

DIOCESE OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA + WILKES-BARRE DEANERY

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



**SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY
VENERABLE ALEXIS, MAN OF GOD
ST. PATRICK, BISHOP OF ARMAGH
MARCH 17TH, 2019**

ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701-2749

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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26; 32-12:2

Gospel: St. John 1:43-51

*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

****Pre-Sanctified Liturgy - Wednesday Mar 20th @ 5:30pm**

****Pre-Sanctified Liturgy - Friday Mar 22nd @ 5:30pm**

****Deanery Mission Vespers - TODAY @ 4pm, Holy Resurrection
Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre.**

****Great Vespers - Saturday, Mar 23rd @ 5pm (Confessions after)**

****Divine Liturgy - Sunday, Mar 24th @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40)**

****Mission Vespers - Sunday Mar 24th @ 4pm, St. Michael's, Mt.
Carmel.**

****Lenten Vespers - Sunday Mar 31st @ 4pm, Holy Cross, Williamsport**

****Parish Council Meeting - Thursday Mar 21st @ 5:30pm**

LAST SUNDAY – Mar 10

Attendance 40 - Regular Offering - \$2774.00
Candles - \$103.00 / Monthly Special - \$51.00
Auxiliary Gift – \$1000.00 / Benevolence - \$20.00

NEXT SUNDAY – Mar 24

Reading of the Hours – Methodios Y.
Reading of the Epistle – Herman A.

Fellowship Hour

Mar 24th - Mat. Mary & Meg J.
Mar 31st – Andrew S., Andrew E. & Austin S.

Wednesday Pre-Sanctified Lenten Meal sign-up sheet is on the
bulletin board in the Hall.

Friday Pre-Sanctified's will be pot-luck, so please bring a little
something Lenten to share with everyone.

Help with clean-up after our meals together is greatly appreciated,
so let's ALL help each other! ☺

A Word from Your Pastor . . .

What beautiful Services we had this first week of Lent!
Although we can get physically worn out from attending these
Services (and the all the prostrations ☺), the spiritual benefits far
outweigh the aches and pains and being tired. They are surely not
meant to be a burden, rather, they are spiritual food.

During this Lenten Season, please try to come to confession.
I am available for confession most anytime, before or after Vespers,
and after Divine Liturgy if need be. I am also available by
appointment most anytime during the week. Want to stop by on
your lunch break from work? Just let me know.

With Love and God's Blessing,
+ *Fr. Seraphim*

Forgiveness is the cure for judgment, anger, and resentment

Our Lord Jesus Christ told us: "Judge not, and you shall not be
judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you
shall be forgiven (Luke 6:37)." In the Our Father, the very prayer given to

His disciples after Christ was asked to teach them to pray, we say the words “forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors”. These strong words make it clear that we are to forgive others if we expect God to forgive us.

Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk, in his book, “Journey to Heaven”, says: “Do we forgive our neighbors their trespasses? God also forgives us in His mercy. Do we refuse to forgive? God, too, will refuse to forgive us. As we treat our neighbors, so also does God treat us. The forgiveness, then, of your sins or unforgiveness, and hence also your salvation or destruction, depend on you yourself, man. For without forgiveness of sins there is no salvation.”

Throughout Christ’s ministry He emphasized the need for us to be willing to forgive others, for if we expect to be forgiven, we must nurture a forgiving heart. If we hold grudges, and remember wrongs, we poison our souls, and love has no place in us.

“The drunkard, the fornicator, the proud – he will receive God’s mercy. But he who does not want to forgive, to excuse, to justify consciously, intentionally... ..that person closes himself to eternal life before God, and even more so in the present life. He is turned away and not heard (Elder Sampson of Russia).”

As we are quick to forgive our neighbors, so God also forgives us in His great and loving mercy. If we refuse to forgive, God, too, will refuse to forgive us. Our salvation or destruction, depend on our willingness to forgive others, for without forgiveness of sins there is no salvation.

Love in Christ,

Abbot Tryphon

All Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA.

Regarding Confession & Holy Communion: Only those faithful who are Orthodox Christians and have properly prepared themselves by fasting, prayer, 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.*