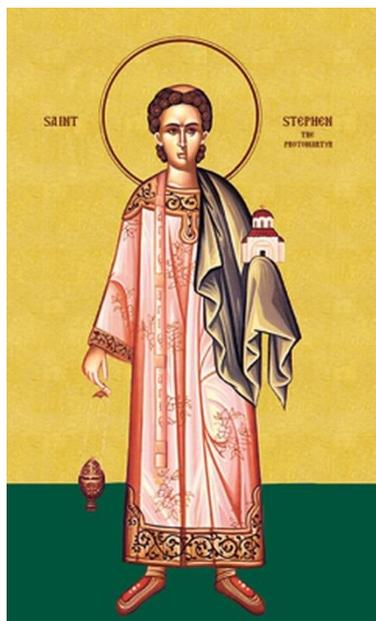


Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

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



Translation of the relics of the  
Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen  
from Jerusalem to Constantinople

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

August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

# Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Mr. Michael (Cory) Chelko, Parish Warden  
Mr. Herman (Ed) Almasy, Vice Warden

## *Today's Scripture Readings:*

*Epistle:* 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

*Gospel:* St. Matthew 14:14-22

*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\*\***

**\*\*Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord\*\***

**\*Great Vespers w/ Litya – Wednesday August 5<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm**

**\*Divine Liturgy– Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> @ 9am**

**\*Parish Workday – Saturday Aug 8<sup>th</sup> @ 9am**

**\*Great Vespers – Saturday August 8<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm (Confessions before, after or by appointment).**

**\*Divine Liturgy – Sunday August 9<sup>th</sup> @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40am)**

**Our Giving – July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Tithes/Offerings - \$1,306.00**

**Candle Offerings – \$72.00**

*From Your Pastor . . .*

*I have been reading articles and comments concerning receiving Holy Communion and the virus, and I understand that some may be fearful of coming to the Chalice because of this. If at some point you would like to talk to me about this, I would welcome that.*

*As I have mentioned before, if there is a time outside of our regular Service schedule, where you would like to come for Confession, please let me know. You can make an appointment and come to the Church when it is convenient for you. ☺*

*With Love and God's Blessing,*

**+ Fr. Seraphim**

**1 John 1:5-10 (NASB)**

This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

## **Finding of the relics of Saint Gamaliel (Commemorated on Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>)**

Saint Gamaliel was a Pharisee, a doctor of the Law (Acts 5:34), and the teacher of Saint Paul (Acts 22:3). In the year 415, Saint Gamaliel appeared to a priest named Lucian. He was a tall, venerable man with a long white beard. He was dressed in white clothing which was edged with gold and marked with crosses, and held a gold wand in his hand. Gamaliel called Father Lucian by name three times, then told him to go to Jerusalem and inform Bishop John to open the tomb where his relics and those of other saints were resting. The priest asked the stranger who he was.

“I am Gamaliel, who instructed the apostle Paul in the Law,” he replied. Then he told the priest where to find the relics of Saint Stephen. He also revealed that he had taken Saint Stephen’s body and laid it in his own tomb after it had been lying exposed for a day and a night. Saint Gamaliel also mentioned that Saint Nikodemos was buried at the same spot. “I received him into my house in the country,” he said, “and maintained him there until the end of his life. After his death, I buried him honorably near Stephen.”

Saint Gamaliel informed the priest that he and his twenty-year-old son Abibas were also buried there. Father Lucian was afraid to believe this vision right away, lest it be a temptation from the Evil One. However, when Saint Gamaliel appeared again and commanded him to obey his instructions, he did so.

A monk named Migetius also had a vision of Saint Gamaliel and told Father Lucian to search for the relics in a place called Debatalia. When the relics were uncovered, an ineffable fragrance was noticed. The relics of Saints Stephen, Gamaliel, Abibas, and Nikodemos were transferred from Jerusalem to Constantinople in 428 and placed in the church of the holy deacon Laurence (August 10).