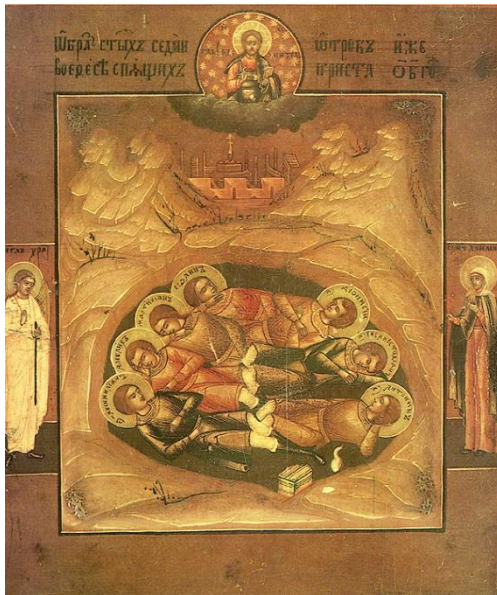


Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Diocese

ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS ORTHODOX CHURCH WILLIAMSPORT, PA.



SEVEN SLEEPERS OF EPHESUS

MARTYR EUDOXIA

AUGUST 4TH, 2019

ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS ORTHODOX CHURCH

1725 Holy Cross Ln
Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701-2749

Rev. Fr. Seraphim Reynolds, Pastor
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Mr. Michael (Cory) Chelko, Parish Warden
Mr. Dan Thetford, Asst Warden

Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Romans 15:1-7

Gospel: St. Matthew 9:27-35

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

Services, Events & Announcements

++Transfiguration of Our Lord – August 5th - Great Vespers
w/Litya @ 6pm

++August 6th Tuesday - Divine Liturgy w/Blessing of
Fruits @ 10am

****Wednesday August 7th** - Daily Vespers @ 6pm

****Saturday Aug 10th** - Great Vespers @ 5pm

****Sunday Aug 11th** - Divine Liturgy @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40)

****Parish Safety Day** – Sunday August 11th / Fellowship Hour

++Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos - August 15th

****Parish Workday – Saturday August 17th**

****Parish Picnic – Sunday August 18th**

LAST SUNDAY – July 28th

Attendance 74 - Regular Offering - \$1611.00

Candles - \$78.75

NEXT SUNDAY – Aug 11th

Reading of the Epistle – Herman A.

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

From Your Pastor . . .

Regarding Holy Communion: Only those faithful who are Orthodox Christians and have properly prepared themselves by fasting, prayer [i.e. *Prayers Before Communion*], recent 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.* ☺

Please consider sending a card, making a phone call or visiting our shut-ins and/or someone you have not seen for a while. I'm sure they would love to hear from us.

*With Love & God's Blessing,
✠ Fr. Seraphim*

Proper Attire in the House of God

The Church is our home, a place where we should feel comfortable, and at ease. It is also God's house and is a temple set aside for worship of the Holy Trinity. Although times have changed and we have become a very casual society, this attitude cannot be allowed to influence how we dress to worship God. Our way of dressing for church should

reflect our desire to offer our very best to Christ. Just as we want to act in ways that demonstrate the centrality of Christ in our lives, our dress should show forth the modesty that is befitting a Christian.

Just as we take special care to dress for formal social occasions, or job interviews, how much more important it is to show our respect for God's house. If we were invited to the wedding of our boss's daughter, we'd make sure to show respect to our employer by dressing our best. Does God deserve anything less?

We should wear clothes that are modest and befitting a Christian, especially when worshiping in God's house. In our monastery's temple, we keep the ancient practice of removing our shoes before entering, recalling God's direction to Moses "... take off your shoes from your feet, for the place where you are is holy ground". We ask that no one wear shorts or tee shirts when entering the holy grounds of the monastery, and, as is proper in all Orthodox churches, ask visitors to avoid the distractions that come with slogans on clothing, or "showy" clothing that is best reserved for elegant events.

Both men and women should avoid wearing clothing that can be distracting to other worshippers. Just as we want to keep our focus on the divine services, so too we must not be the cause of the distraction for our fellow Christians. Christ should be the focus of our worship, not our personal outfits. Church is not the place to show off the latest fashion, nor the results of the fitness center.

Just as it is Orthodox custom that men remove their hats upon entering the Church, women, throughout the history of the Church, have worn head coverings. The idea that this pious, biblical custom be seen as an antiquated or sexist practice, should be foreign to our Orthodox mindset. This tradition is not intended as an insult to women but as a great compliment. The scriptures refer to a woman's hair as her "crowning glory", and the covering of her head as an act of humility. Throughout Christian history, modest believing women chose not to allow their beauty to distract others from the glory of God and the beauty of His house.

With Love in Christ, Abbot Tryphon

All Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA.