



St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre Orthodox Church

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Services Schedule

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

Bulletin for Sunday, March 01, 2026

Welcome



Jesus Christ teaches us to love and serve all people, regardless of their ethnicity or nationality. To understand this, 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:

- Marlene Melesko - President
- Sarah Senetcen - Member at Large
- Boris Doph - Treasurer
- Dierdre Cottergarfield - Vice President

- Luba Martins - Secretary

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

LENTEN OUTREACH PROJECT: We will be collecting supplies for our local Birthright Agency who provides support for women before and after the birth of their baby. The following is a list of needed items. They request that the items be new and only purchase the brands listed. There are also "shopping list" on the candle desk for your convenience. Contact Marlene Melesko or Maureen Skuby with any questions.

BIRTHRIGHT SHOPPING LIST: Diapers: Pampers Sizes 1, 2 & 3

Wipes: Pampers or Honest brands
Diaper

Bags
Baby

Washcloths & Towels
Baby

Bath Products
Onesies

or Baby Outfits: Sizes Newborn or 0-3 months

To Our Guests

Throughout our services, we use the more formal "*thy*" and "*thou*" or what is commonly referred to as *King Jamesean English*.

The Lord's Prayer is recited as follows:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be
done, as on earth as it is in heaven,
Give us this day our daily bread, and
forgive us our **debts**, as we forgive
our **debtors**,
Lead us not into temptation but deliver
us from the Evil One.

Please join us after Liturgy for refreshments and hospitality.

Filesharing

<https://sites.google.com/stalexischurch.net/p/parish/home>

If you are asked to enter a username and password, please contact Fr Steven via email.

Prayers, Intercessions and Commemorations



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 and dispossessed, 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, prejudice; pestilence and natural disaster; 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:
- Clergy and their families: Fr Sergei B, Fr Vladimir, Fr Vladimir, Fr John, Fr Alexander, Fr David, Fr Sergius
- Catechumen: Jordan, Christiana
- Individuals and Families: Luba, Suzanne, Rosemary, Daniel & Dayna,

- Kristen, Victor, Susan, Gregory
- Birthdays and Name's Days this Month: Christine Hoehnbarth (2/8), Gabrielle Neiss (2/8), Fr Deacon (2/12), Nadia PenkoffLidbeck (2/18), Connor Kuziak (2/23)
- Anniversaries this Month: PenkoffLidbeck (2/15)
- Expecting and Newborn: Lynn and her unborn child.
- Traveling:
- Sick and those in distress: Nancy, Boris, Glenn, John, Joan, Sharon, William, Alexander

Today's commemorated feasts and saints

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone

5. Sunday of Orthodoxy. Martyr Eudokia of Heliopolis (ca. 160-170). Ven. Martyrii (Martyrius) of Zelenétsk (Pskov—1603). Martyrs Nestor, Tribimius, and those with them (3rd c.). Martyr Antonina of Nicæa in Bithynia (3rd-4th c.). Martyrs Marcellus and Anthony. Saint Domnina the Younger of Syria (ca. 450-460). Ven. Agapius of Vatopedi (Mt. Athos).

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

March 1 to March 9, 2026

Sunday, March 1

Sunday of Orthodoxy

9:15AM 3rd Hour

9:30AM Divine Liturgy

6:00PM CT Deanery Vespers Service

Monday, March 2

Hesychius the Martyr

Tuesday, March 3

The Holy Martyrs Eutropius, Cleonicus, and Basiliscus

Michael and Zachary Neiss

8:30AM Matins

11:00AM Office Hours

Wednesday, March 4

Gerasimus the Righteous of Jordan

3:00PM Office Hours

6:00PM Presanctified Liturgy

Thursday, March 5

Conon the Gardener

8:30AM Matins

11:00AM Office Hours

Friday, March 6

42 Martyrs of Amorion in Phrygia

Saturday, March 7

Second Saturday of Lent

4:00PM Office Hours

5:30PM Great Vespers

Sunday, March 8

Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas

9:15AM 3rd Hour

9:30AM Divine Liturgy

4:00PM CT Deanery Vespers

Monday, March 9

The Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebastia

Saints and Feasts

March 01

Sunday of Orthodoxy

For more than one hundred years the Church of Christ was troubled by the persecution of the Iconoclasts of evil belief, beginning in the reign of Leo the Isaurian (717-741) and ending in the reign of Theophilus (829-842). After Theophilus's death, his widow the Empress Theodora (celebrated Feb. 11), together with the Patriarch Methodius (June 14), established Orthodoxy anew. This ever-memorable Queen venerated the icon of the Mother of God in the presence of the Patriarch Methodius and the other confessors and righteous men, and openly cried out these holy words: "If anyone does not offer relative worship to the holy icons, not adoring them as though they were gods, but venerating them out of love as images of the archetype, let him be anathema." Then with common prayer and fasting during

the whole first week of the Forty-day Fast, she asked God's forgiveness for her husband. After this, on the first Sunday of the Fast, she and her son, Michael the Emperor, made a procession with all the clergy and people and restored the holy icons, and again adorned the Church of Christ with them. This is the holy deed that all we the Orthodox commemorate today, and we call this radiant and venerable day the Sunday of Orthodoxy, that is, the triumph of true doctrine over heresy.

March 01

The Holy Righteous Martyr Eudocia the Samaritan

This Saint, who was from Heliopolis of Phoenicia (Baalbek in present-day Lebanon), was an idolater and led a licentious life. Being beautiful beyond telling, she had many lovers, and had acquired great riches. Yet brought to repentance by a monk named Germanus, and baptized by Bishop Theodotus, she distributed to the poor all her ill-gotten gains, and entered a convent, giving herself up completely to the life of asceticism. Her former lovers, enraged at her conversion, her refusal to return to her old ways, and the withering away of her beauty through the severe mortifications she practiced, betrayed her as a Christian to Vincent the Governor, and she was beheaded, according to some, under Trajan, who reigned from 98 to 117, according to others, under Hadrian, who reigned from 117 to 138.

March 03

Eutropios, Kleonikos, Vasiliskos, Zenos, & Zoilis the Martyrs

The Martyrs, who were from Amasia, were fellow soldiers and kinsmen of Saint Theodore the Tyro (see Feb. 17). They were betrayed to the Governor Asclepiodotus as Christians, during the reign of Diocletian (284-305). After many torments, Eutropios and Cleonicus were crucified; Basiliscus was not slain together with them, but was shut up in prison, in the hope that with time he might change his mind and sacrifice to the idols. He was beheaded on May 22; see also the account on that day.

March 05

Konon the Gardener

This saint lived during the reign of emperor Decius in 251. He came from the town of Nazareth. He left his hometown and went to the city of Mandron, in the province of Pamphylia. There he stayed at a place called Karmela or Karmena cultivating a garden which he used to water and plant with various vegetables. From this garden he obtained what is necessary for life. He had such an upright and simple mind that, when he met those who wished to arrest him and saw that they greeted him, he also greeted in return from the bottom of his soul and heart. When they told him that governor

Publius called the saint to go to him, the saint answered with simplicity: "What does the governor need me, since I am a Christian? Let him call those who think the way he does and have the same religion with him." So, the blessed man was tied and brought to the governor, who tried to move him to sacrifice to the idols. But the saint sighed from the bottom of his heart, cursed the tyrant and confirmed his faith in Christ with his confession, saying that it is not possible to be moved from it even though he might be tortured cruelly. So, for this reason they nailed his feet and made the saint run in front of the governor's coach. But the saint fainted in the street. Having fallen on his knees, he prayed and, thus, he commended his holy soul to the hands of God.

March 05

Mark the Ascetic

Saint Mark the Ascetic lived in the fifth century and according to Nicephorus Callistus was a disciple of Saint John Chrysostom's. Besides his blameless life of asceticism, Saint Mark was distinguished for his writings, some of which are preserved in Volume One of the Philokalia. His writings were held in such great esteem that in old times there was a saying, "Sell all that thou hast, and buy Mark."

March 06

42 Martyrs of Amorion in Phrygia

These Martyrs, men of high rank in the Roman (Byzantine) army, were taken captive when the city of Amorion in Phrygia fell to the Moslem Arabs in 838, during the reign of Theophilus the Iconoclast. Among them were Aetius and Melissenus, the generals; Theodore, the chief of the imperial ceremonial bodyguard; Craterus, the eunuch; Callistus, Constantine, Bassoes, and Theophilus, who were military officials; and certain others who held important positions. Because of their experience in war and their virtue, the Moslems did not slay them, but tried by all means to convert them to Islam and have them to fight in their own campaigns. They kept the holy Martyrs shut up in a dark dungeon in the city of Samarra in Syria, threatening and abusing them, making promises of glorious rank and magnificent riches, keeping them in hunger, oppression, and darkness, not for a few weeks, or a few months, but for seven full years. Finally, unable to break the courage and faith of their captives, they beheaded them in the year 845.

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 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."

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to
the Holy Spirit
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

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.

Hymn to the Theotokos

All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of
Grace:
the assembly of angels and the race of men.
O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise,
the glory of virgins, from whom God was
incarnate and became a Child:
our God before the ages. He made thy body
into a throne,
and thy womb He made more spacious than
the heavens.
All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of
Grace.//
Glory to thee!

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him
in the highest!
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise
befits the just! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Gospel and Epistle Readings

Epistle Reading

Prokeimenon. 4th Tone. Daniel 3.26,27.

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our
fathers.

Verse: For you are just in all you have done.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40.

Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered abuse suffered for the Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he looked to the reward.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets -- who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign enemies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated -- of whom the world was not worthy -- wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Gospel Reading

Sunday of Orthodoxy

The Reading is from John 1:43-51

At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and he said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

Wisdom of the Fathers

Peter, when after so many miracles and such high doctrine he confessed that, "Thou art the Son of God" (Matt. xvi. 16), is called "blessed," as having received the revelation from the Father;

St. John Chrysostom

Homily 21 on John 1, 1. B#58, pp. 72, 73, 4th Century

... while Nathanael, though he said the very same thing before seeing or hearing either miracles or doctrine, had no such word addressed to him, but as though he had not said so much as he ought to have said, is brought to things greater still.

St. John Chrysostom

Homily 21 on John 1, 1. B#58, pp. 72, 73, 4th Century

Beyond the Sermon



Recommended Lenten Reading:

The "Way of the Ascetics" refers to a spiritual practice characterized by self-discipline, abstaining from worldly pleasures, and focusing on inner growth and connection with the divine. It is often associated with various religious

traditions, particularly within Eastern Orthodox Christianity, emphasizing the importance of self-control

and spiritual transformation.

Overview of "Way of the Ascetics"

"Way of the Ascetics" is a book by Tito Colliander that introduces readers to Eastern Christian spirituality, particularly focusing on asceticism. It is designed for both laypersons and clergy, offering insights into self-control and inner peace.

Key Themes

Asceticism Defined

Asceticism involves abstaining from worldly pleasures through self-discipline and simple living.

It aims for spiritual goals, often leading to greater clarity of thought and freedom from destructive temptations.

Structure of the Book

The book consists of brief chapters that cover various aspects of ascetic practice, including:

The importance of a resolute purpose

The insufficiency of human strength

The inner warfare against selfish desires

The transfer of love from self to Christ

Practical Applications

Colliander provides practical guidance for daily meditation and spiritual growth.

The reflections are meant to inspire readers to pursue a deeper union with God.

Reception

Readers have praised the book for its clarity and depth, noting that it offers profound insights in a concise format. It is often recommended for those seeking to understand the ascetic tradition within Christianity.

How to tithe like a boss

Why?

- 1) Increases the grace of the Holy Spirit within us – this produces inner peace/joy/satisfaction due to the increasing presence of Christ within our hearts
- 2) Increases eternal rewards – the most intelligent and highest level of productivity a human being can strive for.
- 3) The church and poor/needy are helped

How?

- Give 5% to the church – we have to as we use the air conditioning, the lighting, the church gets cleaned, the new buildings, food, etc. Who pays for these things? The angels?
- Give 5% to the poor/needy – pick one charity or cause of your choice that touches your heart. Donate to them each week.
- Do it all online. That's the easiest way. Get your church BSB and account number.
- Do it as soon as you get your pay or else you'll forget
- If you enjoy those 3 above benefits, experiment by increasing your giving at random times. Living selfishly and being overly concerned for ourselves often make us feel miserable, useless, shallow, improper and irreverences the incredibly great dignity and holiness that our souls can potentially attain to.

·RESTORATION OF THE ICONS·





All are invited to Holy Trinity Cathedral
165 Park Drive, Boston, MA

Saturday, March 14, 2026

Patronal Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

With His Grace, our **Bishop Benedict**,
and His Grace, **Bishop Nikodhim**

Greetings the hierarchs: 9:30am

Hierarchical Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Our **New England Diocesan Choir**
Will be singing the responses

Concelebrating clergy, please bring either
Green or **Gold** vestments

Lite luncheon to follow



Please come and celebrate our Bishop's Name's Day!