

St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre Orthodox Church

A Mission of the Orthodox Church in America

2323 N State St, Unit 112, Bunnell, FL 32110

Sunday Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM

Confessions heard Saturday after Great Vespers or by appointment

SUNDAY, MAY 24

TONE 6

7th Sunday of Pascha

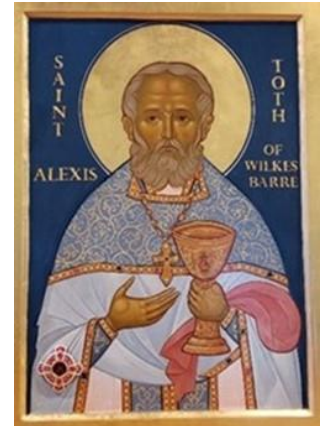
Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

Afterfeast of the Ascension



“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.

Announcements:

Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

This Sunday’s commemoration does not mean the Church proclaims or honors the personal sanctity of each one of the bishops who took part. Rather, the Church remembers the collective witness of those gathered in council and how they, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, preserved the truth of the incarnation of the Son of God. This was not easy. Many in the church were beginning to believe the Arian heresy, which denies the divinity of Christ from His conception forward, but which we affirm in the Creed that was first drafted in this Council. The epistle reading today alludes to the duties of pastoral care and preserving truth on behalf of the Church, and this Council is an example of how we strive to follow their example to this day from the local Parish Council to the All American Council of the OCA. The Arian heresy still thrives, for a great tendency since the 16th century is to move toward a humanist conception of Jesus Christ. This commemoration is a significant bridge between the Leavetaking of Pascha this past Wednesday and the beginning of the Feast of the Ascension this past Thursday. By the way, June 20-24 you will have opportunity to witness “hierarchical-conciliarity”

firsthand since our annual DOS (Diocese of the South) Diocesan Assembly will be held in at the Hyatt Place on Vilano Beach in St. Augustine! See the announcement below.

Parish Council (PC) Meeting Highlights from this past Wednesday

As usual, the PC attended to a full agenda which included: approving April Minutes, a report from Fr. David on current ministries, the Treasurer's report, and updates on current major projects as we continue to move into our new building. Plans for the building of the Sanctuary area in the front of the nave continue, with hope that construction can begin in late June. We have commissioned Elena Mavrodieva, an accomplished iconographer in Gainesville, to write the six main panels of the iconostasis and the Royal Doors. We also approved purchasing larger icons of the 12 feasts for the nave and choosing a large "More Spacious Than the Heavens" (*Panagia Platytera*) icon to be placed on the wall above the Sanctuary. George Andrews has been appointed as Steward of our Building, which includes managing repairs and remodeling projects. Jim Humphries is appointed to manage the construction of the Sanctuary and installation of the Iconostasis. They will count on the help of many in our parish! Special thanks to Zachary Pizzi and James Santos for hours spent in the past two weeks on many of these projects! We are blessed to have a PC that truly finds joy in being responsible stewards of all God is entrusting to us. Please pray for each member that the Grace of the Holy Spirit would continue to permeate each meeting for the Glory of God.

Typical church office hours (call or text before coming to confirm someone will be there):

- Wednesdays 11-5
- Fridays 10-4
- Saturdays 1-4

To schedule an appointment with Fr David:

- Email him at priest@stalexisoca.org or
- Call him at 386-263-8383 (the new church phone number)

SAVE THE DATE!

The Annual Diocese of the South Assembly will be taking place July 20-24 and will be held in St Augustine, FL – and St. Alexis Mission has been given the role of HOST for the event.

- ❖ Volunteers are needed! Want to help? Contact DiDi Dejanovic, our DOS Assembly Assistant!
 - 609-668-1836
 - DiDi@stalexisoca.org
- ❖ A **Pontifical Liturgy** open to the public will be celebrated during the Assembly at Annunciation OCA Mission in Jacksonville, Florida on **Wednesday July 22 at 9am.**
- ❖ You won't want to miss it!

Intro to Orthodoxy with Fr David after Coffee Fellowship Hour

Fr David facilitates this informal session on designated Sundays. *Check the calendar and look for "Intro to Orthodoxy with Fr David."* Catechumens, please make it a priority to attend –all others are welcome to join in. If you are a guest, seeker, inquirer, or member, this is an opportunity to learn more about Orthodox faith and practice. We meet around a table in the Parish Hall.

