

# St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre Orthodox Church

## A Mission of the Orthodox Church in America

Meeting at St. Stephen Catholic Chapel, 2400 E Moody Blvd, Bunnell, FL 32110

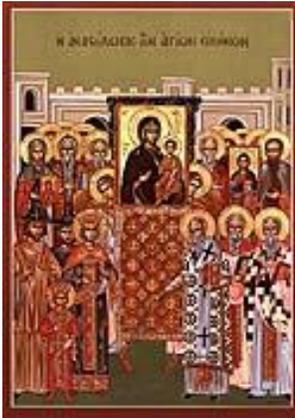
**Sunday Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM**

*Confessions heard 9:00 AM Sundays, before and after evening services, and by appointment*

**SUNDAY, MARCH 1**

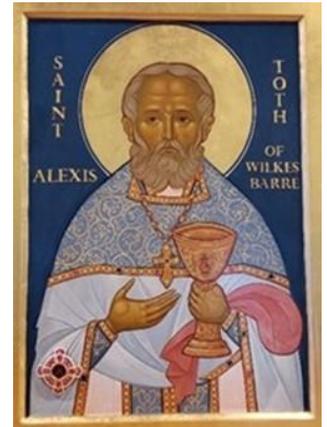
**First Sunday of Great Lent  
Sunday of Orthodoxy**

**TONE 5**



“The Orthodox Christian Church is evangelical, but not Protestant. It is orthodox, but not Jewish. It is catholic, but not Roman. It is not denominational, it is pre-denominational. It has believed, taught, preserved, defended, and died for the Faith of the Apostles since the Day of Pentecost nearly 2,000 years ago.”

– *Our Life in Christ*



### **Welcome to our Guests!**

Thank you for coming to pray with us. You will find a weekly bulletin with today's hymns and a blue guest information card on the back table. Please fill out the card and give it to a greeter or put it in an offering box. You are also invited to *Coffee Fellowship* in the parish hall following the Liturgy this morning. Our priest, Fr David, looks forward to meeting you!

**According to ancient Christian practice, Holy Communion (Eucharist) is served to** members of the Orthodox Church who have made preparation through prayer, fasting, and recent confession, and who are at peace with their neighbor. If you are not a member of the Orthodox Church, you may be offered blessed bread (*antidoron*) by others in respect and love.

**Greeter Schedule:**

<u>Mar 1</u>	<u>Mar 8</u>	<u>Mar 15</u>	<u>Mar 22</u>	<u>Mar 29</u>
Olga L	Octavian F	Kenadea N	Michael P	Chris M

### **Announcements:**

#### **First Sunday of Great and Holy Lent: Sunday of Orthodoxy**

The word “Orthodoxy” was first used in connection with this Sunday in 842, in defense of the incarnation of Jesus Christ. One ancient expression of teaching about the incarnation was the use of icons. Christ incarnate is the essential Icon, the prototype of all icons. All other icons are possible because the Son of God took flesh and blood and a human nature and became man. He is one Person with two natures - divine and human. He is the God-Man. An attack on the use of icons began over 100 years before 842, and Christians wrestled with the issue, resolving the debate in the 7<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council. The Council issued a document that has been read, at least in part, in our Orthodox Church ever since: the *Synodikon*. You will hear a reading from this document today after the Dismissal.

**It is customary to bring an icon from home to the Liturgy on the Sunday of Orthodoxy.** At the end of the service we will carry our icons in procession around the church to the front steps. If you bring your own icon, bring it to the table in the front of the nave when you arrive where it will be blessed and returned to you.

**Pan-Orthodox Vespers TONIGHT 5PM at Holy Cross Antiochian Orthodox Church, Ormond Beach [375 Fleming Ave, Ormond Beach, FL 32174].** The Sunday of Orthodoxy is an opportunity for sister parishes to pray together since we truly are “one, holy, catholic (*part of the whole*), apostolic Church.” This year we return to Holy Cross Orthodox Church where we will also join members of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church for evening prayers together. All are invited to a Lenten meal in the parish hall following. If you need a ride to this service, please see Fr David or Jim Humphries. **Don’t miss this most blessed opportunity!**

### **Practical Application of General Guidelines About Fasting**

For our healing we need to practice the spirit of the fast. We are not monastics, and we must function successfully in the workplace and in our homes for our families. A practical, suggested application is as follows:

