



St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre Orthodox Church

Address: PO Box 134, 108 E Main St, Clinton, CT 06413-0134

Phone: 860-664-9434

Web: <http://www.stalexischurch.org>

Email: stalexis@ dneoca.org

Fr Steven Hosking

Rector

Phone: 860-322-2906 (Message)

Email: frsteve@stalexischurch.org

Dn Timothy Skuby

Attached

Phone: (808) 341-1813

Email: dntimothy@stalexischurch.org

Services Schedule

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

Bulletin for Sunday, January 19, 2025

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:

Carolyn Neiss- President Greg Jankura - Vice President
Boris Doph - Treasurer. James Ifkovic - Secretary
Sharon Hanson - Member at Large
Luba Martins - Member at Large

Brett Malcolm - Member at Large

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

Please keep Gail "Galina" Kuziak, and her family in your prayers. Gail is in Danbury hospital and when the family came to visit this morning, she was found to be unresponsive. She was taken to receive a CAT scan and the family is discussing their further options.

This is all the details that I have at the moment.

Please keep Gail's husband, Victor, in your prayers as tomorrow is the anniversary of his repose. Memory Eternal.

Prayers, Intercessions and Commemorations



Many years! to Dn Timothy Skuby on the occasion of his Name's Day.

Memory Eternal for Victor Kuziak on the anniversary of his repose.

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: Frank, Leonore
- Clergy and their families: Fr Sergei B, Fr Vladimir, Matushka Anne,
- Catechumen: Kevin, James
- Individuals and Families: Luba,

- Suzanne, Rosemary, Daniel & Dayna, Kristen, Charles, Victor, Susan, Gregory
- Birthdays and Name's Days this Month: Gail Kuziak (B-14 Jan), Fr Deacon Timothy (N-22 Jan),
- Anniversaries this Month:
- Expecting and Newborn: Keree, Steve and their unborn child, Katie and Aaron and their unborn child, Steven and Ashley and their unborn child Christopher
- Traveling: Michael, Jason
- Sick and those in distress: Thomas, Sheri, Joanna, Joshua, Remy, Stormy, Scott, Anne, Noah, Nancy, Cathy, Joe, Gail Galena, Sophia, Gregory, Tomas, Nancy, Nicholas, Carol, Marlene, Reader John

Today's commemorated feasts and saints

30th SUNDAY AFTER

PENTECOST — Tone 5. Ven. Macarius the Great of Egypt (390-391). Ven. Macarius of Alexandria (394-395). St. Mark, Archbishop of Ephesus (15th c.). Ven. Makáry the Faster, of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves—12th c.). Ven. Makáry the Deacon, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—13th-14th c.). Righteous Theodore of Novgorod, Fool-for-Christ (1392). Opening of the Relics of Ven. Savva (Sabbas) of Storozhévsk and Zvenígorod (1652). Virgin Martyr Euphrasia of Nicomedia (303). St. Arsenius, Archbishop of Kerkyra (Corfu—8th c.).

- 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

January 19 to January 27, 2025

Sunday, January 19

12th Sunday of Luke
9:30AM Divine Liturgy

Monday, January 20

Righteous Euthymius the Great

Tuesday, January 21

Maximus the Confessor
8:30AM Matins
6:30PM Parish Council Mtg

Wednesday, January 22

Timothy the Apostle of the 70

Thursday, January 23

Hieromartyr Clement, Bishop of Ancyra
8:30AM Matins

Friday, January 24

Xenia, Deaconess of Rome

Saturday, January 25

Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop of Constantinople
5:30PM Great Vespers

Sunday, January 26

15th Sunday of Luke
Fr. Steven Voytovich - B
Sanctity of Life
9:30AM Divine Liturgy

Monday, January 27

Removal of the Relics of John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople

Saints and Feasts

January 19

Macarius the Great of Egypt

Saint Macarius the Great was from the Thebaid of Egypt, a disciple, as some say, of Saint Anthony the Great. He was born about 331 and struggled in asceticism in the desert at Scete. Although young, he was called "the child elder" because of his great wisdom and austere manner of life. He was ordained presbyter and reposed in 391, at the age of sixty. There are fifty homilies ascribed to him.

