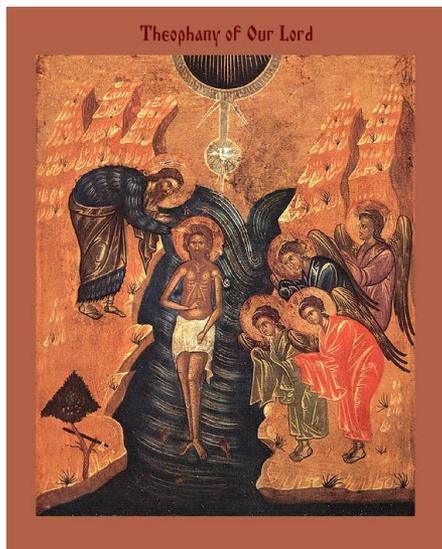


DIOCESE OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA + WILKES-BARRE DEANERY

**ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
ORTHODOX CHURCH
WILLIAMSPORT, PA.**



33RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY OF OUR
LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST**

JANUARY 13TH, 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. Eric Affsprung, Parish Warden - 570-412-4438
Mr. Dan Thetford, Asst Warden - 724-544-5029

Today's Scripture Readings:
Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13
Gospel: St. Matthew 4:12-17

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

Services, Events & Announcements

**** Great Blessing of the Waters – TODAY?? @ Susquehanna State Park . . . we'll meet there at 1:30'ish ☺**

****Daily Vespers - Wednesday, Jan 16th @ 5:30pm (Orthodoxy 101 after Vespers)**

****Great Vespers - Saturday, Jan 19th @ 5pm**

****Divine Liturgy - Sunday Jan 20th @ 10am**

****The weekly Parish bulletin can now be accessed on the Parish website homepage. www.holycrosswilliamsport.org**

****Today is the **SECOND** official announcement for our Annual Parish Meeting, to take place on Sunday January 27th in the Hall after Liturgy (during Fellowship Hour).**

****Offering/Tithe envelopes for 2019 are now available in the back of the Church.**

****Interested in singing in the choir? Practice next Saturday Jan 19th @ 3:30pm. Come join them!!**

LAST SUNDAY – Jan 6

Attendance 58 - Regular Offering – \$3,182.00

Candles – \$90.10, Monthly Special – \$1.00

Christmas Offering - \$40.00

Auxillary Gifts – \$7,000.00

NEXT SUNDAY – Jan 20

Reading of the Hours – Mat Mary

Reading of the Epistle – Jason F.

Fellowship Hour

Jan 20th - Thetfords & Beth L.

Jan 27th - Alexanders & Beth Y.

(Copies of the FH list are available in the Hall)

+ If you have not completed your *Time & Talent Card* please do so, and please give them to Parish Council Warden (Anthony) or Fr. Seraphim

A Word from Your Pastor . . .

House Blessings have begun! If you would like to have your home blessed for this new year, please see the calendar sign-up sheets on the candle counter. Also, please make sure that you pick up a copy of “You Want to Bless My House?” Please consider this wonderful opportunity. If you have any questions, please see me.

With Love and God’s Blessings,

+ Fr. Seraphim

Regarding Holy Communion: Only those faithful who are Orthodox Christians and have properly prepared themselves by

fasting, prayer, confession, who were at least present for the reading of the Epistle and Gospel and are at peace with one another should approach to receive the Holy Eucharist.

Questions? Please see Fr. Seraphim. ☺

Past Regrets . . . by Abbot Tryphon

Clinging to past regrets can be a rejection of the very meaning of repentance. Transformation is not something that happens in an instant, but is a journey towards holiness, and as long as we look to the future with hope, transformation of the heart continues, and our past becomes but a fading memory.

There are many people who cling to memories of past sins, holding on to guilt and shame, reliving things long ago confessed, as though they happened yesterday. They struggle with regrets, often revisiting shame as though they were archeologists, digging for historical artifacts that must be preserved.

Such is not the case with God, for His interest is not in our past, but in our future. Confessed sins are counted as nothing, for God looks with interest on the transformed heart that has been made anew, with contrition. God looks to our future, for His loving mercy is upon the man who has confessed his sin, and that sin is counted as nothing. God is interested in what we are doing with our future, and as a loving Father takes pleasure in the steps we take in our journey towards Him.

For us to look back is to reject the very role of confession, for if we cling to past regrets, we are rejecting the very meaning of repentance, which means a change of heart and taking a direction that is all about the future.

*Love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon*

All Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA