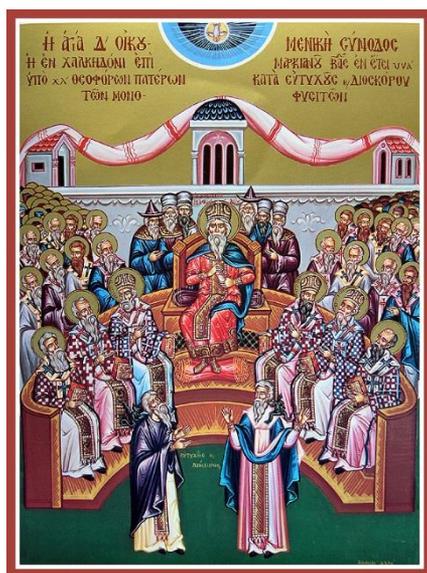


DIocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

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



THE FATHERS OF THE FIRST SIX  
ECUMENICAL COUNCILS  
JULY 14<sup>TH</sup>, 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. Michael (Cory) Chelko, Parish Warden  
Mr. Dan Thetford, Asst Warden

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

*Epistle:* Romans 6:18-23

*Gospel:* St. Matthew 8:5-13

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

## **Services, Events & Announcements**

**\*\*NO Daily Vespers this Wednesday July 17<sup>th</sup>**

**\*\*Saturday July 20<sup>th</sup> Great Vespers @ 5pm**

**\*\*Sunday July 21<sup>st</sup> Divine Liturgy @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40)**

**\*\*TODAY Sunday July 14<sup>th</sup>, The FOCA Annual Knoebel's Family Picnic - Arrive at the Park after Liturgy, a Hamburger/ Hot Dog dinner will be served at 6pm in Pavilion K. No need to RSVP, \$5 per person, children under 6 FREE.**

**\*\*Parish Council Meeting - Tuesday July 16<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm**

**\*\*Blessing of the Vehicles - Next Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup> after the Liturgy . . . cars, bikes, trucks & scooters are welcome!**

**\*\*Anyone interested in baking *prosfora* (the breads used for our Services) please see Fr. Seraphim for details. We need**

some folks to help with this important ministry in the Church.

LAST SUNDAY - **July 7<sup>th</sup>**

Attendance 48 - Regular Offering - \$3094.00

Candles - \$72.00 / Love Offering - \$21.00

NEXT SUNDAY - **July 21<sup>th</sup>**

Reading of the Epistle - Herman A.

++Please check the bulletin board in the Hall for information on local events, Parish schedules and recent Parish Council Minutes.

*From Your Pastor . . .*

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 each other too.* ☺

*If anyone has any concerns or questions about Confession, please let me know. I would be happy to sit down and chat with you about it. If you would like to setup an appointment, I am very workable.*

*If you are traveling and looking for an Orthodox Parish to attend, you can visit [www.orthodoxyinamerica.org](http://www.orthodoxyinamerica.org) and locate a Parish in the area.*

*With Love & God's Blessing,  
✠ Fr. Seraphim*

*Embracing Orthodoxy: The Mind and Heart of the Ancient  
Universal Church*

(Con't)

In an age when many people think truth is relative, the knowledge that there is such a thing as absolute truth, is comforting. The freedom that comes with the knowledge that we are able to embrace teachings that are a continuation of an unbroken line dating back to Apostolic times, is liberating. As Orthodox Christians, we are not faced with the troubling task of interpreting the scriptures anew, or deciding moral and dogmatic teachings for ourselves, or trying to make our faith relevant for this age. Rather, we can immerse ourselves in the knowledge that we have embraced the Mind of the Ancient Universal Church.

We haven't had to reinvent the Faith, because we have aligned ourselves with the Church that is both ancient, and relevant for the modern seeker. We know the Church's teachings are not based on the finite mind, or the imagination of our own fallen nature, but the eternal truths that have endured from ancient of times.

It is comforting to know the Church has remained true to her inheritance for some two thousand years. It is liberating to know ancient Christian dogmas, ways of worship, and moral teachings, are guiding our lives, just as they have for two thousand years.

Truth is not relative but is absolute. There is no greater freedom, than to be able to receive, as our own, the transcending truth that has made saints, from ancient times. There is no greater freedom than being able to embrace the absolute truth that has transcended time, space, culture, and race. No greater joy than to be counted as belonging to Christ, and having joined ourselves to the very Church He founded.

*With Love in Christ, Abbot Tryphon*

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