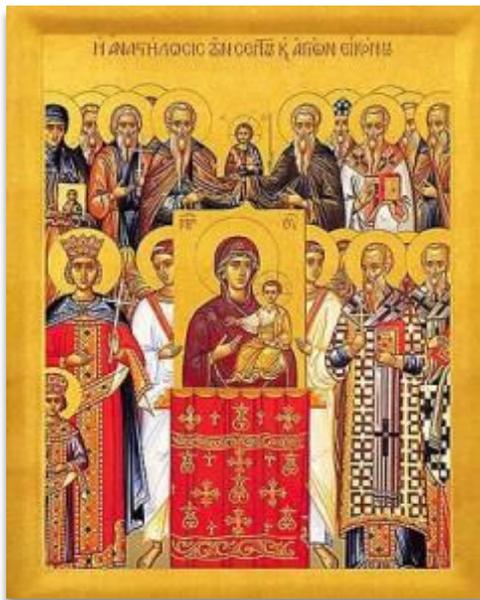


Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



Sunday of Orthodoxy

1st Sunday of Great Lent

March 13th, 2022

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

Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2

Gospel: St. John 1:43-51

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

Services, Events & Announcements

+ **Presanctified Liturgy** – Wed March 16th @ 5:30 (9th Hour @ 5:20) Lenten potluck following

+ **Presanctified Liturgy** – Fri March 18th @ 5:30 (9th Hour @ 5:20) Lenten potluck following

+ **Great Vespers** – Saturday March 19th @ 5pm

+ **Divine Liturgy** – *St Gregory Palamas* - March 20th @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40), a Lenten fellowship following in the Hall.

Our Giving – March 6th, 2022

Tithes/Offerings - \$1,907.00 / Online Giving - \$125.00

Candle Offerings – \$80.00

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

TRIUMPH OF ORTHODOXY SUNDAY

Fr. Thaddaeus Hardenbrook

Glory to God, Lent is underway! For many of us, the challenges of Clean Week have been very practical: targeting distractions and cares that compete with Lent, prioritizing attendance at services, cleaning out the refrigerator and refreshing our fasting-food shopping lists while squeezing in a few power naps to balance Lent's natural draw on our energy. Clean Week is a sprint wherein we break free from the congestion of daily life and then set a bit slower yet calculated pace—one that can be maintained until the final push of Holy Week.

For many of us, also, the lenten demons got an early start this year. Illness, car trouble, family crisis, or some good old-fashioned irritation. Our spiritual tradition is clear that whenever a Christian sets a spiritual goal, embraces personal asceticism, or just sits down to make a spiritual plan, the temptation to irritability confronts us almost immediately—perhaps because we're that easily wearied, perhaps because we so quickly feel proud of ourselves.

Along with the essential trio of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving, our Lenten effort, as average people, might be summed up in the words of Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica, "Our life depends on the kind of thoughts we nurture. If our thoughts are peaceful, calm, meek, and kind, then that is what our life is like. If our attention is turned to the circumstances in which we live, we are drawn into a whirlpool of thoughts and can have neither peace nor tranquility."

After the exercise of Clean Week, the wisdom of the Church grants us a rest in the joy of Triumph of Orthodoxy Sunday. In the eighth century, a persecution arose against the holy icons and those who venerated them. Churches were desecrated, and the faithful were tortured and martyred. In the year 842, the empress Theodora put an end to the persecution and established the first Sunday of

Great Lent as a day of thanksgiving to God for the restoration of the veneration of icons. Our joy arises both from triumph over heresy and from the realization that we have been granted the gift of membership in Orthodoxy.

www.orthochristian.com/69051.html

"I realized that we all worry about ourselves too much and that only he who leaves everything to the will of God can feel truly joyous, light, and peaceful." Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica

Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives: The Life and Teachings of Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica p.37

"Blessed is he who, with a hunger that is never satisfied, day and night throughout this present life makes prayer and the psalms his food and drink, and strengthens himself by reading of God's glory in Scripture. Such communion will lead the soul to ever-increasing joy in the age to come." St John of Karpathos

Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.317

The righteous cry out and the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near those shattered in heart, the humbled in spirit He will save. Many are the troubles of the righteous, but the Lord delivers them out of them all

Psalm 33:17-19 (Sheehan)

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

His Eminence Archbishop Mark, Priestmonk Ambrose (Young), Abbot Tryphon, Mitred-Archpriest Nicholas (Harris), Mitred-Archpriest Daniel & Mat. Myra (Kovalak), Archpriest Moses (Berry), Pres. Eva (Koutroulelis), Presbytera Rosy (Tanveer), Helen Maybo, Paul Beard, Evelyn Chabal, Phoebe Davis, Michael Kuzmiak, Juliana Matusiak, the Newly Illumined Anna & Isaac & those suffering in the Ukraine.

Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!

Archpriest George Hnatko +2/13, Mat. Carol Janecek +2/14, & those who have lost their lives in the Ukraine.