It is said of Saint Macarius that he became as a God upon earth, for even as God protects the whole world, so did he cover the faults he saw as if he did not see them. Once he came back to his cell to find a thief taking his things and loading them on a camel. Macarius' non-possessiveness was so great that he helped the thief load

the camel. When the camel refused to rise, Macarius returned to his cell and brought a small hoe, said that the camel wanted the hoe also, loaded it on, and kicked the camel telling it to get up. The camel obeyed Macarius' command, but soon lay down again, and would not move until everything had been returned to Macarius. His contemporary, Saint Macarius of Alexandria, was so called because he came from Alexandria and was therefore of that Greek-speaking colony; while Saint Macarius the Great is also called "of Egypt," that is, he belonged to the ancient race native to Egypt, the Copts.

January 19

Mark, Bishop of Ephesus

The great teacher and invincible defender of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, Saint Mark, was the offspring and scion of the imperial city, Constantinople. Reared by most pious parents, and instructed in secular and spiritual wisdom, he became preeminent in both. Saint Mark lived as an ascetic on the Prince's Islands and later in the monastery of Saint George Magana in Constantinople. He passed through all the degrees of the priesthood, and was finally advanced to the dignity of Archbishop and the lofty throne of the Metropolis of Ephesus. At the insistence of Emperor John Paleologos, the Saint was sent to the council of the Latins in Florence, to unite the churches that had been divided for so many years. He astounded the papal teachers with the divine wisdom of his words, and was the only one who did not

sign the blasphemous decree of that false council. Because of this, the Holy Church of Christ has ever honored this great man as a benefactor, teacher, sole defender, and invincible champion of the Apostolic Confession. He reposed in 1443.

January 20

Euthymios the Great

This Saint, who was from Melitene in Armenia, was the son of pious parents named Paul and Dionysia. He was born about 377. Since his mother had been barren, he was named Euthymius-which means "good cheer" or "joy"-for this is what his parents experienced at his birth. He studied under Eutroius, the Bishop of Melitene, by whom he was ordained and entrusted with the care of the monasteries of Melitene. Then, after he had come to Palestine about the year 406, he became the leader of a multitude of monks. Through him, a great tribe of Arabs was turned to piety, when he healed the ailing son of their leader Aspebetos. Aspebetos was baptized with all his people; he took the Christian name of Peter, and was later consecrated Bishop for his tribe, being called "Bishop of the Tents." Saint Euthymius also fought against the Nestorians, Eutychians, and Manichaeans. When Eudocia, the widow of Saint Theodosius the Younger, had made her dwelling in Palestine, and had fallen into the heresy of the Monophysites which was championed in Palestine by a certain Theodosius, she sent envoys to Saint Symeon the Stylite in Syria (see Sept. 1), asking him his opinion of Eutyches and the

Council of Chalcedon which had condemned him; Saint Symeon, praising the holiness and Orthodoxy of Saint Euthymius near whom she dwelt, sent her to him to be delivered from her error (the holy Empress Eudocia is commemorated Aug. 13). He became the divine oracle of the Church, or rather, "the vessel of divine utterance," as a certain historian writes. He was the instructor and elder of Saint Sabbas the Sanctified. Having lived for ninety-six years, he reposed in 473, on January 20.

January 21

Maximos the Confessor

The divine Maximus, who was from Constantinople, sprang from an illustrious family. He was a lover of wisdom and an eminent theologian. At first, he was the chief private secretary of the Emperor Heraclius and his grandson Constans. When the Monothelite heresy became predominant in the royal court, out of hatred for this error the Saint departed for the Monastery at Chrysopolis (Scutari), of which he later became the abbot. When Constans tried to constrain him either to accept the Monothelite teaching, or to stop speaking and writing against it - neither of which the Saint accepted to do - his tongue was uprooted and his right hand was cut off, and he was sent into exile where he reposed in 662. At the time only he and his few disciples were Orthodox in the East (See also August 13).

January 22

Timothy the Apostle of the 70

The Apostle Timothy, who was from Lystra of Lycaonia, was born of a Greek (that is, pagan) father and a Jewish mother. His mother's name was Eunice, and his grandmother's name was Lois (II Tim. 1:5). He became the disciple of the Apostle Paul when the latter first preached there, and he followed St. Paul during the whole period of the Apostle's preaching. Afterwards, Timothy was consecrated by him as first Bishop of the church in Ephesus. Under the supervision of John the Evangelist, who governed all the churches in Asia, he completed his life as a martyr in the year 97. He was stoned to death by the heathens, because, as some surmise, he opposed the festival held in honor of Artemis (Diana). The Apostle Paul's First and Second Epistles to Timothy were written to him.

January 24

Xenia, Deaconess of Rome

Our righteous Mother Xenia of Rome was of a distinguished family. While her parents were preparing to wed her, she stole away secretly, taking two handmaids with her, and departed for Mylasa of Karia in Asia Minor, and there she completed her life in asceticism. She was ordained deaconess by Paul, her spiritual father, who became Bishop of Mylasa. Although she was originally named Eusebia, to conceal her identity, she took the name Xenia - which

means "stranger" in Greek - because of her estrangement from her country.

January 24

Xenia of St. Petersburg, Fool-for-Christ

Our righteous Mother Xenia of Petersburg was born about the year 1730. She was married to a Colonel named Andrew; when she was twenty-six years old, her husband died suddenly, having been drinking with his friends. Left a childless widow, Xenia gave away all that she had, and vanished from Saint Petersburg for eight years; it is believed that she spent this time in a hermitage, learning the spiritual life. When she returned to Saint Petersburg, she wore her husband's military clothing, and would answer only to the name Andrew, that is, the name of her late husband. She took up the life of a homeless wanderer, and was abused by many as insane; she bore this with great patience, crucifying the carnal mind through the mockery she endured, and praying for her husband's soul. She was given great gifts of prayer and prophecy, and often foretold things to come; in 1796 she foretold the death of Empress Catherine II. Having lived forty-five years after her husband's death, she reposed in peace at the age of seventy-one, about the year 1800. Her grave became such a source of miracles, and so many came to take soil from it as a blessing, that it was often necessary to replace the soil; when a stone slab was placed over her grave, this too disappeared over time, piece by piece. Saint Xenia is especially invoked for help in finding employment, lodging, or a spouse.

January 25

Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop of Constantinople

This great Father and Teacher of the Church was born in 329 in Arianzus, a village of the second district of Cappadocia, not far from Nazianzus. His father, who later became Bishop of Nazianzus, was named Gregory (commemorated Jan. 1), and his mother was named Nonna (Aug. 5); both are among the Saints, and so are his brother Caesarius (Mar. 9) and his sister Gorgona (Feb. 23). At first he studied in Caesarea of Palestine, then in Alexandria, and finally in Athens. As he was sailing from Alexandria to Athens, a violent sea storm put in peril not only his life but also his salvation, since he had not yet been baptized. With tears and fervour he besought God to spare him, vowing to dedicate his whole self to Him, and the tempest gave way to calm. At Athens Saint Gregory was later joined by Saint Basil the Great, whom he already knew; but now their acquaintanceship grew into a lifelong brotherly love. Another fellow student of theirs in Athens was the young Prince Julian, who later as Emperor was called the Apostate because he denied Christ and did all in his power to restore paganism. Even in Athens, before Julian had thrown off the mask of piety; Saint Gregory saw what an unsettled mind he had, and said, "What an evil the Roman State is nourishing" (Orat. V, 24, PG 35:693).

After their studies at Athens, Gregory became Basil's fellow ascetic, living

the monastic life together with him for a time in the hermitages of Pontus. His father ordained him presbyter of the Church of Nazianzus, and Saint Basil consecrated him Bishop of Sasima (or Zansima), which was in the archdiocese of Caesarea. This consecration was a source of great sorrow to Gregory, and a cause of misunderstanding between him and Basil; but his love for Basil remained unchanged, as can be plainly seen from his Funeral Oration on Saint Basil (Orat. XLIII).

