

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross
Orthodox Church
Williamsport, PA.



St. Gregory Palamas
2nd Sunday of Great Lent
March 28th, 2021

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Hebrews 7:26-8:2; Hebrews 1:10-2:3

Gospel: St. John 10:9-16; St. Mark 2:1-12

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 Mar 31st @ 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 2nd @ 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 3rd @ 5pm**

***Divine Liturgy – Sunday, Apr 4th @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40am)**
Lenten Fellowship After in the Hall

Our Giving – March 21st, 2021

Tithes/Offerings - \$2,255.00

Candle Offerings – \$118.00

Benevolence Offerings - \$1,000.00

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. 😊

Our Lenten Journey

The Byzantine Court was filled with sycophants [a person who seeks flattery, prestige] busying themselves with building alliances that would help them rise in status and influence. During the thousand years of the empire, a few emperors were tricked into believing these sycophants were truly their friends, and could be trusted, when in actuality they were being played, and these flatterers were not their friends. These sycophants were quick to change allegiances should a better opportunity arise, and many an emperor was, in the end, betrayed by those whom they'd thought could be trusted.

These flatterers lacked courage, and in their dishonesty faked loyalty to the Emperor, and in the end, the whole of the Empire would suffer. Had these people been true citizens of the Empire, and not focused on their own advancement, the Emperor would have enjoyed the loyalty of a citizen who put the Empire before self. In the end, the Emperor would be betrayed, and the Empire would have suffered yet another round of intrigue.

As we continue on this Lenten journey, let us reexamine our own relationships. Are we sycophants, or do we speak from the heart, without thought for self promotion? Are we true friends to

those with whom we share our lives, or are we always thinking only of ourselves? Do we really desire to serve those who are over us, or do we think only of our own advancement? Do we really desire to grow in the Faith, or are we only focused on the here and now? Are we like the emperor, only surrounding ourselves with flatterers, and people who tell us what we want to hear, or are we ready to receive the feedback that would actually help us grow spiritually?

Let us in all humility beseech the Lord during this Great and Holy Fast, seeking the transformation that is ours through His grace. Let us offer ourselves as a living sacrifice, expecting, because of His loving kindness, to be made whole. Finally, let us not be flatters and betrayers of others, but true friends, always putting ourselves last. Let us love God above all else, and let us love others as ourselves. With God's help, this Lenten journey will be the most spiritually profitable of them all.

*Love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon*

All Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA.

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

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

Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!

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