1. No meat until Pascha.
2. Reduce/eliminate dairy products to the best of your ability.
3. According to the rubrics, a (modest-sized) glass of wine is permissible with the main course of our main meal of the day on feast days, Saturday, and Sunday (for those who do not need to abstain from alcohol completely).
4. Make your best fasting efforts on Wednesdays and Fridays, the first week of Lent (Clean Week) and Holy Week.
5. Limit meals and eat less. Stuffing ourselves on “legal” foods is still gluttony. Stop eating before you are full. Exercising, walking, running, and drinking plenty of water can help control gluttony. Moderation is a Christian discipline. Also, besides the overeating of “legal” delicacies, abstain from gluttony of the tongue by speaking less, listening more.
6. If we are fasting appropriately, we will experience weakness from time to time. If you are under care of a physician and taking prescribed medication, follow the directions if food and water are required! This is part of your fasting. You do not need to ask your priest for a blessing to modify fasting in this case.
7. Fast from social media and screentime as much as your work or studies allow.
8. The Great Fast is a gift. It is not done as a lone individual. It is done in the fellowship of the entire Body of Christ. Let us prayerfully offer our fast up to God in thanksgiving for all He has given us.
9. Take the fast seriously. With the services coming up, mark your calendar and attend as many as possible, bowing down to God in worship and enjoying His presence. Lent is a slow cook, not a microwave zap! There is nothing instantaneous in spiritual growth.
10. A custom for some is to give alms to those in need with the monies saved by fasting in addition to their regular tithes. We have a separate Alms Box for receiving such offerings.

**It’s All Hands on Deck! Please save the following Saturdays @10-3 for working in our new building:**

- February 28 – lunch provided (Lenten soup)
- March 7 – watch for details
- March 14 – watch for details

Regardless of how long you can stay, come anyway and help as you can! Team leaders will assign tasks and provide materials. All are welcome, including well-supervised children with their parents!

## Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs

Fr David is now facilitating a class for seekers, catechumens, and members of the faithful after Coffee Fellowship Hour on appointed Sundays - *check the calendar for dates!* Catechumens, please make it a priority to attend – and all others are welcome to join in. In the Orthodox Church we pray what we believe and we believe what we pray. If you are a guest, seeker, inquirer or member, this is an opportunity to learn more about the meaning behind how we pray. So, enjoy Coffee Hour then join us back in the nave.

## **Capital Campaign 2025-2026 In Progress**

- ✓ The goal of \$400K has been reached, enabling us to pay for the new building. Thanks be to God!
- ✓ But *don't stop now!* From this time forward all donations received for the Building Fund will be used for renovations, icons, and the many other items needed for us to occupy and worship together. All pledges for the campaign are due by St. Thomas Sunday, April 19, 2026.
- ✓ Make sure any donation intended for the Building Fund is clearly marked with "Building Fund" written on your offering envelope and/or check.

## **Encouraging ACH donations at St. Alexis**

We encourage online donors to choose **ACH** rather than credit card transactions. Our parish is charged a 2.2% transaction fee for each credit card donation. In contrast, we are charged only \$.25 for each ACH donation. To donate via ACH, register with **Church Connect**, a one-time, quick, secure set up:

### **Church Connect - Our St Alexis Orthodox Church App**

- Scan the **QR code** with your smart phone to create your account
- You may also go directly to the link at: [stalexisoca.org/give](http://stalexisoca.org/give)
- If you need help setting up your account, see Mka Rozanne or Mike Ruddy



## **ONGOING Opportunities for Love and Ministry in our Parish:**

- **We need your help to set up our worship space on Sunday mornings.** Arrive by 8:00 AM and our Altar Servers will supervise the setting up process. **If you are an able-bodied member of our parish but cannot help during set-up, PLEASE do assist in the take-down process and clean-up.**
- **Can you push a light-weight stick vacuum?** We need volunteers to vacuum 1) **the nave** by noon each Sunday, and 2) **the parish hall & kitchen** after Coffee Fellowship Hour!
- **Woodworkers, carpenters, and other skilled craftsmen needed!** In preparation for having our own building, there are projects waiting to be completed. If you have tools and expertise, your services will be greatly appreciated. Do you know someone with these skills? Send info to Fr David.

**2026 Church Calendars** from St. Tikhon's Monastery are available free of charge thanks to a sponsor!

**2026 Church Offering Envelopes** are now available! Please get your box from Helen, our Treasurer.



**Camp St. Christopher** is our deanery camp located near Gainesville, just a little over an hour away. It will have participants from nearby churches and will be held the week of **June 15-21**. This camp is for ages 8 up to those entering their senior year of high school. Click [here](#) to find details regarding registration. Our parish budget includes *scholarship funds* to assist in sending our children to any Orthodox youth camp program. We strongly encourage our youth to attend such activities! Questions? See Fr David!

