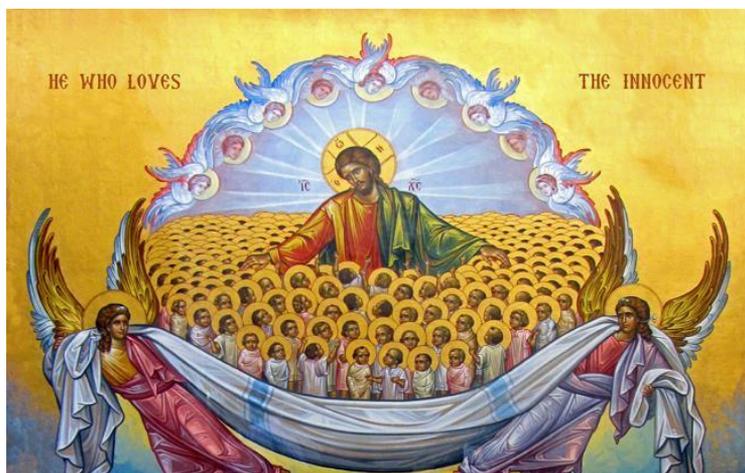


DIocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Diocese

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



**34<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
VENERABLE EUTHYMIUS THE GREAT  
SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY  
JANUARY 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2019**

# ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS ORTHODOX CHURCH

1725 Holy Cross Ln  
Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701-2749

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***Today's Scripture Readings:***  
*Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11*  
*Gospel: St. Luke 18:35-43*

*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**

***\*\*Daily Vespers - Wednesday, Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 5:30pm (Orthodoxy 101 after Vespers)***

***\*\*Great Vespers - Saturday, Jan 26<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm***

***\*\*Divine Liturgy - Sunday Jan 27<sup>th</sup> @ 10am***

***\*\*The weekly Parish bulletin can now be accessed on the Parish website homepage. [www.holycrosswilliamsport.org](http://www.holycrosswilliamsport.org)***

***\*\*Today is the **THIRD** & final official announcement for our Annual Parish Meeting, to take place next Sunday January 27<sup>th</sup> in the Hall after Liturgy (during Fellowship Hour). Please come over and be a part of this most important work in our Parish life.***

***\*\*If you have not already, please pick up your Offering/Tithe envelopes for 2019 in the Parish Hall.***

***\*\*Interested in singing in the choir? Practice next Saturday Jan 26<sup>th</sup> @ 3:30pm. Come join them!!***

***LAST SUNDAY – Jan 13***

***Attendance 54 - Regular Offering – \$2,830.00***

***Candles – \$94.70, Monthly Special – \$205.00***

***NEXT SUNDAY – Jan 27***

***Reading of the Hours – Methodios Y.***

***Reading of the Epistle – Anthony A.***

***Fellowship Hour***

***Jan 27<sup>th</sup> - Alexanders & Beth Y.***

***Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> – Armstrong / Lamprino***

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

***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.***

***Speaking of “blessings,” it was such a joy to go to Susquehanna State Park last Sunday and Bless the Water there! If you missed it, there are pictures on both our Parish Facebook page and on the Diocesan website [www.doepa.org](http://www.doepa.org)***

***Thanks to ALL who took some fantastic pictures!!!***

***With Love and God’s Blessing,***

***+ Fr. Seraphim***

*The Enemy of Faith is Pride . . . by Abbot Tryphon*

“Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”” (John 6:29).

The absolute necessary element for salvation is faith, and faith is a clear sign that God’s grace has been activated in us, for faith brings us into communion with God. Faith is a free gift, for nothing we can do can save us. No good works can save us. Being a good person will not save us. Only faith in Christ will bring us into everlasting life, yet faith without works is dead. Good works, love, and being quick to forgive others, and to overlook the sins of our neighbor, is a sign that our faith is actually real, and is bringing about the transformation of life that is necessary for us to enter the Kingdom of God.

The enemy of faith is pride, for pride destroys faith. Pride makes us believe we do not need God, and pride is what leads many into the abyss of atheism, for pride makes us believe that there is nothing beyond ourselves. Pride leads us to believe that we are all important, and that nothing exists beyond ourselves. Once pride takes hold, our heart grows hard, and faith grows cold and dies.

Repentance is the cure for pride, and only through repentance can we rekindle the grace that brings life to our faith. Humbling ourselves before God, and giving ourselves over to divine worship, brings us back into the natural relationship that was preordained for us before the fall, and faith grows as grace rebounds.

*Love in Christ,  
Abbot Tryphon  
All Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA*