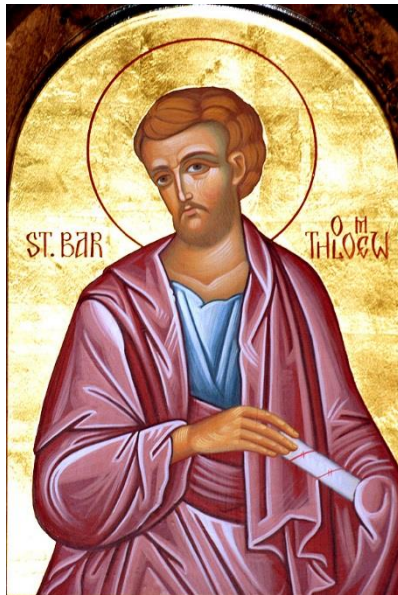


Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Diocese

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



**RELIQS OF THE APOSTLE BARTOLOMEW  
APOSTLE TITUS OF THE 70  
AUGUST 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2019**

# **ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701-2749

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Mr. Dan Thetford, Asst Warden

## ***Today's Scripture Readings:***

*Epistle:* 1 Corinthians 4:9-16

*Gospel:* St. Matthew 14:22-34

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

## **Services, Events & Announcements**

**++Congratulations to the Newly Baptized and Illumined child, Elani Irene Alexander and her Godparents, Josh & Heather! May God Grant Her and ALL Her Family Many Blessed Years!**

**++Memory Eternal . . . Tuesday Aug 27<sup>th</sup> – Services for Joanne Sneider will be:**

**+Viewing @ 9am, Funeral Service @ 10am**

**+Burial at Wildwood Cemetery, Williamsport**

**++Wednesday Aug 28<sup>th</sup> – Daily Vespers @ 6pm**

**++Saturday Aug 31<sup>st</sup> - Great Vespers @ 5pm**

**++Sunday Sept 1<sup>st</sup> – Divine Liturgy @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40)**

**\*LYRA will once again be with us on Friday Sept 20<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm for an evening of music. Invite someone!!**

**\*Sunday Oct 13<sup>th</sup> – CROP Walk**

**+His Eminence, Archbishop MARK will be with us on Oct 27<sup>th</sup>**

**LAST SUNDAY – August 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**Attendance 63 - Regular Offering - \$541.00**  
**Candles - \$118.25**

**NEXT SUNDAY – Sept 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**Reading of the Epistle – Anthony A.**

**++Please check the bulletin board in the Hall for information on local events, Parish schedules and recent Parish Council Minutes.**

***We Must Become a More Compassionate People***

“In this way will the inequalities of earthly states be leveled out at God’s judgment (Saint Theophan the Recluse).”

It is right that we consider the teachings of the Orthodox Church concerning our duties to those who have less than we. Saint John Chrysostom taught that, “the poor are not the spectacle of human misery and suffering that evokes compassion or disgust, but they are the icons of Christ, the presence of Christ in the broken world.”

The compassionate sharing of our resources with those in need is a primal teaching of our Church and a virtue that must be practiced if we are to be true to the teachings of Our Lord. The communal nature of the Church was taught by Saint Paul himself, and all who would call themselves Christians are obligated to be compassionate to those who lack basic resources to sustain their lives.

In an age when so many rich are resisting the possibility of increased taxation, we must remember that we are all, rich or poor, required by the Gospels to share with those around us. Christian nations from the time of Byzantium have taxed the wealthy in order to provide for the least of their people. The heretical teachings being floated about that abundance and prosperity are signs of a strong Christian faith, has

infected many in our nation. They want to defend and protect the wealth of a few at the expense of those who have the least, as though the least among us deserve their station in life. The disparity between the very wealthy and the poor has never been this extreme in our nation's history. Almsgiving is so pivotal to our Christian faith, that it led Saint Basil the Great to exhort even the poor to share their meager goods with others. The Christian culture of compassion requires all of us to find ways to lift up the least among us. We cannot remain secure in our own well-being, while ignoring the needs of the poor and the elderly.

Saint John of Kronstadt in his First homily on the Beatitudes says: "Can wealthy people be poor in spirit? Of course, they can, if they do not regard themselves as being great people only because they have perishable wealth and can do whatever they want with its help. How can they be poor in Spirit? They can when they sincerely recognize that their wealth — and the wealth of the whole world, for that matter — means nothing in comparison with the immortal soul, and that wealth is a gift from God not only to us but to our neighbors as well, for material surpluses are given to us to help the poor.

When the wealthy recognize that with all their material treasures they are extremely poor and destitute in spirit, they will not be high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, Who giveth us richly all things to enjoy: that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold of eternal life. (I Timothy 6:17-19)."

A compassionate heart leads to God as it places others above self. The rich man who values his money while ignoring the needs of the poor endangers his eternal life, for "it is more difficult for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven than for a camel to go through the eye of a needle". A wealthy Christian is a philanthropic man who cares for the poor and destitute and shares that which God has given him, thus storing up in heaven the treasures that are eternal.

*With Love in Christ, Abbot Tryphon*

*All Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA.*