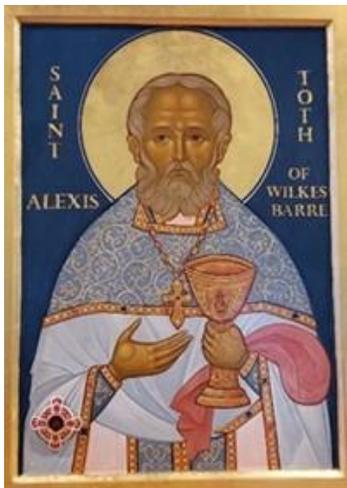
## Prayer Lists – Pray for each other daily:

### The Departed:

- The Priest Slava
- Archim. Andres Giron (Guatemala)
- The newly departed servant of God Diane Inks
- Alexandra
- Kirill
- Victims of accidents, hostilities, and natural disasters around the world
- All the unborn

### All whom we carry in our hearts, including:

- Fr Aleksandr Yu Shi
- Fr Patrick, Mka Lauren, James, Walter, Henry, Kathryn, Ethan, Marissa, Andrew
- Fr Nicholas & Mka Anastasia, Fr Phillip & Kh Diane, Fr Jordan & Mka Vanessa, Fr James & Mka Daphne, Fr Patrick & Mka Kristen, Fr Theophan & Pres Elena, Dn Jim & Mka Robin, Dn Daniel & Mka Aly
- Our missionary families: the Hoppes, Brandows, Macdonalds, and Hannah Valentine
- Ilya, Anastasia, Craig, Mary, Christopher, Cindy, Moses, Michael, Andrew, John, Monica, Bill Michael, Carol Anna, Elena, Stefan, Nina, Alexis, Sdn Daniel, Sophia, Emmelia, Michael, Jonathan, Anna and the child she carries, Amy and the child she carries, Nadia and the child she carries, Kenadea Mary and the child she carries, Tasha and the child she carries, the Gibbons family, the Inks family, and all members of our community traveling or on the bed of sickness
- Zachary & Kenadea Mary preparing for holy matrimony
- St Gerard Campus staff and the mothers and babies they serve
- All who are homeless, unemployed, or under-employed in our community
- All of our guests and inquirers seeking God through the Orthodox Church
- Catechumens Chris, Lesly, Gianna, Marco, Zachary, and Annie



### **Prayer for the new home for St. Alexis (Augmented Litany):**

Again we ask Thee to continue to grant us wisdom, understanding, and discernment **as we prepare to move into our new church building.** We thank Thee for Thy provision and ask that Thou wouldst grant us great love and compassion for one another and the ability to inquire respectfully, listen carefully, act judiciously, and proceed graciously. Lead us in the way of Thy Truth for the glory of Thy Kingdom as we continue becoming Thy disciples and participate in making disciples, for the salvation of our children, our neighbors, and all people.

***O Righteous Father Alexis,  
pray to God for us!***

**Hymns for this Sunday:** *Please sing along with the choir – and all week long!*

**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 2      Troparion      (Sunday of Orthodoxy)**

We venerate Thy most pure image, O Good One;  
and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God.  
Of Thine own will Thou wast pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh  
and deliver Thy creatures from bondage to the Enemy.  
Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to Thee:  
“Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior,//  
by coming to save the world.”

**Tone 8      Kontakion      (Sunday of Orthodoxy)**

No one could describe the Word of the Father;  
but when He took flesh from thee, O Theotokos, He accepted to be described,  
and restored the fallen image to its former state by uniting it to divine beauty.//  
We confess and proclaim our salvation in words and images.

**Scripture Readings for this Sunday:**

**Epistle:**          Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2

**Gospel:**          John 1:43-51

**The Lord's Prayer**

**English**

Our Father, Who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from the evil one.

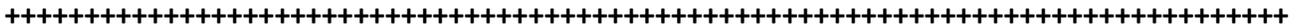
**Slavonic (Transliterated)**

Ot-che nash,  
Ee-zhe ye see na nye-bye-sekh!  
da svya-tee-tsya ee-mya Tvo-ye, da pri-ee-dyet Tsar-stvi-ye Tvo-ye:  
da boo-dyet vol-ya Tvo-ya, ya-ko na nye-bye-see ee na zem-lee.