About the Year 379, Saint Gregory came to the assistance of the Church of Constantinople, which had already been troubled for forty years by the Arians; by his supremely wise words and many labours he freed it from the corruption of heresy, and was elected Archbishop of that city by the Second Ecumenical Council, which assembled there in 381, and condemned Macedonius, Archbishop of Constantinople, the enemy of the Holy Spirit. When Saint Gregory came to Constantinople, the Arians had taken all the churches and he was forced to serve in a house chapel dedicated to Saint Anastasia the Martyr. From there he began to preach his famous five sermons on the Trinity, called the Triadica. When he left Constantinople two years later, the Arians did not have one church left to them in the city. Saint Meletius of Antioch (see Feb. 12), who was presiding over the Second Ecumenical Council, died in the course of it, and Saint Gregory was chosen in his stead; there he distinguished himself in his expositions of dogmatic theology.

Having governed the Church until 382, he delivered his farewell speech - the

Syntacterion, in which he demonstrated the Divinity of the Son - before 150 bishops and the Emperor Theodosius the Great; in this speech he requested, and received from all, permission to retire from the see of Constantinople. He returned to Nazianzus, where he lived to the end of his life, and reposed in the Lord in 391, having lived some sixty-two years.

His extant writings, both prose and poems in every type of metre, demonstrate his lofty eloquence and his wondrous breadth of learning. In the beauty of his writings, he is considered to have surpassed the Greek writers of antiquity, and because of his God-inspired theological thought, he received the surname "Theologian." Although he is sometimes called Gregory of Nazianzus, this title belongs properly to his father; he himself is known by the Church only as Gregory the Theologian. He is especially called "Trinitarian Theologian," since in virtually every homily he refers to the Trinity and the one essence and nature of the Godhead. Hence, Alexius Anthorus dedicated the following verses to him:

Like an unwandering star beaming with splendour,
Thou bringest us by mystic teachings, O Father,
To the Trinity's sunlike illumination,
O mouth breathing with fire, Gregory most mighty.

Hymns of the Day



Tone 5 Troparion (Resurrection)

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

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

Tone 4 Troparion (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 Troparion (Ven. Macarius)

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body,
you were a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father Macarius.
You received heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil and prayer,
healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to you by faith.
Glory to Him Who gave you strength!
Glory to Him Who granted you a ^crown!//
Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!

Tone 5 Kontakion (Resurrection)

My Savior and Redeemer
as God rose from the tomb and delivered

the earth-born from their chains.
He has shattered the gates of hell,
and as Master, //
He has risen on the third day!

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.

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

Tone 4 Kontakion (Ven. Macarius)

The Lord truly placed you in the house of
abstinence,
as a star enlightening the ends of the earth, //
Venerable Macarius, Father of Fathers.

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!

COMMUNION HYMN

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

Gospel and Epistle Readings

Epistle Reading

The Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:12-16

Brethren, put on as God's chosen ones, holy
and beloved, compassion, kindness,
lowliness, meekness, and patience,
forbearing one another and, if one has a
complaint against another, forgiving each
other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you
also must forgive. And above all these put on
love, which binds everything together in
perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ
rule in your hearts, to which indeed you
were called in the one body. And be thankful.
Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
teach and admonish one another in all
wisdom, and sing psalms and hymns and
spiritual songs with thankfulness in your
hearts to God.

Gospel Reading

The Reading is from Luke 18:35-43

At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a
blind man was sitting by the roadside
begging; and hearing a multitude going by,
he inquired what this meant. They told him,
"Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he
cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on
me!" And those who were in front rebuked
him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out
all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on
me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded

him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

Wisdom of the Fathers

There is nothing more burdensome and grievous than when conscience accuses us in anything, and there is nothing dearer than calmness and approval of the conscience.

St. Maximos the Confessor

Calendar Company, Orthodox. Wisdom of the Divine Philosophers-Volume Two (p. 29). Orthodox Calendar Company. Kindle Edition.

The affairs of the world are so numerous that they could hardly be completed in a hundred years, and so important that they will not allow any kind of delay. To our misfortune, only God-pleasing works can be set aside without fear—some until next morning, some unto next year, and some even unto old age, for which reason it often happens that they remain unfulfilled. I sincerely sympathize, but cannot help in any way.

St. Anthony of Optina

Calendar Company, Orthodox. Wisdom of the Divine Philosophers-Volume Two (p. 101). Orthodox Calendar Company. Kindle Edition.

Beyond the Sermon



Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh
Healing of the Blind man
13 January 1991

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.
As in the days of the ministry of Christ on earth, Saint John the Baptist had been

preaching the Gospel of repentance, the good news that repentance, turning to God, always brings us face to face with Him in reconciliation, so does also the Church now, before Lent, face us with weeks of preparation, weeks during which we look at ourselves as deeply as we can, as honestly as we can, before we are confronted with deeds of God, with His power and with the example of those who had truly turned away from evil, given themselves to God, and have found fulfilment and salvation. And before these weeks begin to prepare us even to this, we remember, as we do today, Bartimaeus, the blind man of Jericho, a reminder that we all are blind, that we all have forgotten how to see the reality of things. He was blinded by illness; we are blinded by the visible; the invisible becomes

invisible to us because all that catches our eye prevents us from looking deep, looking into the depth.

The message which is brought to us today is this: we are all blind, and we must learn to see. To see ourselves as we are, both what is evil, imperfect, distorted to us, and also the beauty of the image of God which nothing can erase, nothing can destroy, which may be covered up as an icon may be covered up by dust, but which remain glorious within us. And we must learn to look at ourselves, and discern both good and evil: not only evil, but also that good which can inspire us to struggle, to fight and to overcome all that is unworthy of God.

But we must also learn in these weeks to look at everyone around us and see God's image in him or in her, forget those imperfections which blind us to the beauty of every person, look deep into each one who is our neighbour, and worshipfully, reverently discover the divine presence, the divine likeness in him or in her.

Only then we will be able to move on to the weeks of preparation which will confront us one after the other with our most common and most destructive imperfections. If we try to look at ourselves, we often feel that we don't have eyes to see, we have no terms of reference: how can we see? There is a mirror in which we can see both good and evil. Let us, in the course of these days, read with an open mind and open heart, with veneration the Gospel. We will see in Christ what a true human being is; we will see in His teaching what we are called to be and to become; we will see in His apostles, in those who surrounded Him the struggle for perfection. Let us look into the Gospel as one looks into a mirror, compare ourselves

with what we see, and we will then discover not only evil but glory. And let us, inspired by it, move on, as Paul says, from glory to glory, turning away from past and rushing towards the fulfilment of our vocation. Amen.

The Back Page



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

Join Zoom Meeting

- http://bit.ly/St_Alexis_Zoom





The Bridgeport Islanders & the Orthodox Christian Community Presents

FAITH AND FAMILY

★ NIGHT ★



BRUINS

vs

ISLANDERS



Saturday, Feb 15th, 2025 | Puck Drop 5pm

Total Mortgage Arena, 600 Main St., Bridgeport, CT 06604

Tickets \$27 | ON SALE NOW!

plus fees

net proceeds go to IOCC for hurricane relief

SCAN



fevo-enterprise.com/event/Faithfamily808

TICKETS INCLUDE

Pre-game Speakers:

Bishop JOHN Abdalah

(Diocese of Worcester and New England)

Rev. Peter Orfanakos

(St Barbara's Greek Orthodox Church Orange, CT)

Theme: "All You Need Is Love"

Islanders Hat

Door Prizes

(if purchased before Jan 31st)

& MUCH More

Center Ice Seats
Early Stadium Access
Post-game Picture on Ice

Each church community with 50+ tickets sold will receive a prize basket from the Bridgeport Islanders!

Be part of this *historic* gathering of Orthodox Christians from the New England and Tri-State areas for an evening of hockey, fellowship, and family fun

For More Information



kyle.laham@stnicholasbridgeport.org