

If any man be devout and love God, let him enjoy this fair and radiant triumphal feast. If any man be a wise servant, let him rejoicing enter into the joy of his Lord. If any have labored long in fasting, let him now receive his recompense. If any have wrought from the first hour, let him today receive his just reward. If any have come at the third hour, let him with thankfulness keep the feast. If any have arrived at the sixth hour, let him have no misgivings; because he shall in nowise be deprived thereof. If any have delayed until the ninth hour, let him draw near, fearing nothing. If any have tarried even until the eleventh hour, let him, also, be not alarmed at his tardiness; for the Lord, who is jealous of his honor, will accept the last even as the first; he gives rest unto him who comes at the eleventh hour, even as unto him who has wrought from the first hour.

And he shows mercy upon the last, and cares for the first; and to the one he gives, and upon the other he bestows gifts. And he both accepts the deeds, and welcomes the intention, and honors the acts and praises the offering. Wherefore, enter you all into the joy of your Lord; and receive your reward, both the first, and likewise the second. You rich and poor together, hold high festival. You sober and you heedless, honor the day. Rejoice today, both you who have fasted and you who have disregarded the fast. The table is full-laden; feast ye all sumptuously. The calf is fatted; let no one go hungry away.

Enjoy ye all the feast of faith: Receive ye all the riches of loving-kindness. let no one bewail his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed. Let no one weep for his iniquities, for pardon has shown forth from the grave. Let no one fear death, for the Savior's death has set us free. He that was held prisoner of it has annihilated it. By descending into Hell, He made Hell captive. He embittered it when it tasted of His flesh. And Isaiah, foretelling this, did cry: Hell, said he, was embittered, when it encountered Thee in the lower regions. It was embittered, for it was abolished. It was embittered, for it was mocked. It was embittered, for it was slain. It was embittered, for it was overthrown. It was embittered, for it was fettered in chains. It took a body, and met God face to face. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took that which was seen, and fell upon the unseen.

O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are overthrown. Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen. Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice. Christ is risen, and life reigns. Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave. For Christ, being risen from the dead, is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

## St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre Orthodox Christian Church

108 East Main Street

PO Box 134

Clinton, CT 06413

### Scripture Readings

Acts 5:12-20

John 20:19-31

### Commemorations

Holy Glorious Greatmartyr, Victorybearer and Wonderworker George (303).  
St. Thomas Sunday. Martyr Alexandra the Empress, wife of Diocletian (303). Martyrs Anatolius and Protleon, soldiers converted by witnessing the martyrdom of St. George (303).

### Information

Rev. Steven Hosking, attached  
frsteve@stalexischurch.org  
860.664.9434 (church)  
860.866.5802 (message)  
www.stalexischurch.org



### Welcome to our Guests

We welcome all visitors to our Divine Liturgy and services. While Holy Communion may only be received by prepared Orthodox Christians, our non-Orthodox guests are welcome to participate in our prayers and hymns and to join us in venerating the Cross and receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Liturgy. Please sign our guest card and join us for refreshments and fellowship after the services.

Feel free to ask questions before or after the services. Any member of our Council or Congregation are glad to assist you. Literature about the Orthodox faith and this parish can be found in the narthex (back of the Church).

Our Parish Council Representatives are:

President - Susan Hayes  
Vice President - Deborah Bray  
Secretary - SubDeacon Joseph Brubaker  
Treasurer - Susan Egan  
Member at Large - James Pepitone  
Member at Large - Demetra Tolis



## **Please continue to pray for...**

Please continue to pray for...

Robert, Olga, Daria, Daria, Dori, John, Evelyn, June, Nina, Joan, John, Alex, Alan, Luke, Kathryn, Veronica, Darlyne, Irene, Nancy, Dionysian, Elena, Jevon, Ivan and Joscean. And for...John, Jennifer, Nicholas, Isabel, Elizabeth, John, Jordan, Michael, Lee, Eva, Neil, Gina, Joey, Michael, Madelyn, Sofie, Katrina, Olena, and Valeriy. And for our catechumens; Kyle Hollis and Stephen Wexell.

Memory Eternal: Alla Hamisevich

## **This week we celebrate:**

Sarah Gaulin, Daria Davis and Christine Jankura on the occasion of their birthdays! And John and Daria on the occasion of their anniversary.

## *This week's services and events*

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

8:30a - Daily Matins

6:00p - Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

4:30p - Open Doors

6:30p- Daily Vespers

Thursday, April 27, 2017

8:30a - Daily Matins

Saturday, April 29, 2017

5:30p - Great Vespers followed by potluck supper - Archpastoral visit of His Eminence Archbishop Nikon

Sunday, April 30, 2017

9:30a - Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

Chili/Chowder Cookoff with the Archbishop presiding.

## *Announcements*

The Archbishop's rescheduled visit is for the weekend of April 29th & 30th. We will host a potluck meal downstairs following Vespers, so we have need of volunteers to coordinate the meal. Following Liturgy on Sunday, we will have our rescheduled Chili/Chowder Cook-off, the proceeds for which will benefit IOCC. Please get out and prepare your best chili and chowder recipes!

During the Divine Liturgy, John Skrobat will also be tonsured a Reader. There is a nice historic summery to be found at...

<https://orthodoxwiki.org/Reader>

If anyone has graves to be blessed this week, please contact Fr Steven to make arrangements.

## Paschal Sermon (excerpts)

By Archbishop Averky

In these times in which we are living, filled with many sorrows, the only comfort for all of us is our holy Faith, with its lofty promises, radiant hope, its expectations which bring peace to the soul. For truly, never before has evil, now victorious almost everywhere in the world and infiltrating deep into the life of man and even into the fold of our Church, reached such strength, such a level of tension.

We can only oppose this evil with our holy Faith – this evil which triumphantly proceeds along the path of lies and all manner of unrighteous deception, and which defeats people who do not believe in Truth, but rather have loved falsehood.

In this way we are comforted by the beloved disciple of Christ who stood at the very Cross of the Lord, saw all the inexpressible sufferings of the Lord, and then was vouchsafed to be the first to come to His open tomb, believe, and with His other disciples and followers, to experience the great joy of His Resurrection (John 20:2-8).

This greatest miraculous event, unprecedented in the history of man, the Resurrection of Christ, is the foundation of our holy Faith, its cornerstone. Christ arose, having defeated human falsehood and death itself, to which He was sentenced by this falsehood. Truth triumphed over lies, life conquered death, and this so naturally finds a bright joyous response in our hearts, oppressed by falsehood and which tremble in the face of death. This is why our Paschal service is so festive and joyous, this is why we rejoice so much and our hearts, as though on their own, sing praise to the Risen Christ on this brightest of days, the feast of His Resurrection, this truly “feast of feasts, and triumph of triumphs.”

Indeed this is not just imaginary, as some people superficially try to prove, who are the most unfortunate of people, stagnating in the blindness of stubborn unbelief. The truth of Christ's glorious Resurrection is beyond the slightest doubt, by virtue of the fact that its reality was witnessed by many people of very different walks of life, who saw the Risen Christ at different times and not just once. Besides, it would be totally impossible to understand and explain differently that unusual fervor, that extraordinary animation of spirit which made the initially shy and timid apostles into brave and fearless preachers of Christ's teaching throughout the whole world.

Only the great truth of the Resurrection of Christ can explain the exceptionally rapid spread of the Christian faith over the whole face of the earth amid the most unfavorable conditions and situations. What else could compel thousands upon thousands of people throughout the centuries to endure indescribable torments, to shed their blood, and to give up their life for Christ? What other force could compel the rich, the noble, men of high rank, and even emperors of the proud pagan world to humbly bow down before the foot of the Cross of Christ and glorify His Resurrection?

Indeed, what could compel many thousands of men and women to renounce the vain blessings, comforts, and pleasures of this world which lies in evil, and to withdraw to the deserts, mountains, caves, and precipices to live a God-pleasing life in unceasing prayer, silence, fasting, and struggles, so as to more certainly unite with Christ in the after-life, which He opened to us through His glorious Resurrection from the dead?