

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, SEPTEMBER 13

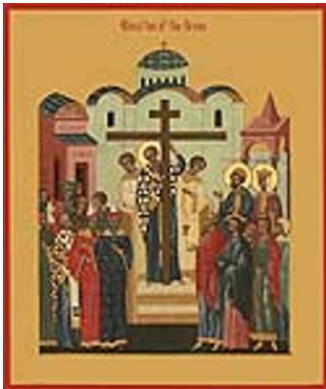
TONE 6

15th Sunday after Pentecost

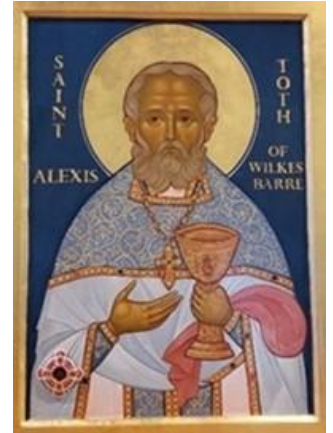
Forefeast of the Exaltation of the Cross

Sunday Before the Exaltation

Commemoration of the Founding of the Church of the Resurrection (Holy Sepulcher) at Jerusalem



“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 blue guest information card next to the weekly bulletin with today's hymns on the table where you entered. Please fill out the card and give it to a greeter or to our priest, Fr David, who looks forward to meeting you! You are also invited to *Coffee Fellowship* in the parish hall following the Liturgy this morning.

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:

TODAY Great Vespers for the Exaltation of the Cross will be served immediately after Coffee Hour.

This will be your opportunity to venerate the beautifully adorned Cross of Christ in our midst. His cross is your cross today. The Lord is able to transform your cross into a symbol of victory arising out of the suffering of genuine love. May your own cross be transfigured today as you venerate it!

(Belated) Happy New Year (September 1)!

The annual cycle of services in the Orthodox Church begins on September 1 and ends on August 31. We begin each Church year with the Nativity of Mary (the Theotokos, or God-bearer) on September 8, followed by the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on September 14. As we end each Church year we commemorate the Procession of the Cross on August 1 (not one of the Great Feasts) and the Dormition (*falling asleep*) of Mary on August 15. This is *The Story* in which we participate as we each pick up our

own cross and follow our Lord from birth to death. We are not alone in this life's journey. We accompany our Lord's blessed Mother, the disciples, and all who have gone before us. This new Church year will bring many blessings and new ministry opportunities to our parish. Orthodoxy is not a "spectator sport." Every person who enters our Church is a participant according to their faith, love, and gifts. Every person. Come and see. Come and BE!

Member-Missionary Map of the World

The world map hanging in the hallway across from the kitchen has small **blue**-headed pins on the side. ***Members are invited to place a blue pin where they were born.*** All blue pins remain anonymous, helping us rejoice in the countries and cultures represented in our local parish and how the Body of Christ brings us together. **Green** pins will indicate where our missionaries serve and will be connected to their pictures.

Monthly Parish Council (PC) Meeting Highlights

We enjoyed a fruitful meeting, rejoicing together at the growth we are experiencing this year in our parish. Fr. David expressed appreciation for the compassionate response of the parish upon the falling asleep of his father, Rev. Carl Rucker, in Texas on August 26 and for the vacation time so generously given. Agenda items included a review of the calendar through the rest of the year, designating *Sunday, November 1st as the date for our Annual Parish Meeting (APM).* Instructions for nominating PC members will be forthcoming. The Treasurer's report included a complete picture of our financial stewardship. The Lord is entrusting us with more precious people and greater resources than we budgeted, for which we give thanks. We reviewed the continuing work by our iconographers (Elena Mavrodieva and the *Iconochki* Gallery) as they faithfully communicate with us. The Council has also accepted a bid for the installation of security cameras in our building which will be motion activated. There will be no sound or voice recording. Final plans for the building of our sanctuary and will soon go to the city of Bunnell for approval, prior to planning construction. *Minutes and financial reports are available for all meetings once approved upon request.*

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
- Note that payments to the Book Store are NOT payable on-line.



NEW ONGOING Opportunities for Love and Ministry in our Parish:

- ❖ **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 can I help?"
- ❖ **Child Care:** Interested in helping our catechumens in providing supervision for their children during *Orthodox Conversations* each Sunday after Coffee Fellowship Hour and 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.

- ❖ **Are you interested in evangelism and the apostolic ministry of the Church (missionaries and their work)?** OCMC is looking for representative for each parish to assist the priest in promoting and sharing how we are fulfilling the Great Commission of our Lord to "go make disciples of all nations" in Jerusalem (our own county), Judea (our state), Samaria (the state of GA-- just kidding!), AND to the ends of the earth. See Fr David if you are interested in partnering with him to better equip our members to be the Lord's disciples. If you are not going to "go" be a missionary, then you can help others to go! This relates to the central purpose of St. Alexis Orthodox Mission.
- ❖ **Volunteer for October Medical Team in Guatemala.** Medical professionals are needed for a mission team this October 15-25 at Ascension Orthodox Church in Pebilpam, Guatemala-primary care providers & dentists especially needed. Prospective applicants should see Fr. David.

Prayer Lists – Pray for each other daily:

The Departed:

- His Beatitude Metropolitan HERMAN
- Archimandrite Joannes (Charles) Ekko
- The Priest Slava
- Alexandra C. Zubko
- Lidia Ivanovskaia
- *Micah Rucker*
- The unborn
- Victims of accidents, hostilities, and natural disasters around the world

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 & the child she carries, Andrew
- The Harris, Drennan, Hargrave, & Kingery clergy families
- Our missionaries: the Hoppes, Brandows, Macdonalds, and Hannah Valentine
- Iconographers Elena, Anya & Victor and Wood craftsmen Artem, Zachary, Daniel & James
- Ilya, Moses, Elena, Stefan, Naomi, Danica, Stela, Gordana, Larry, Gabriel, Elizabeth, David
- Emilia and the child she carries
- The Aravena-Rodriguez family, especially Amy and the infant Isabel newly born of her
- The Spooner family, especially Kenadea Mary and the infant Noelle newly born of her
- Catechumens Chris, Lesly, Gianna, Marco, Samuel, Maryam, Gillian, Tyler, Vincent, Amy
- All members of our community traveling or on the bed of sickness
- All who are homeless, unemployed, or under-employed in our community
- All of our guests and inquirers seeking God through the Orthodox Church

Scripture Readings for this Sunday:

Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18
Gospel: John 3:13-17

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 (Forefeast)

We offer in supplication
the life-creating Cross of Thy goodness, O Lord,
which Thou hast granted to us
although we are unworthy. //
Through the Theotokos, save all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of man!

Tone 6 Kontakion (Resurrection)

When Christ God, the Giver of Life,
raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand,
He bestowed resurrection on the human race. //
He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

Tone 4 Kontakion (Founding)

The Church has been revealed to be a heaven filled with light
which enlightens all the faithful. //
Standing within it we cry: "Establish this house, O Lord.

His Grace, The Right Rev. GERASIM, Bishop of Ft. Worth, *Locum Tenens* of the Diocese of the South

Archpriest David C. Rucker ♦ 904-599-5812 ♦ priest@stalexisoca.org

Parish Council President James Humphries ♦ 904-540-2476

Helen Ireland, Treasurer, George Andrews, Jr., Secretary and Members-at-Large: Charles Fausey, Ali Marie Phipps, Karla Anna Ayer

Life in our Church

Saturday, August 15 Feast of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos

Saturday, Sep 12	Prospora Baking	7:30/9:30 AM
	Choir Rehearsal (in the nave)	3:30 PM
	Great Vespers (Confessions following)	5:00 PM

Sunday, Sep 13	Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom	9:30 AM
	<i>Coffee Fellowship Hour</i>	
	Great Vespers - Feast of the Exaltation of Cross	12:30 PM

Monday, September 14, Feast of the Exaltation of the Precious Cross

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Wednesday, Sep 16	Church Cleaning	3:30 PM
	Vespers	6:00 PM
	Catechism	6:30 PM

Saturday, Sep 19	Choir Rehearsal (in the nave)	3:30 PM
	Great Vespers (Confessions following)	5:00 PM

Sunday, Sep 20	Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom	9:30 AM
	<i>Coffee Fellowship Hour</i>	
	Orthodox Conversations	12-1:30 PM

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Wednesday, Sep 23	Church Cleaning	3:30 PM
	Vespers	6:00 PM
	Catechism	6:30 PM

Saturday, Sep 26	Choir Rehearsal (in the nave)	3:30 PM
	Great Vespers (Confessions following)	5:00 PM

Sunday, Sep 27	Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom	9:30 AM
	Baptism (infant Noelle Mary Spooner)	
	<i>Coffee Fellowship Hour</i>	
	Orthodox Conversations	12:30 PM

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Wednesday, Sep 30	Church Cleaning	3:30 PM
	Vespers	6:00 PM
	Catechism	6:30 PM

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

Sunday, Oct 4	Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom	9:30 AM
	<i>Coffee Fellowship Hour</i>	
	Orthodox Conversations	12:30 PM