you or someone you know is a victim of abuse, please call Safe Futures at 860-701-6001.

## **FORCC**

Dear FORCC clergy and representatives,

The last FORCC meeting for 2022 will be held on Nov. 17th at Holy Ghost Russian Orthodox Church in Bridgeport. Attached are the agenda and minutes from the Sept. meeting. Election of officers will be held at this meeting. Please send a representative from your church to the meeting. We need five churches represented to have a quorum.

### **Annual Meeting**

This year's Parish Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, Nov 20th, after Liturgy. It will be in person (as opposed to Zoom alone). While the meeting will be recorded, it will not "zoomed" so to participate, you must be present. Accordingly, only those parishioners who meeting the criteria for "voting" members may vote: However, everyone is invited to attend. If you have any questions, please refer to the ByLaws as found in the parish handbook.

### **Liturgical Calendar Orders**

Before we order the liturgical calendars for next year, we would like to know who would like to have one. A sign-up sheet will be available at the candle desk. Please put your name, and the number of calendars you would like to have. Please be advised that you may be asked to make a \$5 donation for each calendar that you would like.

## Pledge Forms

Also available on the candle desk are the pledge forms for the next calendar year. I am asking that you please take one and

prayerfully complete it, returning it on Sunday of the Annual Meeting. This will certainly help us managing the budget as we approach 2023.

## Prayers, Intercessions and Commemorations



Many Years! to Natalie Kurcharski on the occasion of her birthday, and Greg Jankura on the occasion of his Name's Day.

Please continue to pray for our catechumens, David and Anthony (and his family).

- 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 institutionalize, 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, intolerance and pestilence; all those departed this life in the hope of the Resurrection.

**St. John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople** (407). Stockholm Icon of the Mother of God. Martyrs Nikēphóros, Antoninus, and Germanus of Caesarea, in Palestine (308). Martyr Manetha (307-8). Monastic Martyr Damascene (1681).

## Parish Calendar

### Schedule of Services and Events

November 13 to November 21, 2022

#### Sunday, November 13

8th Sunday of Luke  
9:30AM Divine Liturgy

#### Monday, November 14

Church Cleaning: Sue Egan  
Philip the Apostle

#### Tuesday, November 15

Nativity Fast Begins  
8:30AM Daily Matins

#### Wednesday, November 16

Matthew the Apostle & Evangelist  
Natalie Kucharski - B  
8:30AM Akathist to St Matthew Evangelist

### **Thursday, November 17**

Gregory the Wonderworker & Bishop of Neo-Caesarea

Natalie Davis - B

8:30AM Daily Matins

### **Friday, November 18**

Plato the Great Martyr of Ancyra

### **Saturday, November 19**

Obadiah the Prophet

Thomas Brubaker - B

5:30PM Great Vespers

### **Sunday, November 20**

Alexei Hoehnebart

Annual Meeting

9th Sunday of Luke

9:30AM Divine Liturgy

5:00PM Community Service of Thanksgiving

### **Monday, November 21**

The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

## **Saints and Feasts**

### **November 13**

#### **John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople**

This greatest and most beloved of all Christian orators was born in Antioch the Great in the year 344 or 347; his pious parents were called Secundus and Anthusa. After his mother was widowed at the age of twenty, she devoted herself to bringing up John and his elder sister in the nurture

and admonition of the Lord. John received his literary training under Anthragathius the philosopher, and Libanius the sophist, who was the greatest Greek scholar and rhetorician of his day. Libanius was a pagan, and when asked before his death whom

he wished to have for his successor, he said, "John, had not the Christians stolen him from us." With such a training, and with such gifts as he had by nature, John had before him a brilliant career as a rhetorician. But through the good example of his godly mother Anthusa and of the holy Bishop Meletius of Antioch (see Feb. 12), by whom he was ordained reader about the year 370, he chose instead to dedicate himself to God. From the years 374 to 381 he lived the monastic life in the hermitages that were near Antioch. His extreme asceticism undermined his health, compelling him to return to Antioch, where Saint Meletius ordained him deacon about the year 381. Saint Meletius was called to Constantinople later that year to preside over the Second Ecumenical Council, during which he fell asleep in the Lord. In 386 Bishop Flavian ordained John presbyter of the Church of Antioch. Upon his elevation to the priesthood his career as a public preacher began, and his exceptional oratorical gifts were made manifest through his many sermons and commentaries. They are distinguished by their eloquence and the remarkable ease with which rich imagery and scriptural allusions are multiplied; by their depth of insight into the meaning of Scripture and the workings of God's providence; and, not least of all, by their earnestness and moral force, which issue from the heart of a blameless

and guileless man who lived first what he preached to others. Because of his fame, he was chosen to succeed Saint Nectarius as Patriarch of Constantinople. He was taken away by stealth, to avoid the opposition of the people, and consecrated Patriarch of Constantinople on February 28, 398,

by Theophilus, Patriarch of Alexandria, who was to prove his mortal enemy.

At that time the Emperor of the East was Arcadius, who had had Saint Arsenius the Great as his tutor (see May 8); Arcadius was a man of weak character, and much under the influence of his wife Eudoxia. The zealous and upright Chrysostom's unsparing censures of the lax morals in the imperial city stung the vain Eudoxia; through Theophilus' plottings and her collaboration, Saint John was banished to Pontus in 403. The people were in an uproar, and the following night an earthquake shook the city; this so frightened the Empress Eudoxia that she begged Arcadius to call Chrysostom back. While his return was triumphant, his reconciliation with the Empress did not last long. When she had a silver statue of herself erected in the forum before the Church of the Holy Wisdom (Saint Sophia) in September of 403, and had it dedicated with much unseemly revelry, Saint John thundered against her, and she could not forgive him. In June of 404 he was exiled to Cucusus, on the borders of Cilicia and Armenia. From here he exchanged letters with Pope Innocent of Rome, who sent bishops and priests to Constantinople requesting that a council be held. Saint John's enemies, dreading his return, prevailed upon the Emperor to see an insult

in this, and had John taken to a more remote place of banishment called Pityus near the Caucasus. The journey was filled with bitter sufferings for the aged bishop, both because of the harshness of the elements and the cruelty of one of his 310 guards. He did not reach Pityus, but gave up his soul to the Lord near Comana

in Pontus, at the chapel of the Martyr Basiliscus (see May 22), who had appeared to him shortly before, foretelling the day of his death, which came to pass on September 14, 407. His last words were "Glory be to God for all things." His holy relics were brought from Comana to Constantinople thirty-one years later by the Emperor Theodosius the Younger and Saint Pulcheria his sister, the children of Arcadius and Eudoxia, with fervent supplications that the sin of their parents against him be forgiven; this return of his holy relics is celebrated on January 27.

Saint John was surnamed Chrysostom ("Golden-mouth") because of his eloquence. He made exhaustive commentaries on the divine Scriptures and was the author of more works than any other Church Father, leaving us complete commentaries on the Book of Genesis, the Gospels of Saints Matthew and John, the Acts, and all the Epistles of Saint Paul. His extant works are 1,447 sermons and 240 epistles. Twenty-two teachers of the Church have written homilies of praise in his honour. Besides his feasts today and on January 27, he is celebrated as one of the Three Hierarchs on January 30, together with Saint Basil the Great and Saint Gregory the Theologian.

*It should be noted that, because September 14 is the Exaltation of the Cross, the Saint's memory has been transferred to this day.*

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## **November 14**

### **Philip the Apostle**

This Apostle, one of the Twelve, was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and was a compatriot of Andrew and Peter. He was instructed in the teachings of the Law, and devoted himself to the study of the prophetic books. Therefore, when the Lord Jesus called him to the dignity of apostleship, he immediately sought out and found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of Whom Moses in the Law and the Prophets did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph" (John 1.45). Having preached Jesus the God-man throughout many parts of Asia Minor, and having suffered many things for His Name's sake, he was finally crucified upside down in Hierapolis of Phrygia.

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## **November 14**

### **Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessaloniki**

This divine Father, who was from Asia Minor, was from childhood reared in the royal court of Constantinople, where he was instructed in both religious and secular wisdom. Later, while still a youth, he left the imperial court and struggled in asceticism on Mount Athos, and in the Skete at Beroea. He spent some time

in Thessalonica being treated for an illness that came from his harsh manner of life. He was present in Constantinople at the Council that was convened in 1341 against Barlaam of Calabria, and at the Council of 1347 against Acindynus, who was of like mind with Barlaam; Barlaam and Acindynus claimed that the grace of God is created. At both these Councils, the Saint contended courageously for the true dogmas of the Church of Christ, teaching in particular that divine grace is not created, but is the uncreated energies of God which are poured forth throughout creation: otherwise it would be impossible, if grace were created, for man to have genuine communion with the uncreated God. In 1347 he was appointed Metropolitan of Thessalonica. He tended his flock in an apostolic manner for some twelve years, and wrote many books and treatises on the most exalted doctrines of our Faith; and having lived for a total of sixty-three years, he reposed in the Lord in 1359. His holy relics are kept in the Cathedral of Thessalonica.

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## **November 16**

### **Matthew the Apostle & Evangelist**

This Apostle, who was also called Levi, was the son of Alphaeus and had Galilee as his homeland. A publican before being called by Christ, he became one of the Twelve Apostles, and an Evangelist. While still in Palestine, he wrote his Gospel first

in Hebrew, being also the first of all to write the Gospel. When he is depicted in icons, there is portrayed next to him the likeness of a man, one of the symbolic living creatures mentioned by Ezekiel (1.10), which, as Saint Irenaeus writes, is a symbol of our Saviour's Incarnation.

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**November 17**

### **Gregory the Wonderworker & Bishop of Neo-Caesarea**

Saint Gregory was born in Neocaesarea of Pontus to parents who were not Christians. He studied in Athens, in Alexandria, in Beirut, and finally for five years in Caesarea of Palestine under Origen, by whom he was also instructed in the Faith of Christ. Then, in the year 240, he became bishop of his own city, wherein he found only seventeen Christians. By the time the Saint reposed about the year 265, there were only seventeen unbelievers left there. Virtually the whole duration of his episcopacy was a time of continual, marvellous wonders worked by him. Because of this, he received the surname "Wonderworker"; even the enemies of the truth called him a second Moses (see Saint Basil the Great's *On the Holy Spirit*, ch. 29).

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**November 17**

### **Righteous Mother Hilda of Whitby**

Our righteous Mother Hilda was of noble birth, being a kinswoman of Saint Edwin, King of Northumbria (celebrated Oct. 12).

At the age of thirty-three she renounced the world, and lived another thirty-three years as a nun and abbess. The last six years of her life she suffered a burning fever with patience and nobility, and reposed in peace in the year 680.

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## **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 8 Troparion (St. John)**

Grace shining forth from your lips like a  
beacon has enlightened the universe.  
It has shown to the world the riches of  
poverty.  
It has revealed to us the heights of humility.  
Teaching us by your words O Father John  
Chrysostom,//  
intercede before the Word Christ our God, to  
save our souls!

### **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!"

### **Tone 6 Kontakion (St. John)**

Having received divine grace from heaven,  
with your mouth you teach all men to worship  
one God in Trinity.  
All-blessed and venerable John Chrysostom,//  
we worthily praise you, for you are our  
teacher, revealing things divine.

### **Tone 5 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)**

You, O Lord, shall protect us / and preserve us  
from this generation forever.  
(Ps. 11:7)

V. Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any  
that is godly! (Ps. 11:1a)

### **Tone 1 Prokeimenon (St. John)**

My mouth shall speak wisdom; / the  
meditation of my heart shall be understanding.  
(Ps. 48:3)

### **Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him  
in the highest! (Ps. 148:1)  
The righteous shall be in everlasting  
remembrance. He shall not fear evil  
tidings. (Ps. 111:6)  
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.

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### **Gospel Reading**

**8th Sunday of Luke**

**The Reading is from Luke 10:25-37**

At that time, a lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have

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answered right; do this, and you will live."

But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed mercy on him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

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## Wisdom of the Fathers

When a man reveres God with all his heart and with faith, he receives through God's providence the power to control anger and desire; for it is desire and anger which are the cause of all evils.

### **St. Antony the Great**

*On the Character of Men no. 12, Philokalia Vol. 1 edited by Palmer, Sherrard and Ware; Faber and Faber pg. 331, 4th century*

'The Lord your God is one Lord' (cf. Deut. 6:4), revealed in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit: in the unbegotten Father; in the Son, who is begotten eternally, timelessly and impassibly as the Logos, and who through Himself anointed that which He assumed from us and so is called Christ; and in the Holy Spirit, who also comes forth from the Father, not begotten, but proceeding. This alone is God and alone is true God, the one Lord in a Trinity of Hypostases, undivided in nature, will, glory, power, energy, and all the characteristics of divinity. Him alone shall you love and Him alone shall you worship with all your mind and with all your heart and with all your strength.

### **St. Gregory Palamas**

*A New Testament Decalogue no. 1, Philokalia Vol. 4 edited by Palmer, Sherrard and Ware; Faber and Faber pg. 323, 14th century*

## Beyond the Sermon



Metropolitan Anthony of  
Sourozh

THE PARABLE OF THE  
MERCIFUL SAMARITAN

LUKE 10: 25-37

Sermon given on 30th  
November 1997

In the Name of the

Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

Today's Gospel in short, contains everything which is the way of the Christian. The first commandment is that we should love our God with all our heart, with all our mind, with all our strength, with all our being, and our neighbour as ourselves. To love means to prefer all that is dear to the beloved person, to what is dear to us. To love God means that we should live, and indeed be such that He could rejoice in what we are, that there should be nothing alien to Him in our lives.

And here comes the second commandment, which the lawyer did not understand: that we should love our neighbour as ourselves. To love again our neighbour, forgetting ourselves. Very often we think that we are worthy Christians if we feel that we have in our hearts a warmth, that we love God. But this is not enough. The test of this love is to share God's own love for every one of our neighbours. I remember a sad moment in my own life, when my father asked me: what was the dream of my life? I was young then, and I said, 'To be with God alone.' And he looked sadly at me and said, 'You have

not begun to be a Christian.' Because if we love God we must share with Him all His concerns for the whole world and for each person in this world.

Let us, therefore, take this short event in the life of Christ and the parable as a rule. We will never be able to know how much we love God. It is difficult, because it is so easy to delude oneself. Even when we say that we love someone, a moment may come when selfishness, indifference, a quarrel may make an end, at least for a time, to our mutual friendship and closeness. But there is a criterion which is objective. How do

you treat your neighbour? What does he mean to you? If he means nothing, if he is a passer-by, if he is only someone in your way, or if he is someone to whom you can pay attention when you are in the right mood, then we have not begun to love God and to love the world together with Him. Let us therefore think of it, ask ourselves pertinent questions, and redress our lives. Amen.

## The Faith We Hold

Fasting



Seeing that bodily disposition is important in worship and spiritual life, in general, great emphasis is placed in the Orthodox Church on fasting; if one should add up all of the fasting seasons and days of the

Church calendar, he would find that more than half

of the year is devoted to this ascetic labor. The question might rightfully be asked, then, as to why this is so.

According to St. Basil the Great, Adam, the first-created man, loving God of his own free will, dwelt in the heavenly blessedness of communion with God, in the angelic state of prayer and fasting. The cause of this first man's fall was his free will; by an act of disobedience he violated the vow of abstinence and broke the living union of love with God. That is, he held in scorn the heavenly obligations of prayer and fasting by eating of the Tree of Knowledge of Good

and Evil. Lack of abstinence, then, was the cause of the Fall and, as a result, because of this original greed, the soul becomes dimmed, and is deprived of the illumination of the Holy Spirit.

Our Lord Jesus Christ calls all of us to salvation through self-denial (Luke 14:26) and this is addressed to the free will of fallen man: If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me (Matt. 16:24). Thus, the Savior calls man to the voluntary fulfillment of those heavenly obligations, which he freely forsook, of observing prayer and fasting.

Repentance without fasting is made ineffectual since fasting is the beginning of repentance. The aim of bodily fasting is the enslavement of the flesh, for fasting bridles the lust of the stomach and of that below the stomach, meaning the removal of the passions, the mortification of the body and the destruction of the sting of lust. Thus it is necessary to overcome the stomach for the healing of the passions.

The personal example of the Lord Himself

bears witness to the absolute necessity of bodily fasting. Did not the Savior fast for forty days and nights after His baptism to prepare for His earthly ministry (Matt. 4:2)? So too, many of the Saints of the Church were especially noted for their ascetic labors, which saw fasting as being of especially great importance.

In fasting the flesh and the spirit struggle one against the other. Therefore bodily fasting leads to the triumph of the spirit over the body, and gives a man power over the stomach, subdues the flesh and permits it not to commit fornication and uncleanness. Abstinence is the mother

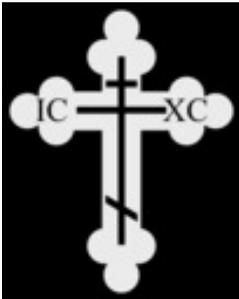
of cleanliness, the giver of health and is good for rich and poor, sick and healthy, alike. It strengthens the seeker after godliness in spiritual battles and proves to be a formidable weapon against evil spirits. As the Lord Himself said, concerning the casting-out of certain demons: This kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting (Matt. 17:21). This fasting, however, is not to be done out of pride or self-will; It must be observed in the praise of God and must be in accordance with the canons of the Church, since it consists in the complete renunciation of self-will and of the desires. At the same time, we must realize that for fallen man to attain perfection, even intensive fasting is insufficient, if in his soul he does not abstain from those things which further sin. Fasting is not only the abstinence from food, but also from evil thoughts and all passion, for, as the Savior says: Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach, and so passes on? But what comes out of

the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a man. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a man... (Matt. 15:17-20). Thus exterior fasting, without the corresponding interior fasting is in vain.

Excerpt taken from "These Truths We Hold - The Holy Orthodox Church: Her Life and Teachings". Compiled and Edited by A Monk of St. Tikhon's Monastery. Copyright 1986 by the St. Tikhon's Seminary Press, South Canaan, Pennsylvania 18459. To order a copy of "These Truths We Hold" visit the St. Tikhon's Orthodox Seminary

Bookstore.

## The Back Page



## Useful Resources and References



**Parish Shared Folder** (for all documents, bulletins etc) - <http://bit.ly/St-Alexis>

The QR Code here may be used as well.

**Parish Web Site** -

<http://www.stalexischurch.org> ; [calendar](https://bit.ly/StA-Calendar) (<https://bit.ly/StA-Calendar>)

**Facebook** - @stalexisorthodox

**Youtube Channel** - [https://bit.ly/StA\\_Youtube](https://bit.ly/StA_Youtube)

## Join Zoom Meeting

<https://bit.ly/StA-Zoom>

Meeting ID: 471 678 4843

Passcode: 1994

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,4716784843#,,,,,0#,,1994#

US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4716784843>

## Troparion to St Alexis

O righteous Father Alexis, / our heavenly intercessor and teacher, / divine adornment of the Church of Christ! / Entreat the Master of All / to strengthen the Orthodox Faith in America, / to grant peace to the world / and to our souls, great mercy!

# GIFTS FOR SAFE FUTURES

Last day of collection: December 4

## **Suggested Gift Items:**

### **Adults**

- Self-care items (lotion, body spray, body wash, face wash, etc.)
- Pajamas & bath robes -women's sizes Small – -2 XL
- Blankets (twin or queen) or cozy throws
- Warm slippers (all sizes 7,8,9,10)
- Bath towel sets, washcloths
- Adult coloring books & colored pencils (for relaxation)
- Warm winter socks, warm gloves
- Small coffee maker, toaster, handheld blender, can opener
- Umbrellas
- Wallet, cross body bag
- Holiday candy, snacks, hot chocolate, tea, coffee, etc.

### **Ideas for Children**

- Pajamas (newborn-toddler-5T through 1 18 children's sizes)
- Warm sweatpants, sweatshirts size 4T-14, winter socks, hats, mittens
- Learning toys (baby – 12 years old), board games, puzzles
- Lego sets, building sets, play food sets
- Dolls of all ethnicities
- Super hero figures or sets
- Paw Patrol toys, books, puzzles, plush toys
- Toy trucks and cars
- Coloring books and crayons, art supplies
- Infant toys, musical toys, plush toys

### **Ideas for Teens & Tweens**

- Gift cards to Target, Walmart, Old Navy, TJ Maxx, Dick's Sporting Goods, Sephora, Ulta, Michaels Craft Store, Best Buy
- Nail polish & manicure sets, make up sets
- Personal Care (male and female) – body wash, body spray, deodorant, razors, lotion
- Sports equipment, basketballs, footballs, skateboards, etc.
- Small electronics, handheld video games, headphones, ear buds, etc.
- Small Bluetooth speaker
- Craft sets, science sets, art supplies & paper
- Journals, stationary, notebooks & gel pens

## **Giving Guidelines:**

Gifts must be new and unwrapped. We cannot accept toys or games with violent themes.



“FORCC”

**AGENDA**  
**November 17, 2022– 6:30 pm**  
**Holy Ghost Russian Orthodox Church**  
**Bridgeport, CT**

**Opening prayer**

**Secretary’s minutes:** September 2022

**Treasurer’s report**

**Correspondence**

**Old Business**

- Annual banquet 2022 follow-up
- Dates & locations for **2023** meetings:
  - March 16<sup>th</sup>
  - June 15<sup>th</sup> Molieben at 6:30 pm Christ the Savior, Southbury
  - Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> Three Saints Orthodox Church, Ansonia
  - Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>
- Update on CT sales tax exemption certificate

**New Business**

- 2023 Banquet:
  - Location ?
  - Guest Speaker?
  - Scholarship guidelines/procedures
- Auditors to be appointed
- Elections: Slate of officers: President – Peter Romanovsky  
Recording Secretary – Nina Kosowsky  
Corresponding Sec. – Evelyn Balamaci  
Treasurer – Bob Lazar  
Assistant Treasurer – Alexia Tassmer
- Programs for 2023 -- suggestions
  - Youth Bowling event
  - ZOOM lecture topics

**Closing Prayer**

## **FORCC**

September 22, 2022

Three Saints Orthodox Church, Ansonia

The September 22, 2022 meeting of FORCC opened at 6:45 pm with the singing of the prayer. In attendance were: Peter Romanovsky, Nina Kosowsky, Dawn Reshen-Doty, Fr. Michael Westerberg, Mat. Lydia Westerberg, Matt Mihaly, Eve Nucifora, Bob Lazar, Alexia Tassmer, Evelyn Balamaci.

The minutes of the June meeting were presented and accepted. Motion made by Matt Mihaly, seconded by Alexia Tassmer. Fr. Michael Westerberg motioned to accept the omission to the March minutes regarding a \$350 payment for speakers presenting ZOOM lectures. Seconded by Alexia Tassmer, and passed.

The treasurer's report was presented: LCBA savings = \$45,159.50; LCBA restricted = \$121.64; checking = \$15,609.49. Dawn Reshen-Doty motioned to accept the treasurer's report; seconded by Matushka Lydia Westerberg and passed.

Two requests for donations were received: OCMC and CT Family Institute. After discussion it was decided to make a \$50 donation to the CT Family Institute. Motion made by Fr. Michael Westerberg, seconded by Bob Lazar and passed.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Annual Banquet: 84 in attendance. A suggestion was made to leave a sign at the reservation table regarding the fact that photos and a video will be done and could be placed on Facebook and the FORCC website. Ad responses totaled \$2800 and are saved on Google Drive. It was suggested that follow-up be done via email, phone calls, and personal requests. The \$1000.00 scholarship recipient was Matthew Booth from St John's on Broadbridge Ave., Stratford,

ZOOM lecture was made possible by using the ZOOM account from Three Saints in Ansonia. Discussion was held regarding follow-up on the parenting lecture. There are guidelines from the OCA regarding children in church. Question was asked if Fr. Mamalakas has a pamphlet to share on parenting. A check and thank you will be sent to him.

Duck pin bowling event was attended by 40 bowlers (age 2-teens). Suggested was a back to school bowling event next year. Other bowling venues are available in Cheshire & Danbury where private events can be planned.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

FORCC program journal suggestions for improvement: 1. Each person reach out to at least 5 people or businesses, 2. Set up electronic donations with M & T Bank, 3. Establish an