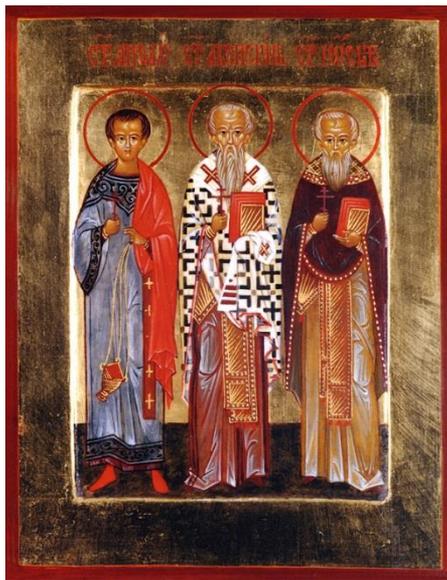


DIocese of EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA + WILKES-BARRÉ DIOCESE

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



MARTYRS ACESIMUS

JOSEPH & ATHALAS

NOVEMBER 3RD, 2015

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 President
Mr. Dan Thetford, Vice President

Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19

Gospel: St. Luke 8:41-56

Welcome to ALL of our visitors and guests this morning! Please, come over to the Hall after Liturgy for some fellowship!!

Services, Events & Announcements

++Annual Parish Meeting TODAY - during Fellowship Hour (3rd Official Announcement)

++Wednesday Nov 6th - Daily Vespers @ 6pm / Orthodoxy 101 to follow.

++Saturday Nov 9th - Great Vespers @ 5pm

++Sunday Nov 10th - Divine Liturgy @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40) +

****Saturday Nov 9th - Teen Retreat CTS, Harrisburg**

****Saturday Nov 16th - Women's Retreat at St. Tikhons, (9:30-3:00) flyer and registration forms on the bulletin board.**

Entrance of the Theotokos - Nov 21st

****Wednesday Nov 20th - Great Vespers w/Litya @ 6pm at St. Michael's, Mt Carmel - Baptism of Elizabeth Eugenia Hunter**

****Thursday Nov 21st - Divine Liturgy @ 10am**

LAST SUNDAY – Oct 27th

Attendance 56 - Regular Offering - \$1346.00
Candles - \$62.25 / Landscape Project - \$200.00

NEXT SUNDAY – Nov 3rd

Reading of the Epistle – Herman A.

From Your Pastor . . .

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” Psalm 132:1

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.* ☺

Icons & Holy Things: How Should We Approach Them

One of the attributes of God is holiness, and is reflected in His people, and in physical objects that have been blessed by the Church for the use of His people in their journey towards Him. Therefore, reverence for these sacred objects and images is the manifestation of the relationship between ourselves and God. “And ye shall be holy unto me: for I the Lord am holy... (Leviticus 20: 26).” Icons of Christ, His Holy Mother, the saints, or depictions of biblical events, are not just art objects, popular today, but disposable tomorrow, but are vehicles for God’s sustaining grace.

As Orthodox Christians, we should make it a rule never have arguments, or engage in improper behavior before the images of the saints, and instill in children, from the earliest of age, reverence for the holy icons. Not only do we call upon the saints for their heavenly intercession, but their icons serve as reminders that

Christ has called us to repentance, and the deification of each human soul.

Under no circumstance can such an icon, even one that has not been blessed, be simply thrown away. A holy item, even if it has lost its original appearance, should always be treated with reverence. This is one of the reasons it is never a good idea to send a greeting card with an icon on it, especially if it is to be sent to someone who might not understand the importance of treating an icon with great reverence and respect.

If an icon's condition has rendered it unfit for use and it cannot be restored, it should be taken to the church, where it can be burned in a furnace or special place set aside for the disposal of holy things. If this is not possible, you should burn the icon yourself, and bury the ashes in a place that will not be sullied or disturbed, such as in a cemetery or under a tree in the garden.

Our patronal icon should be held in particular reverence, for following baptism, we each have a special bond with our personal saint. Parents should make it a tradition to bless their children with the child's personal icon, as they set off for a new year at school, an extended journey, or when they leave home, to start their own family. Family members should be sure to bring at least a few icons into the hospital room or the nursing home, of their loved one, so a person's own departure from this life can take place in the presence of their personal icons.

Holy oils, and any other blessed articles used in the home, should always be treated with the uttermost reverence, and, like the icons, never be improperly disposed of. Those things, like bottles of holy oil, that cannot be burned, should be placed in the ground, always in a place that will not be used for something else.

With Love in Christ, Abbot Tryphon

All Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA.