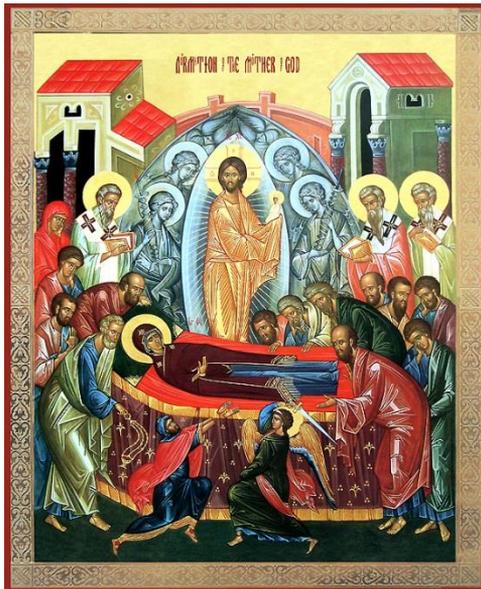


DIocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Diocese

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



**AFTERFEAST OF THE DORMITION
HOLY MARTYRS FLORUS & LAURUS**

AUGUST 18TH, 2019

ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS ORTHODOX CHURCH

1725 Holy Cross Ln
Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701-2749

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Mr. Michael (Cory) Chelko, Parish Warden
Mr. Dan Thetford, Asst Warden

Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 3:9-17

Gospel: St. Matthew 14:22-34

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

Services, Events & Announcements

****TODAY is our Parish Picnic during Fellowship Hour!!**

****Tuesday August 20th Parish Council Meeting @ 6pm – Members of the Parish are welcome to attend.**

++Weds Aug 21st – Daily Vespers @ 6pm

++Saturday Aug 24th - Great Vespers @ 5pm

++Sunday Aug 25th – Baptismal Divine Liturgy @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40) Baptism of Eleni Irene Alexander

****LYRA will once again be with us on Friday Sept 20th @ 7pm for an evening of music. Invite someone!!**

LAST SUNDAY – **August 11th**
Attendance 61 - Regular Offering - \$2639.00
Candles - \$97.65 / Love Offering - \$200.00
Benevolence - \$25.00 / Memorial - \$35.00

NEXT SUNDAY – **Aug 25th**
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.** ☺

I am available for confessions or meeting with anyone most anytime. Please let me know if you would like to setup a time.

“What has happened has happened – it is in the past. Just keep on going, all the while asking for help from God.”

+ Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica, *Our Thoughts Determine our Lives*

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

Hospice or Hospital? Spiritual Pain Control or Spiritual Healing?

Since the Church is a hospital for the soul wherein, we come for healing, it is important that we take full advantage of all the

resources the Church offers us for such healing. Frequent confession, where we bare our sins before God with the priest as the witness is an important beginning to the healing process. Receiving the Holy Mysteries of Christ's Body and Blood on a regular basis gives us the grace needed for the healing of the soul, freeing it from the bondage that comes from the sin that has weighted us down.

Keeping to a regular Prayer Rule, given to us by our priest, confessor, or spiritual father or mother, also contributes to the healing process. Reading spiritually uplifting books, as well as the lives of the saints, also greatly contributes to the transformation that can be ours if we take our faith seriously. As well, the fasting rules of the Church are designed to help us become whole, furthering the healing process that began when we first made a commitment to living a life in Christ.

If we fail to follow these time-tested spiritual practices that are meant to bring about healing of body and soul, we will not find the healing that is available to us. Instead, we will find ourselves treating the Church as though she were simply a hospice, where we get a quick fix for the pain and sin that keeps us from becoming whole, and find ourselves with short term results that only mask the sin and sickness that rule our lives.

It is up to us to decide if we will allow the Church to be a hospital that brings about the cure, or simply use the Church as a hospice that only masks the pain and sin. The choice is ours.

With Love in Christ, Abbot Tryphon

All Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA.