

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

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



## Afterfeast of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos

10<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020

# Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Rev. Fr. Seraphim Reynolds, Pastor  
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Mr. Herman (Ed) Almasy, Vice Warden

## *Today's Scripture Readings:*

*Epistle:* 1 Corinthians 4:9-16

*Gospel:* St. Matthew 17:14-23

*Welcome to ALL our visitors and guests this morning! Please  
join us for some fellowship after!*

## Services, Events & Announcements

**\*\*Services are being streamed live on our website  
homepage & Facebook page\*\***

**\*Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday August 18<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm**

**\*Compline / Adult Ed. – Wednesday August 19<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm  
*Discussion on the Prayers Before Holy Communion***

**\*Great Vespers – Saturday August 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 5pm (Confessions  
before, after or by appointment).**

**\*Divine Liturgy – Sunday August 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 10am (Hours @  
9:40am) Fellowship After in the Hall**

**\*\*MANY BLESSED YEARS this morning to our new  
catechumen, Lance Heller. Glory Be to God!! Please  
remember him in your prayers.\*\***

**Our Giving – August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Tithes/Offerings - \$1,025.00.00**

**Candle Offerings – \$106.00**

**Love Offerings - \$175.00**

*From Your Pastor . . .*

**Joyous Feast!!**

**Although things in the world around us are chaotic, rest assured that Our God knows what is going on. Let us remember to stay focused on ourselves, and see the things that need to change, and do something about it. We should always be looking to cultivate the virtues in our lives as well. It all begins with us, and when we grow spiritually, the Church will grow.**

*With Love and God's Blessing,*

**+ Fr. Seraphim**

***Dealing With Disappointment***

“Therefore, do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise (Hebrews 10:35-36)”

When we find ourselves caught up in what we want, or what we think we need, we become despondent that things are not going the way we'd hoped. Disappointed, we start to wonder why God has failed to give us that which we've so sought after, that thing, or situation, that became the dominate theme of our prayers. Caught up in trying to reach a goal, and failing, we forget that it may not have been God's will for us from the very beginning. Relying on our own notion of what we need, we end up disappointed, or even disillusioned, and we blame God.

Much of what we think we need is born from our own immaturity, for as we've focused on what we think we need, we fail to quietly surrender to the will of God, and fail to trust in the knowledge that God knows what we really need. We fail during such times to trust God and surrender to His will for us. We forget that God knows what we really need and fail to consider the long term good.

When we quit struggling against the will of God, we find the grace sufficient to prayerfully enduring our trials, knowing that God gives us that which is salvific. Like a loving earthly father, our God allows us to endure that which will make us strong, and He will lead us to victory over our fallen nature. Prayerfully enduring trials will, in God's time, make us stronger, and we will become more faithful children of the Most-High.

This kind of faithful living leads us to know the truth of the words, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28)." When we trust God, those moments of disappointment make sense, and the bigger picture is clearly set before us.

*With Love In Christ,*

*Abbot Tryphon*

*All-Merciful Saviour Monastery – Vashon Island, WA.*

**1 Peter 5:6-7 (NASB)**

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.