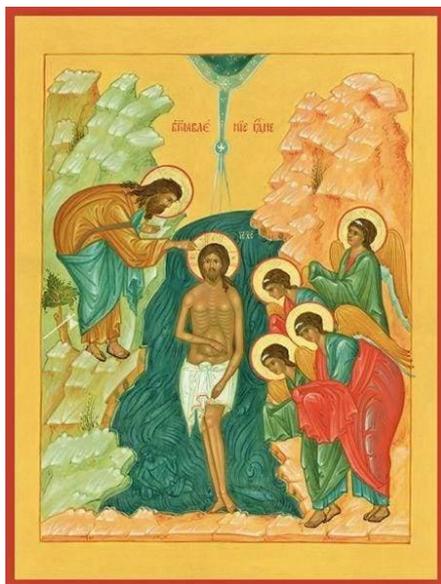


DIocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Diocese

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



32ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD &
SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**

JANUARY 5TH, 2019

ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS ORTHODOX CHURCH

1725 Holy Cross Ln
Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701-2749

Rev. Fr. Seraphim Reynolds, Pastor
Office: 570.322.3020
(c) 717.576.3503
priestserafim@gmail.com

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

Today's Scripture Readings:
Epistle: Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7
Gospel: St. Matthew 3:13-17

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

*****Daily Vespers - Wednesday, Jan 9th @ 6pm***

*****Great Vespers - Saturday, Jan 12th @ 5pm***

*****Divine Liturgy - Sunday Jan 13th @ 10am***

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

*****Today is the **FIRST** 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? Come join them!!***

LAST SUNDAY – Dec 30

Attendance 42 - Regular Offering – \$2,395.00

Candles – \$189.00, Monthly Special – \$20.00

Christmas Offering - \$2698.00

NEXT SUNDAY – Jan 13

Reading of the Hours – Nicholas O.

Reading of the Epistle – Herman A.

Fellowship Hour

Jan 6th – Hranitz, Schechter, Brown

Jan 13th- Lenora & Friends

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

+ If you have not completed your *Stewardship* and the *Time and Talent* cards, please do so at your earliest convenience, and give them to Parish Council Warden, Anthony (Eric) Affsprung.

A Word from Your Pastor . . .

House Blessings are beginning today! If you would like to have your home blessed for this new year, please see the sign-up sheets in the Hall. If you have any questions, please see me.

Also, a personal word of gratitude to the Parish Auxiliary and ALL the folks who participate with the making and baking of pierogies this past week! They have graciously given a gift of \$6,000.00 to the Parish and a \$1,000.00 gift to the Education Fund of the Parish! We are ALL very grateful for your labors. Thank you so much, and God Bless You All!

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. ☺

We Orthodox Are Duty Bound to Share the Faith . . . by Abbot Tryphon

As we usher in a new year, we Orthodox Christians are duty bound to share our faith with others. Christ is for everyone, but with all the bad press Christianity has been getting during the past decade, it is especially important that we approach evangelism in light of the historic Church. The missionary mind of the Orthodox Church must be rekindled in our time. Parishes must not remain enclaves of Greeks, Russians, Bulgarians, Romanians, Palestinians, or Serbs. The doors of the churches must be opened wide, welcoming all.

Orthodox clergy must remember that we are the first line of witness for the Faith, and if we hold ourselves aloof while wearing our cassocks and crosses in public, we are in essence slamming the door in the faces of potential converts to our faith. And, as priests belonging to different jurisdictions, we must cooperate in the foundation of new missions, so we don't undermine the ability of any one mission to support a full-time priest and raise the necessary funds to construct a permanent church. Having numerous little mission parishes without proper facilities, and a full-time priest, is counterproductive to the overall goal of a mission, because the witness it gives to the community at large is one of disunity among the Orthodox, and the promotion of the commonly held view that we are multiple denominations.

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