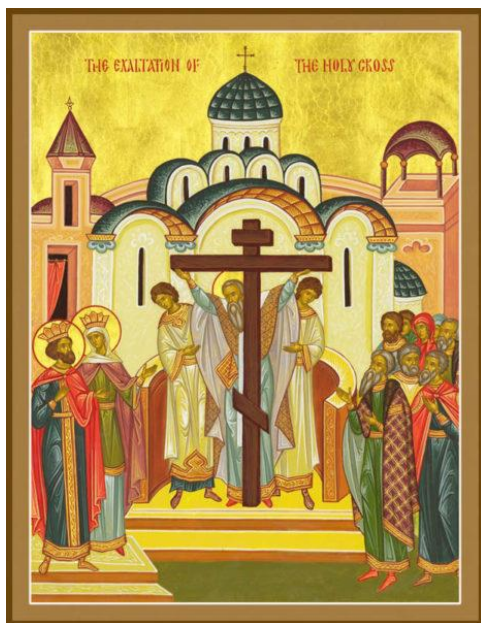


Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



Sunday of the Precious Cross

3rd Sunday of Great Lent

April 4th, 2021

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

1725 Holy Cross Ln
Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701-2749
www.holycrosswilliamsport.org

Rev. Fr. Seraphim Reynolds, Pastor
Office: 570.322.3020
(c) 717.576.3503
Email: priestseraphim@protonmail.com

Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6

Gospel: St. Mark 8:34-9:1

A warm welcome to everyone, and especially to our visitors and guests this morning! Please join us for some fellowship after in the Parish Hall!

Services, Events & Announcements

++Presanctified Liturgy – Wednesday Apr 7th @ 5:30pm (9th Hour @ 5:20) Begin your Eucharistic fast after your noon meal, and we will have a light Lenten potluck Fellowship to follow in the Hall.

++Presanctified Liturgy – Friday Apr 9th @ 5:30pm (9th Hour @ 5:20) Begin your Eucharistic fast after your noon meal, and we will have a light Lenten potluck Fellowship to follow in the Hall.

***Great Vespers – Saturday, Apr 10th @ 5pm**

***Divine Liturgy – Sunday, Apr 11th @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40am)**
Lenten Fellowship After in the Hall

Our Giving – March 28th, 2021

Tithes/Offerings - \$826.00

Candle Offerings – \$105.00

Love Offerings - \$10.00

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.* If you have any questions about Communion, please see Fr. Seraphim. 😊

Avoiding Hypocrisy

It is very easy to live our lives in hypocrisy if we are not mindful of the pitfalls of the spiritual life. We can become Pharisees without even noticing, if we let our Christianity be artificially lived. Living our lives as though we have been rehearsed by a stage director, we will have accomplished nothing, and will remain no more than an actor. Putting on the mask of Christianity, is not living in Christ. An honest, daily examination of our conscience, together with regular guidance by our confessor, is the only way we can live a Christian life that will lead to transformation of the heart

If we simply put on a show of being a Christian, without any true repentance, we will remain mired in false religiosity, and our heart will grow dark. Christ must be invited into the heart on a daily basis, through prayer, and honest examination of our conscience, without which there can be no spiritual growth. We can not play at being a Christian, for to do so will lead to spiritual death.

We must “put on Christ’, daily, and make sure our public expression of our faith is not being acted out for others, but is ever entering into a deeper relationship with this very Christ. Playing at spirituality only leads to spiritual death. If our life does not give

witness to Christ in us, and if our attention is given over to self promotion, or a desire to please others, but avoids honest examination of our sins, we will be like fruit that dies on the vine.

Love in Christ,

Abbot Tryphon

All Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA.

“And thus, in as much as the sign of the Cross is great and fearful, every Christian has the duty to make it with fear and trembling, with reverence and heedfulness, and not simply, and not as it happens, simply out of habit and carelessly; for according to the degree of the reverence which one has towards the Cross, he receives corresponding power and help from God.”

St. Symeon the New Theologian, The First-Created Man

“For the Christian, the cross gradually becomes lighter and more joyful, while for the nonbeliever it becomes heavier and more burdensome. Why is this so? Because where the one carries their cross with faith and devotion to God, the other carries it with grumbling and anger.”

St. Innocent of Alaska, Indication of the Way Into the Kingdom of Heaven

Prayers For the Health and Salvation of those in need: Many Years!

Priestmonk Ambrose (Young), Abbot Tryphon, Mitred-Archpriest Nicholas (Harris), Archpriest Daniel (Kovalak), Mat. Myra (Kovalak), Mat. Theodora (Ressetar), Pres. Eva (Koutroulelis), Mary (Federoff) and the child to be born of her, Helen Maybo, Paul Beard, Evelyn Chabal, Phoebe Davis & Peter Georges

Prayers For the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!

Mitred-Archpriest Basil Summer +3/26, Archpriest Antonio Perdomo +4/1, Archpriest George Morelli +3/17, Archpriest Vladimir Lecko +3/16, Archpriest Viktor Tseshkovsky +3/15, Mat. Sonja Tutko +3/7, Neven Stanisic +3/22