



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 27, 2024

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:

Greg Jankura - Vice President
Position Vacant- President
Sharon Hanson - Member at Large
Luba Martins - Member at Large
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) 322-2906, 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

September, 2024 Treasurer's Report - and YTD

September only

Revenue

Pledge income was strong this month as one couple paid their pledge in full. We realized \$554 in Candle donations and another \$225 in external donations. Total income for the month was \$11,189, but since the cash in our checking account was less than \$5,000, I had to transfer \$5,000 from savings into checking to pay the monthly bills. We also had four restricted donations (\$575 to the St. Elizabeth Fund and \$500 towards Beautification).

Expenses

Outside of the normal monthly expenses we paid \$222 for the annual PO Box rental and \$322 for Choir Director services.

Total monthly expenses were \$9,788. We ended the month with Income exceeding expenses by \$1,401 but YTD we have a deficit of \$6,786. We also gave \$1,500 from the St Elizabeth fund to Alla Berszko.

YTD Income

Cash has exceeded YE Budget. External Donations is only \$500 from meeting YE Budget.

Pledges - we have received \$79,316 of the \$102,720 pledges in 2024. That leaves \$23,404 more to be realized if everyone meets their pledge. However, we have 5 members who have paid less than half of their 2024 pledge. If they contribute nothing more this year, that will be a \$4,460 loss of revenue. Income from non-pledging members is negligible as it has only totaled \$230 for the year.

Expenses

I expect that 4Q expenses will be \$28,000, about the same as last year.

Summary - 4th quarter projection

Income

Pledges - 23,400 (ONLY if everyone meets their pledge)

Cash - 1500

External Donations - 2000

Parking - 600

TOTAL - \$27,500

Expenses - 28,000

4th quarter loss - \$500

YE Loss - Thru September - \$6,786

4th Quarter \$500

Projected loss \$7,286

To make up that deficit, the 30 pledging members would each need to contribute an additional \$243 per person, otherwise it comes from unrestricted savings which total about \$43,000 after that \$5,000 withdrawal.

2025 pledges

Received \$68,850 in pledges to date from 19 members and 6 non-members about half what we need to have a balanced budget.

In Christ,
Susan Egan, Treasure

Prayers, Intercessions and Commemorations



Many Years! To the newly illumined child of God, Bryn Rose, her parents Anastasia and Malcolm, and her Godparents, Anastasia and Glenn Alexis.

Memory Eternal to Joan Navaro on the anniversary of her repose in the Lord.

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

Please let Fr. Steven know via email if you have more names for which to pray.

- Departed: Fr Anthony, Nona, Mat Ann Sovyrda, Evelyn and John
- Clergy and their families: Fr Sergei B, Fr David K, Fr Patrick B, Dn Timothy
- Catechumen: Kevin, and Sarah
- Individuals and Families: Luba, Suzanne, Gail Galina, Rosemary, John, Daniel & Dayna, Kristen, Charles, Victor, Susan
- Birthdays and Name's Days this Month: Vincent Melesko (10/8), Lloyd Davis (10/10), Marlene Melesko (10/12), Greg Jankura (10/24)
- Anniversaries this Month: John and Joan Skrobat (10/17)
- Expecting and Newborn: Lynn, David and their unborn child, Keree, Steve and their unborn child
- Traveling: Michael
- Sick and those in distress: Thomas, Sheri, Joanna, Joshua, Remy, Stormy, Scott, Anne, Noah, Nancy, Cathy, Joe, Stephen, Susan Hayes

Today's commemorated feasts and saints

18th SUNDAY AFTER

PENTECOST — Tone 1. Martyr Nestor of Thessalonica (ca. 306). Ven. Nestor the Chronicler of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—ca. 1114). Uncovering of the Relics of St. Andrew, Prince of Smolensk (1540). Martyrs Capitolina and Eroteis of Cappadocia (304). Saint Claudia Procula (1st c.). Martyrs Mark, Soterikhos, and Valentine (304).

- Again we pray for those who have lost their lives because of the wars in Ukraine and in the Middle East: that the Lord our God may look upon them with mercy, and give them rest where there is neither sickness, or sorrow, but life everlasting.
- Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, for those who are suffering, wounded, grieving, or displaced because of the wars in Ukraine and in the Middle East.
- Again we pray for a cessation of the hostilities against Ukraine and the Middle East, and that reconciliation and peace will flourish there, we pray thee, hearken and have mercy.

Parish Calendar

St Alexis Parish

October 27 to November 4, 2024

Sunday, October 27

7th Sunday of Luke
Commemoration of the Flood
Baptism of Bryn Littlefield

9:30AM Divine Liturgy

Monday, October 28

The Holy Protection of the Theotokos
Nicholas Melesko - B

Tuesday, October 29

Anastasia the Martyr of Rome
8:30AM Matins

Wednesday, October 30

The Holy Martyrs Zenobius and His Sister Zenobia

Thursday, October 31

Stachys, Andrew, Amplias, Apelles, Urban, Aristobulus & Narcissus of the 70
Martyrdom of St. John Kochurov
8:30AM Matins

Friday, November 1

+Joan Narvaro
Cosmas and Damian the Holy
Unmercenarys of Asia, and their mother
Theodota

Saturday, November 2

The Holy Martyrs Acindynos, Pegasios, Aphonios, Elpidophoros, and Anempodistos
5:30PM Great Vespers

Sunday, November 3

5th Sunday of Luke
9:30AM Divine Liturgy

Monday, November 4

Joannicius the Great

Saints and Feasts

October 27

Nestor the Martyr of Thessaloniki

As mentioned in the account concerning Saint Demetrius (October 26), this Saint contested during the reign of Maximian, in the year 290.

October 28

Holy Martyrs Terrence and Eunice

Both the country and the time of the martyrdom of these holy Martyrs are unknown. All were beheaded, after having endured many bitter torments.

October 29

Anastasia the Martyr of Rome

Saint Anastasia, who was young in age and lived in a convent, was seized by the impious. Confessing Christ openly and with boldness and enduring manifold torments, she was beheaded in the year 256, during the reign of Valerian.

October 30

Zenobios & Zenobia the Martyrs

These Saints were from Aegae in Cilicia, brought up in piety by their parents. Zenobius was a physician, and healed many freely by the power of God; because of his virtue he was consecrated Bishop of Aegae. With his sister he was taken by Lysias

the Governor, and after many tortures they were beheaded, about the year 290, during the reign of Diocletian.

November 01

Cosmas and Damianos the Holy Unmercenaries and their mother Theodota

These Saints were from Asia (that is, Asia Minor). After the death of their father, their Christ-loving mother Theodota reared them in piety and in all manner of virtue, and had them instructed in every science, especially that of medicine. This became their vocation, and they went about healing every illness and malady, bestowing healing freely on both men and beasts alike; because of this, they are called "Unmercenaries." And thus, having completed the course of their life, they reposed in peace.

November 02

Bishop Raphael Hawaweeny of Brooklyn

Saint Raphael Hawaweeny was born on November 8, 1860 A.D., in Damascus, Syria, to pious Christian parents. He studied Arabic grammar and mathematics at the Antiochian Patriarchate parochial school where he was tonsured a reader in 1874. His strong academics served him well throughout his life, providing for him numerous opportunities to succeed and grow. He accepted a position in 1877 as an assistant teacher of Arabic and Turkish, which became full time in 1879. In 1879

he was tonsured a monk while working with Patriarch Hierotheos at the patriarchate, traveling with him on pastoral visits and serving as his personal assistant.

Longing to continue his theological studies, Raphael petitioned the Patriarch for permission to study at Halki Theological School, which was the only option for students of the Antiochian Patriarchate as the Balamand Seminary in Lebanon had been closed since 1840. After much persistence, Raphael received the blessing of the Patriarch and enrolled in Halki Seminary where he was ordained a deacon in 1885. After completing his degree at Halki, the young Deacon Raphael studied at the Kiev Theological Academy, working as a liaison between the Moscow and Antiochian patriarchates. Deacon Raphael was ordained to the holy priesthood in 1889 while in Kiev, continuing to serve that community for many years.

The opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 led to the subsequent collapse of the silk industry in the Middle East, causing many Syrians and others to immigrate to the United States. These new citizens desired to have their religion present in their new homeland and sent letters to their mother churches for pastoral help. A few priests were sent, but none lasted, and so the people asked for Father Raphael Hawaweeny to come to America and serve. Both the Antiochian and Moscow Patriarchs agreed to this idea, and Father Raphael left for America where the people greeted him with great love. Father Raphael then spent many years serving the Syrians in Brooklyn, New York, but he desired to scan

the continent for Syrians and other Orthodox Christians who were without spiritual leadership. He traveled by train and carriage across the nation, finding Orthodox Christians, recording their location, and performing liturgies, baptisms, and weddings. Upon his return to Brooklyn, Father Raphael worked to find clergy to send to these dispersed communities, giving them a full time pastor to minister to their needs.

In 1909, by the hands of Bishops Tikhon and Innocent of the Moscow Patriarchate, he was the first bishop consecrated in the New World. The now Bishop Raphael continued his ministry to the Christians throughout America. Bishop Raphael worked tirelessly in Brooklyn to mediate disputes between the Orthodox Christians from Syria and Maronite Catholic Christians who often fought violently with one another. Despite numerous outbursts and setbacks, Bishop Raphael continued his ministry serving the Orthodox throughout his vast diocese. One such incident was when an influential leader of the Maronite group was killed and many people accused Bishop Raphael of ordering his murder. This led to many people attempting to harm the bishop, but he endured it all willingly. He was arrested under attempted murder charges, but was eventually cleared and let go after much time and money was spent in his defense.

Throughout his time in North America, Bishop Raphael founded 36 parishes to bring the Church to the faithful who were without a priest to guide them. Bishop Raphael truly lived out the Gospel in all aspects of his life, striving tirelessly for the

people in his care, even to the point of sacrificing his own physical health in order to maintain the spiritual health of his people. Bishop Raphael died on February 27, 1915, at his home in Brooklyn. His funeral was attended by hundreds of people, including clergy from all ethnic backgrounds, illustrating his love for all of the people of God regardless of where they came from. The sacred relics of Saint Raphael, “the good shepherd of the lost sheep in North America,” were first interred in a crypt beneath the holy table at his Saint Nicholas Cathedral in Brooklyn on March 7, 1915, before being moved to the Syrian section of Mount Olivet Cemetery in Brooklyn on April 2, 1922. They were finally translated to the Holy Resurrection Cemetery at the Antiochian Village near Ligonier, Pennsylvania, on August 15, 1988. His sanctity was officially proclaimed by the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America on March 29, 2000, and his glorification was celebrated on May 29 of that year at the Monastery of Saint Tikhon in Pennsylvania.

Hymns of the Day



day, O Savior,

Tone 1 Troparion (Resurrection)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure body, You rose on the third

granting life to the world.

The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life:

“Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ!

Glory to Your Kingdom!//

Glory to Your dispensation, O Lover of mankind!”

Tone 4 Troparion (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.

Tone 1 Kontakion (Resurrection)

As God, You rose from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Yourself. Human nature praises You as God, for death has vanished. Adam exults, O Master! Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to You:// “You are the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

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

Tone 5 Kontakion (St. Alexis)

Let us, the faithful praise the Priest Alexis, a bright beacon of Orthodoxy in America, a model of patience and humility, a worthy shepherd of the Flock of Christ. He called back the sheep who had been led astray

and brought them by his preaching to the Heavenly Kingdom.

now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 6 Kontakion (Steadfast Protectress)

Steadfast Protectress of Christians,
Constant Advocate before the Creator;
despise not the entreating cries of us
sinners,
but in your goodness come speedily to help
us who call on you in faith.
Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede
for us,
O Theotokos, for you always protect those
who honor you!

In lieu of the Trisagion

As many as have been baptized into Christ,
have put on Christ, Alleluia

COMMUNION HYMN

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

Gospel and Epistle Readings

Epistle Reading

Prokeimenon. 5th Tone. Psalm 65.4,1.

Let all the earth worship you, and sing
praises to you.

Verse: Shout with joy to God, all the earth.

**The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to
the Romans 6:3-11.**

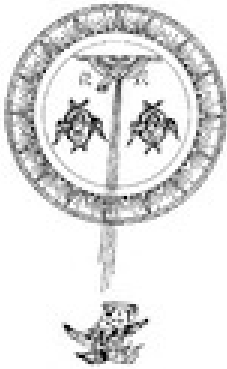
Brethren, all who have been baptized into
Christ Jesus were baptized into His death.
We were buried therefore with Him by
baptism into death, so that as Christ was
raised from the dead by the glory of the
Father, we too might walk in newness of life.
For if we have been united with Him in a
death like His, we shall certainly be united
with Him in a resurrection like His. We know
that our old self was crucified with Him so
that the sinful body might be destroyed, and
we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For
he who has died is freed from sin. But if we
have died with Christ, we believe that we
shall also live with Him. For we know that
Christ being raised from the dead will never
die again; death no longer has dominion over
Him. The death He died He died to sin, once
for all, but the life He lives He lives to God.
So you also must consider yourselves dead to
sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel Reading

The Reading is from Matthew 28:16-20

At that time, the eleven disciples went to
Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had
directed them. And when they saw Him they
worshipped Him; but some doubted. And
Jesus came and said to them, "All authority
in heaven and on earth has been given to
Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all
nations, baptizing them in the name of the
Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
teaching them to observe all that I have
commanded you; and lo, I am with you
always, to the close of the age. Amen."

Beyond the Sermon



THE GOSPEL READING

Luke 8:41-56

[Jairus' Daughter
Raised, A Woman
Healed]

At that time, there came to Jesus a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue; and falling at Jesus' feet he

besought him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying. As he went, the people pressed round him. And a woman who had had a flow of blood for twelve years and had spent all her living upon physicians and could not be healed by anyone, came up behind him, and touched the fringe of his garment; and immediately her flow of blood ceased. And Jesus said, "Who was it that touched me?" When all denied it, Peter and those who were with him said, "Master, the multitudes surround you and press upon you!" But Jesus said, "Some one touched me; for I perceive that power has gone forth from me."

And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace." While

he was still speaking, a man from the ruler's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more." But Jesus on hearing this answered him, "Do not fear; only believe, and she shall be well." And when he came to the house, he permitted no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the other and mother of the child.

And all were weeping and bewailing her; but he said, "Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But taking her by the hand he called, saying, "Child, arise." And her spirit returned, and she got up at once; and he directed that something should be given her to eat. And her parents were amazed; but he charged them to tell no one what had happened.

THE SERMON

Twelve years tells the story of two daughters: a child, and an adult. Both daughters encounter Jesus and come back to life as they are touched by Christ, who is the Giver of life. The child is the daughter of Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, which means he was not a priest but the administrator of the local Jewish congregation. He was not yet a follower of Jesus, but undoubtedly, he had heard of Jesus of Nazareth, anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all because God was with Him.

The Jewish authorities who rejected Jesus were Jairus' superiors and employers, so Jairus risked losing his position by coming to meet Jesus. However, Jairus' daughter was sick and dying, and so

in desperation, Jairus overcomes his fear and seeks the compassion and power of Christ. Because of his love for his daughter, he was not afraid of the repercussions this might have had. Jairus comes to Jesus, falls at His feet, and begs Him for help.

The hope of having his daughter healed, his only daughter (in Greek: μονογενής, the same word used for the Only Begotten Son of God), was worth all things. Jairus' pain provided an opportunity for great faith in a time of desperation. He believed Jesus could save his daughter, and the Son of God rewarded his faith. Jesus recognizes his faith and has compassion on him. He responds to this plea for help and starts making his way to Jairus' home.

On the other side of this story, there is another daughter of God. Like Jairus' young daughter, this older daughter remains nameless. Yet, twelve years prior, about the same time when Jairus' daughter was born, this woman became ill in a way that made her ceremonially unclean. According to Jewish law, she was unable to worship in the temple. She began to die slowly, while at the same time, Jairus' child was growing. Twelve years later, the physicians could save neither the child nor the woman. We are told that for twelve years, the woman had spent all her living upon physicians and could not be healed by anyone.

Meanwhile, Jairus did not consider the repercussions and took a leap of faith to reach out to Jesus, hoping to save his daughter's life. At the same time, this woman does the same. She boldly takes a leap of faith and reaches out to Jesus,

touching the hem of His garment because of her great faith in a time of desperation. The Lord notices great faith and responds in a personal and compassionate way. He stops to attend to the one who placed all her faith and hope in Him. And says, "Who was it that touched me?" He asked not because he did not know but to honor her faith.

The Apostle Peter said, Master, everyone is touching You. There is a crowd pressing on You as You walk. But Jesus said, someone special, with great faith, touched Me. This was not a mere rubbing of shoulders with the multitude, but someone who believed in Him for eternal life and placed all her hopes in Him. Jesus instantaneously heals her the minute she touches Him because of her faith. "I perceive that power has gone forth from me," the Lord says. And when the embarrassed woman realized God the Son was speaking about her, she came trembling and fell before Him. The Lord calls her His daughter and says, "Your faith has made you well; go in peace." Because of His great love and her great faith, the Lord Jesus heals her completely. Saint Ephraim the Syrian says, "Faith is the means by which anyone now may enter the family of Jesus, and peace is the crown of victory she receives because of her faith." An ancient hymn of the Church says, "Then a woman, weak and timid, touched his sacred garment's hem: instant was his blessed healing, and the pallor left her cheek, as the hemorrhage she had suffered through so many years was stopped."

At the same time that Jesus heals the woman, messengers come to Jairus with the word that his daughter has died.

The roles of the two daughters are now reversed. When that child was born, the woman began to die. Now, the child died when the woman began to live again. Jairus was there with Jesus and witnessed the healing of the woman, but the messengers tell him that his daughter is dead and not to trouble Jesus anymore.

However, Jairus also had the same faith that the woman had in the face of hopelessness, and he wanted Jesus to still go with him. "Do not fear," Jesus said, "only believe, and she shall be well." In Greek, the text literally says, "only believe and she will be saved." This means that not only will her body be well, but she will be saved as a whole: body, mind, and soul. It shows us how faith can save us, help us to follow Christ and the Gospel, and enter into union with God in His Kingdom, even in this life.

The entire passage presents two daughters, two sicknesses, and two resurrections. All is made well by the unwavering faith resulting in new life. Faith is the opposite of fear. "Do not fear," Jesus said. The Lord said that many times in the Gospels to His beloved ones. Such as, when the disciples were in a storm, afraid they were going to sink, they saw Jesus walking on water toward them in the middle of the night and thought it was a ghost. Immediately, Jesus spoke to them and told them not to be afraid because He was with them.

Also, when Jesus was transfigured before His disciples, they fell to the ground, covering their faces. Jesus came and touched them, telling them not to be afraid. When Jesus appeared to his disciples, risen from the dead, they took

hold of His feet and worshiped him, and He told them not to be afraid. The presence of the Lord takes away fear, because He is the Son of God who loves us, and who can do all things. Out of faith, the woman with the flow of blood overcame her fear and touched His garment. Jesus healed her. Now Jesus tells Jairus not to fear. Therefore, with faith, Jairus accompanied Jesus to the house, and the Lord came to the child. In Christ, death is defeated, because He destroyed death by death. In Christ, death is like momentary sleeping. As the woman had touched Jesus, now Jesus touches the child, takes her by the hand, and says, "Child, arise!" When the Son of God, speaks, life overcomes death. Immediately, the child's spirit returned, and she rose from the dead.

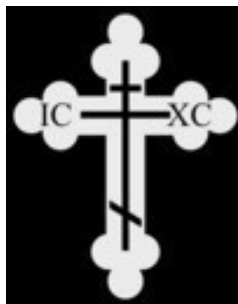
The child became a type of Christ, risen from the dead, as the woman with the flow of blood also became a type of humanity, wounded after the Fall and restored by Jesus. Both daughters were saved by faith — one, by her own faith, the other, by the prayers and faith of another, that is, her father. We are also the sons and daughters of Christ, who, by our faith, and by the faith and prayers of the Saints in heaven and the prayers of the Church on earth, are touched by the Lord and restored to life.

Let us trust Christ without fear, even in the darkest moments of life. He calls us sons and daughters. Let us pray for one another as well as brothers and sisters. All it takes is for us not to be afraid but only believe in Him, Who rose from the dead. The Lord loves us and always responds

to our cries for help, especially when we face the darkest of situations. As Christ shows us through Jairus' daughter and the woman healed of a flow of blood, when we are in our darkest moment, an unimaginable resurrection is waiting around the corner. Trusting in God's love, we can simply abandon ourselves in His arms.



The Back Page



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