

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



St. John Climacus (of the
Ladder)

4th Sunday of Great Lent

April 11th, 2021

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

1725 Holy Cross Ln
Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701-2749
www.holycrosswilliamsport.org

Rev. Fr. Seraphim Reynolds, Pastor
Office: 570.322.3020
(c) 717.576.3503
Email: priestseraphim@protonmail.com

Today's Scripture Readings:

*Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20; Ephesians 5:9-19
Gospel: St. Mark 9:17-31; St. Matthew 4:25-5:12*

A warm welcome to everyone, and especially to our visitors and guests this morning! Please join us for some fellowship after in the Parish Hall!

Services, Events & Announcements

++Presanctified Liturgy – Wednesday, Apr 14th @ 5:30pm (9th Hour @ 5:20) Begin your Eucharistic fast after your noon meal. We will have a light Lenten potluck Fellowship to follow in the Hall, so please bring something to share.

++Great Canon of St Andrew of Crete – Thursday, Apr 15th @ 5:30pm

++Akathist to the Most Holy Theotokos – Friday, April 16th @ 5:30pm

***Great Vespers – Saturday, Apr 17th @ 5pm**

***Divine Liturgy – Sunday, Apr 18th @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40am)
Lenten Fellowship after in the Hall**

Our Giving – April 4th, 2021

Tithes/Offerings - \$2,662.00

Candle Offerings - \$78.00 / Pascha Flowers - \$100.00
Love Offerings - \$28.00 / Benevolence - \$200.00

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 you have any questions about Communion, please see Fr. Seraphim. 😊

When Our Prayer Becomes Dry

Being real with God is far more important than being emotional

When we find ourselves struggling with prayer, and feel that it has become dry and lifeless, we are sometimes tempted to stop praying. When our prayer has become a struggle, it is good to remember that God knows our needs, and even knows what we want to say when we don't seem to know. This is the time we need to just pray without worrying about it. When we find we can't keep our minds focused on the formal morning and evening prayers, as found in our prayer book, it is perfectly acceptable to simply light our lampada (hanging oil lamp), sit quietly before our icons, and let silence be our voice.

God wants to enter into our heart, and requires only our permission and cooperation. This relationship does not require an emotional response, for, like all relationships, we are not always open to an emotional response. Being real with God is far more important than being emotional, since emotions can be contrived and fleshly. As in all relationships, there are times when we do feel moved by emotions, but the lack of such feelings in no way represents a lack of love for God, because God cares for us, and God knows we love him, even when suffering in those dry times.

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

“The Good God provides each of us with a cross to bear – analogous to the strength of each – not to punish us, but to enable us to climb from that cross to Heaven – because in essence, the cross is a ladder to Heaven.” *St. Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Councils IV: Family Life*
p.205

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is dedicated to Saint John of the Ladder (Climacus), the author of the work, The Ladder of Divine Ascent. The abbot of Saint Catherine’s Monastery on Mount Sinai (6th century) stands as a witness to the violent effort needed for entrance into God’s Kingdom (Mt.10: 12). The spiritual struggle of the Christian life is a real one, “not against flesh and blood, but against ... the rulers of the present darkness ... the hosts of wickedness in heavenly places ...” (Eph 6:12). Saint John encourages the faithful in their efforts for, according to the Lord, only “he who endures to the end will be saved” (Mt.24:13). www.oca.org

Prayers For the Health and Salvation of those in need: Many Years!
Priestmonk Ambrose (Young), Abbot Tryphon, Mitred-Archpriest Nicholas (Harris), Mitred-Archpriest Daniel & Mat. Myra (Kovalak), Mat. Theodora (Ressetar), Pres. Eva (Koutroulelis), Mat. Seraphima (Hunter) & Mary (Federoff) and the children to be born of them, Helen Maybo, Paul Beard, Evelyn Chabal, Phoebe Davis & Peter Georges

Prayers For the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!
Mitred-Archpriest Basil Summer +3/26, Archpriest Antonio Perdomo +4/1, Archpriest George Morelli +3/17, Archpriest Vladimir Lecko +3/16, Archpriest Viktor Tseshkovsky +3/15, Mat. Sonja Tutko +3/7, Neven Stanisic +3/22