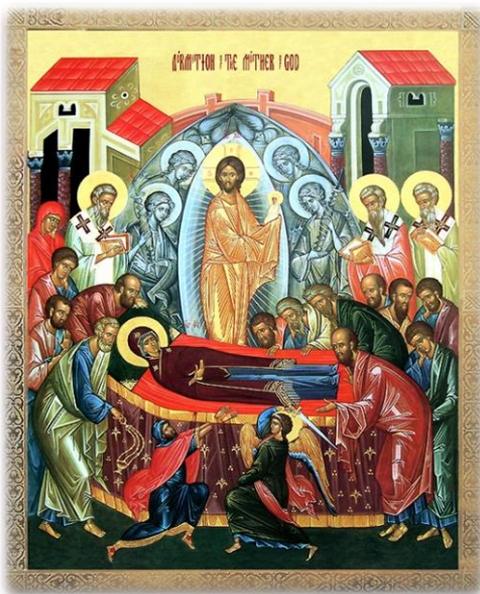


Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

# Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



*The Dormition of our Most  
Holy Lady the Mother of God  
and Ever-Virgin Mary*

August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021

# Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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## ***Today's Scripture Readings:***

*Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Philippians 2:5-11*  
*Gospel: St. Matthew 14:14-22; St. Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28*

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

## ***Joyous Feast!!***

### **Services, Events & Announcements**

- + Compline/Bible Study – Wednesday August 18<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm
- + Great Vespers – Saturday August 21<sup>st</sup> @ 5pm
- + Divine Liturgy - Sunday August 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40), Fellowship following in the Hall.
- + HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP MARK WILL BE WITH US ON AUGUST 28<sup>TH</sup> & 29<sup>TH</sup> 😊

### **Our Giving – August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Tithes/Offerings - \$3,458.00  
Tithes/Offerings (online) - \$394.75  
Candle Offerings – \$119.00 / Love Offerings - \$210.00  
Choir Fund - \$20.00

**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. 😊

### ***Inspiration from the Louhs***

“Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.” Proverbs 11:25

Metropolitan Anthony Bloom once said, “We should try to Live in such a way that if the gospels were lost, they could be re-written by looking at us.” Yet so often we use our faith as a foundation for teaching and preaching, rather than simply living. But, as St Francis of Assisi stated, we must strive to “preach the gospel at all times. And when necessary, use words.”

Preaching the gospel through our life happens when we are a voice of acceptance, love and hope in a world where people are yearning for it from all the wrong places. Or when we speak life into God’s plans for someone’s life through our kind, encouraging and affirming words recognizing spiritual gifts they may not see, as “a word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver,” Proverbs 25:11. We also do this when we are inclusive, knowing that “there is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus,” Galatians 3:28. We also do this when we are alert to negativity and are willing to stop gossip in its tracks by redirecting conversations that could

otherwise be going down the wrong path, so as to “not let any unwholesome talk come out of our mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen,” Ephesians 4:29-32. We also do this when we share our own testimony about who Christ is in our own lives, rather than who Christ should be in someone else’s. And lastly, we do this by challenging anything that is not loving, for “blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God,” Matthew 5:9.

You see identifying ourselves as Christians, does not just simply mean we believe in Jesus Christ, or that we go to church on Sunday. It means that we have a relationship with Him that defines how we aspire every day to live our lives. It means that our life is a reminder to others, of God’s goodness, love, mercy, compassion and humility. And the only way to truly live a life that honors Christ, is to intimately know Him and to make Him a part of everything we do, so that in this way we may inspire others to know Him too.

*Rev Fr Nicholas & Dr Roxanne Louh*

*St. John the Divine Orthodox Church, Jacksonville, FL.*

***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), Pres. Eva (Koutroulelis), Mat. Seraphima (Hunter) and the child to be born of her, Helen Maybo, Paul Beard, Evelyn Chabal, Phoebe Davis, Michael Kuzmiak, Juliana Matusiak, Michael Juran & Innocent Sam*

***Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!***

*Archpriest Stephen Janos +8/7, Proto Leonid Kishkovsky +8/3, Preo. Maria Parau +7/25, Peter Mamonov +7/15, Mary Rines +7/16 & Aaron Gingo +7/28*