

Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

# Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



## Sunday of Zacchaeus

St. Leo the Great

February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024

# Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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

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

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

*Epistle:* 1 Timothy 4:9-15

*Gospel:* St. Luke 19:1-10

***A warm welcome to EVERYONE this morning!!***

## **UPCOMING SERVICES & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- + Church **open** for prayer/Confession – Tuesday Feb 20<sup>th</sup> - 7 to 9:30am
- + *Compline/Bible Study* – Wednesday February 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30pm
- + Church **open** for prayer/Confession – Thursday Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> - 7 to 9:30am
- + *Great Vespers* – Saturday February 24<sup>th</sup> at 5pm
- + *Hours, Divine Liturgy* – Sunday February 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:40am –*Fellowship following in the Hall.*
- + *Confessions on Saturdays before Vespers or by appointment.*
- + Benevolence Fund for February: - *Community Luncheon*
- + House Blessings still going on! Please contact Fr. Seraphim to set up a day and time. 😊
- + **THANK YOU** to all who helped with the Saturday Luncheon!!!

## **OUR GIVING – FEBRUARY 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2024**

Tithes/Offerings - \$653.00 / Online Giving - \$408.50

Candle Offerings – \$50.00

*Thank you all for your generous giving to our Parish!*

**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 must be at peace with everyone too.* If you have any questions, please see Fr. Seraphim. 😊

**\*\* Please remain (quietly) for the Prayers of Thanksgiving after the Liturgy, before going over to the Hall for Fellowship.**

### **Put Aside Resentment by Abbot Tryphon**

The decision to forgive another person a wrong done to us begins when we decide to let go of resentment and thoughts of revenge. To forgive someone does not mean that we forget what they did to us, for this may be impossible. The memory of the hurt might always remain with you, but when you decide to forgive the person who wronged you, the grip of resentment is put aside. When we forgive someone, it is even possible to find yourself filled with compassion and empathy for the person, for the act of forgiveness opens the heart to God's grace.

When we forgive someone, we are not denying their responsibility for hurting or offending us, nor are we justifying their act. We can forgive them without approving or excusing their transgression against us. The act of forgiving another opens our heart to the peace that brings closure to hurt and pain and opens us up to the love and peace that comes from living a life without resentment.

If we find ourselves struggling to forgive, it is a good reminder to recall those hurtful things we've done to others and remember when we've been forgiven. It is especially good to recall how God has forgiven us and call upon Him to give us the grace needed to put aside our resentment, and truly forgive the other person. Being quick to forgive, and putting aside all thoughts of revenge will open our hearts to a joyful and peaceful life.

Finally, if we pray for those who've offended us, we open the door to all kinds of possibilities. When we ask God to help the person who has been unkind and hurtful, our own hearts receive healing, for

when we've forgiven others, grace abounds. "Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate when people say unkind things about you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God wants you to do, and he will bless you for it." (1 Peter 3:9)

*Love in Christ, Abbot Tryphon*

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

"To judge sins is the business of one who is sinless, but who is sinless except God? Whoever thinks about the multitude of his own sins in his heart never wants to make the sins of others a topic of conversation. To judge a man who has gone astray is a sign of pride, and God resists the proud. On the other hand, one who every hour prepares himself to give answer for his own sins will not quickly lift up his head to examine the mistakes of others."

*St. Gennadius of Constantinople,*

*The Golden Chain, 53-55 Fertile Ground*

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

His Eminence, Archbishop Nathaniel, Priestmonk Ambrose (Young), Abbot Tryphon, Mitred-Archpriest Nicholas (Harris), Mitred-Archpriest Daniel & Mat. Myra (Kovalak), Archpriest Michael (Evans), Priest Gregory (White), Pres. Eva (Koutroulelis), Pres. Rosy (Tanveer), Mat. Mary Lynn (Henry), Mat. Deborah (Belonick), Mat. Barbara (Matusiak), Anastasia Linnehan & Sarah Gunter (children to be born of them), Newly Illumined child Odette Crews, Paul Beard, Evelyn Chabal, Michael Kuzmiak, Juliana Matusiak, Elias Ciaccio, Elizabeth Wadsworth, Sebastian Fillar, Isaac Bannister, Christine Perrin, Elizabeth Yonkin, Michael Lazorchak, Edward Hojnicky, Brian Gunter, Vladimir Kerkendall, Alec Litchard & those suffering from the wars in Ukraine, Russia, & the Middle East

### **Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!**

Archpriest Moses Berry +1/12, Archpriest Robert Stephen Kennaugh +1/12, Deacon Horia Roscanu +1/19, Deacon Joseph Rabickow, Jr +1/22, Matushka Rosemary Mariamna Soot +1/16, & Those who have lost their lives in the wars in Ukraine, Russia, & Middle East