Encouraging ACH donations at St. Alexis for Tithes and Offerings and the Building Fund

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
- If you need help setting up your account, see Mka Rozanne or Mike Ruddy



NEW ONGOING Opportunities for Love and Ministry in our Parish:

- ❖ **Seeking Altar Servers:** Men of all ages, if you are a member of the faithful and are open to being trained to serve in the altar, please see Fr David. *You must arrive at least 20 minutes before the service begins.*
- ❖ **Church Cleaning Time happens every Wednesday 3:30-5:30pm (Vespers begins at 6pm).** Nelya Lashkul is a steward of this ministry. Ask her how you can help or contact the church office.
- ❖ **We are looking for volunteers for church projects and assistance in the office. Come by the church office during office hours and ask how you can help!**
- ❖ **Child Care:** Interested in helping our catechumens by providing supervision for their children during catechism each Wednesday 6:30-7:30pm? This is a special ministry requiring at least two qualified adults each Wednesday evening. An honorarium may be available if needed for this ministry. See Fr David or Mka Rozanne to learn more.
 - NOTE: According to OCA policies, anyone who works with children in the parish must submit to a background check and complete a briefing process. There must be two adults caring for children at all times unless the children are with a parent or relative.

Prayer Lists – Pray for each other daily:

The Departed:

- The Priest Slava
- Victims of accidents, hostilities, and natural disasters around the world
- The unborn Patrick and all the unborn

All whom we carry in our hearts, including:

- Fr Aleksandr Yu Shi, Fr. Kung Ming Cheung, Fr. Denis
- Fr Patrick, Mka Lauren, James, Walter, Henry, Kathryn, Ethan, Marissa, Andrew
- Fr Nicholas & Mka Anastasia, Fr Philip & Kh Diane, Fr James & Mka Daphne, Dn Jim & Mka Robin
- Our missionaries: the Hoppes, Brandows, Macdonalds, and Hannah Valentine
- Ilya, Anastasia, Craig, the Poleschuk family, Moses, Michael, Elena, Stefan, Naomi, Andrew
- 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, Marissa Martha and the child she carries
- All members of our community traveling or on the bed of sickness
- 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, Samuel, Maryam, Annie, Gillian, Tyler
- Catechumens Vincent & Amy preparing for illumination

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

Tone 6 Troparion (Resurrection)

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb;
the guards became as dead men.
Mary stood by Thy grave,
seeking Thy most pure body.
Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it.
Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life.
O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, //
glory to Thee.

Tone 4 Troparion (Ascension)

Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God,
granting joy to Thy Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit.
Through the blessing, they were assured
that Thou art the Son of God, //
the Redeemer of the world!

Tone 8 Troparion (Fathers)

Thou art most glorious, O Christ our God,
Who hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth.
Through them Thou hast guided us to the True Faith. //
O greatly compassionate One, glory to Thee!

Tone 8 Kontakion (Fathers)

The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrines have established one Faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology, //
It defines and glorifies the great mystery of piety.

Tone 6 Kontakion

When Thou hadst fulfilled the dispensation for our sake,
and united earth to heaven,
Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God,
not being parted from those who love Thee,
but remaining with them and crying: //
"I am with you, and there is no one against you!"

Scripture Readings for this Sunday:

Epistle: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36

Gospel: John 17:1-13

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

Life in our Church

Saturday, May 23 **Prosphora Baking** *(in church kitchen)* **11:00 AM**
NO SATURDAY PM SERVICE TODAY!

Sunday, May 24 **Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom** **9:30 AM**
(Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council)
Coffee Fellowship Hour
Intro to Orthodoxy with Fr David **~12:15 PM**

+++++

Wednesday, May 27 **Church Cleaning** **3:30 PM**
Daily Vespers **6:00 PM**
Catechism **6:30 PM**

Saturday, May 30 **Choir Rehearsal** *(in the nave)* **3:30 PM**
Great Vespers **5:00 PM**
Confessions following

Sunday, May 31 **Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom** **9:30 AM**
(Feast of Pentecost - Feast of the Holy Trinity)
Kneeling Prayers immediately following Liturgy
Coffee Fellowship Hour

+++++

Fast-free week May 31-June 7

Wednesday, Jun 3 **Church Cleaning** **3:30 PM**
Daily Vespers **6:00 PM**
Catechism **6:30 PM**

Saturday, June 6 **NO Choir Rehearsal today**
Great Vespers **5:00 PM**
Confessions following

Sunday, Jun 7 **Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom** **9:30 AM**
(Sunday of All Saints)
Coffee Fellowship Hour
NO Intro to Orthodoxy with Fr David today

+++++

The Apostles' Fast June 8-28

(No meat or cheese or eggs for Coffee Fellowship Hour potlucks. Thank you!)

Wednesday, Jun 10 **Church Cleaning** **3:30 PM**
Daily Vespers **6:00 PM**
Catechism **6:30 PM**

Saturday, June 13 **Choir Rehearsal** *(in the nave)* **3:30 PM**
Great Vespers **5:00 PM**
Confessions following