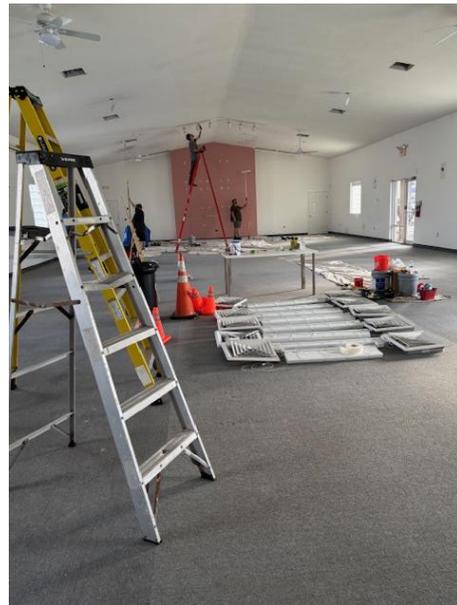
Khleb nash na-soosch-nui dazhd nam dnyes:  
ee o-sta-vee nam dol-gee na-shya, ya-ko-zhe ee mui o-sta-vlya-yem  
dol-zhnee-kom na-shim:  
ee nye vye-dee nas vo ees-koo-shye-ni-ye,  
no eez-ba-vee nas ot loo-ka-va-go.

**Spanish**

Padre nuestro, que estás en los cielos,  
Santificado sea tu nombre.  
Venga tu Reino.  
Hágase tu voluntad así en la tierra como en el cielo.  
El pan nuestro de cada día dánosle hoy,  
Y perdona nuestras deudas, así como nosotros perdonamos nuestros deudores;  
Y no nos dejes caer en la tentación, mas líbranos del mal.



**Fr David is grateful for a  
new church office ...  
(February 14, 2026)**



**... and for all of our volunteers,  
including those from St. Justin Martyr parish,  
some of whom you see here prepping to paint the nave  
(February 21, 2026)**

His Eminence, The Most Reverend ALEXANDER, Archbishop of Dallas and the South  
Archpriest David C. Rucker ◊ 904-599-5812 ◊ [priest@stalexisoca.org](mailto:priest@stalexisoca.org)  
Parish Council President James Humphries ◊ 904-540-2476

# Life in our Church

<b>Saturday, Feb 28</b>	<b>Church Work Day</b> – new building! <i>Lenten soup &amp; bread will be provided</i>	<b>10 AM-3 PM</b>
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<b>Sunday, Mar 1</b>	<b>Divine Liturgy of St. Basil</b> <i>(Sunday of Orthodoxy – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent)</i> <b>Process with Icons &amp; Synodikon Proclamation</b> <i>(after Dismissal)</i> <i>Coffee Fellowship Hour</i> <b>Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs</b> <b>Choir Rehearsal</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>  <b>12-1:30 PM</b> <b>12-1:30 PM</b>
	<b>Vespers for the Sunday of Orthodoxy</b> <i>Holy Cross Orthodox Church</i> <i>375 Fleming Ave.</i> <i>Ormond Beach, FL 32174</i> <b>Potluck Fellowship Meal to Follow</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>
<b>Wednesday, Mar 4</b>	<b>Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts</b> <i>Fellowship Meal to Follow (soup &amp; bread)</i>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
<b>Saturday, Mar 7</b>	<b>Church Work Day</b> – new building! <i>Lenten soup provided – volunteer needed!</i>	<b>10 AM-3 PM</b>
<b>SPRING FORWARD!! Daylight Savings Time Begins Sunday March 8 @2:00 AM</b>		
+-----+		
<b>Sunday, Mar 8</b>	<b>Divine Liturgy of St. Basil</b> <i>(Sunday of St. Gregory of Palamas – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent)</i> <i>Coffee Fellowship Hour</i> <b>Parish Council Meeting</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>
<b>Wednesday, Mar 11</b>	<b>Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts</b> <i>Fellowship Meal to Follow (soup &amp; bread)</i>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
<b>Saturday, Mar 14</b>	<b>Church Work Day</b> – new building! <i>Lenten lunch provided – volunteer needed!</i>	<b>10 AM-3 PM</b>
+-----+		
<b>Sunday, Mar 15</b>	<b>Divine Liturgy of St. Basil</b> <i>(Sunday of the Veneration of the Precious Cross – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent)</i> <i>Coffee Fellowship Hour</i> <b>Choir Rehearsal</b> <i>(for Holy Week &amp; Pascha)</i>	<b>9:30 AM</b>  <b>12-1:30 PM</b>
<b>Wednesday, Mar 18</b>	<b>Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts</b> <i>Fellowship Meal to Follow (soup &amp; bread)</i>	<b>6:00 PM</b>