

DIocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Diocese

**ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
ORTHODOX CHURCH
WILLIAMSPORT, PA.**



**5TH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT
ST. MARY OF EGYPT
APRIL 14TH, 2019**

ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS ORTHODOX CHURCH

1725 Holy Cross Ln
Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701-2749

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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14; Galatians 3:23-29
Gospel: St. Mark 10:32-45; St. Luke 7:36-50

*Welcome to EVERYONE this morning to our visitors and guests!
Please join us over in the Parish Hall after the Liturgy for some
fellowship!*

Services, Events & Announcements

- **Lenten Vespers – Today @ 4pm, Sts Peter & Paul, Uniondale**
- **Pre-Sanctified Liturgy - Wednesday Apr 17th @ 6:00pm**
- **Great Vespers – Friday Apr 19th @ 6:00pm**
- **Divine Liturgy – Lazarus Saturday Apr 20th @ 9:30**
- **Church Cleanup – Lazarus Saturday (After Liturgy)**
- **Vigil w/Blessing of Palms - Saturday, Apr 20th @ 5pm**
- **Palm Sunday w/Procession - Sunday, Apr 21st @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40)**
- **Baklava baking Tuesday Apr 16th @ 5pm, Pickup on Friday Apr 19th 12-3pm**

LAST SUNDAY – **Apr 7**

Attendance 58 - Regular Offering - \$2744.00

Candles - \$85.00 / Monthly Special - \$181.00

Memorial - \$50.00 / Benevolence - \$20.00

NEXT SUNDAY - **Apr 21**

Reading of the Hours – Methodios Y.

Reading of the Epistle – Anthony A.

Fellowship Hour

Apr 14th – Thetford & Lordi

Apr 21st – Affsrpung, Chelko, Occhino

Apr 28th - **PASCHA**

Help with clean-up after our meals together is greatly appreciated, so let's ALL help each other! ☺

A Word from Your Pastor . . .

Mat. Mary and I want to thank everyone for your continued outpouring of love & support since the repose of my Dad. As always, y'all have been a great blessing to us . . . THANK YOU!

The last Presanctified of this Lenten Season is this Wednesday. If you have not been able to attend them, please try to come. Holy Week is rapidly approaching, so plan your days and come pray and worship with us.

If you still need make your Lenten confession, there are many opportunities to do so, but let me know if you would like to schedule an appointment. We should have made our confession before the Unction Service of Holy Week.

With Love and God's Blessing,

+ *Fr. Seraphim*

The Church as the Hospital for Our Souls

(Cont'd next page)

Our Orthodox Faith defines sin as an illness that is in need of healing, not as a crime that requires punishment. The Church is a hospital for the soul whose therapists (priests) first sought therapy and then became the therapists. As a healing institution the Church is the place for broken souls.

We come before Christ as tarnished images, far from that which God intended. Yet this very Creator God is patient and loving, quick to forgive. Our God invites us to holiness, to be made whole. His grace is sufficient to lift us up out of our mire and into the heights of a joy and gladness that is meant to be eternal. We need only to humble ourselves and ask for help and the Kingdom is ours.

Heaven and hell are not about location, but about relationship. All that is needed is our responsive word, followed by action. We say yes to God's invitation while seeking out the therapy that is ours within the life of the Church.

Wholeness (holiness) is ours through this relationship with Christ, Who's redemptive act upon the Cross, together with His having conquered death by death, delivers us from the depths of estrangement. We are lifted up to God, having been made whole, and eternal communion with God is our destiny.

Love in Christ,

Abbot Tryphon, All Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA.

Regarding Confession & Holy Communion: Only those faithful who are Orthodox Christians and have properly prepared themselves by fasting, prayer, confession [and who were at least present for the reading of the Epistle and Gospel] should approach to receive the Holy Eucharist. We should all be at peace with each other too. ☺