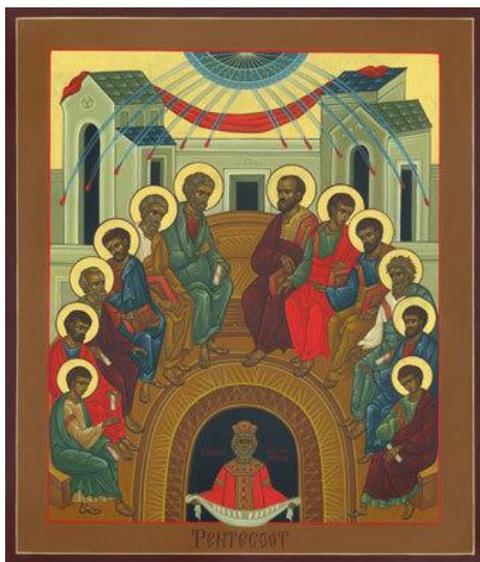


DIOCESE OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA + WILKES-BARRE DEANERY

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



**THE FEAST OF
HOLY PENTECOST
JUNE 16TH, 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. Michael (Cory) Chelko, Parish Warden
Mr. Dan Thetford, Asst Warden

Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Acts 2:1-11

Gospel: St. John 7:37-52, 8:12

Happy Father's Day!!! 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

****Parish Council Meeting - Tuesday June 18th @ 6pm** Any member of the Parish is invited to attend.

****Wednesday June 19th Vespers @ 6pm** (NO Orthodoxy 101)

****Saturday June 22nd Great Vespers @ 5pm**

****Sunday June 23rd Divine Liturgy @ 10am** (Hours @ 9:40)

****Happy Father's Day** to ALL of our Fathers, Grandfathers, Great-grandfathers & Godfathers! May the Lord Grant All of You Many Blessed Years!

****CONGRATULATIONS** to our High School graduates: Maiya Yonkin, Molly Jenkins & Nathanael Almasy! May God Grant You ALL Many Blessed Years! Our prayers go with you!

LAST SUNDAY – June 9th

Attendance 70 - Regular Offering - \$2,601.00

Candles - \$129.80 / Love Offerings - \$180.00

Memorial - \$50.00

NEXT SUNDAY – June 23rd

Reading of the Epistle – Herman A.

A Word from Your Pastor . . .

“Orthodoxy 101” – Out of respect for holy objects, please refrain from venerating the Icons or receiving Communion while wearing any lipstick or lip balms (guys included). Also, the proper way to approach the Chalice for Communion is to come with your arms crossed, mouth open wide enough, and receive Our Lord from the Spoon. The reason for this is very practical, as to avoid any accident of the precious Body and Blood of Our Lord falling to the floor. Please allow the servers to wipe your lips and if you do make the Sign of the Cross, do so after moving away from the Chalice. The less arm movement at the Chalice the better.

As always, I invite anyone with questions or concerns about these things (or anything else) to please come see me.

*With Love & God’s Blessing,
+ Fr. Seraphim*

Looking for Hope in All the Right Places

Earlier this evening I was listening to one of the last songs recorded by Johnny Cash, probably the best country western singer of all time. The line in his song, “put me in my box on the 309”, is coming from a man who is facing his own imminent death. With the loss of his beloved wife, June Carter Cash still heavy on his heart, Johnny was ready to go to God.

At seventy-three, I’m more aware than ever of my own mortality. I’m not afraid of death but find myself concerned about the monastery and wanting it to prosper beyond my life. I believe

with all my heart that this place was built by God, working one miracle after another to make it happen, but like a mother who's given birth to her child and wanting the best for him, I'm not in a hurry to leave this life. I want to know this monastery will be on sure footing and with enough young monks to continue into the next generation before they put my box on the 309.

Like Johnny Cash in his last album, I find myself driven by a desire to share in words my life experience and help today's young people realize the importance of making God central in their lives. We live in an age where many are living in a constant state of listlessness, not caring or being concerned about their spiritual condition, or that of the world. Having given themselves over to leisure pursuits and entertainment, they've become unable to be attentive to that which is of eternal importance. As the economy falters and the world seems on the brink of total meltdown, they have failed to build a foundation that will help them face the challenges and dangers that lie ahead.

History is filled with times like ours and the spiritually fit were the ones who came through those difficult times and prospered. The spiritually fit can triumph over anything, so I continue trying to encourage this new generation of young people. You have before you many challenges, but you also have the prayerful support of monks everywhere, and the love and respect of people of my generation. With God's help you will triumph, so don't neglect the needs of your soul.

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

Regarding Holy Communion: Only those faithful who are Orthodox Christians and have properly prepared themselves by fasting, prayer [i.e. *Prayers Before Communion*], 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.* ☺