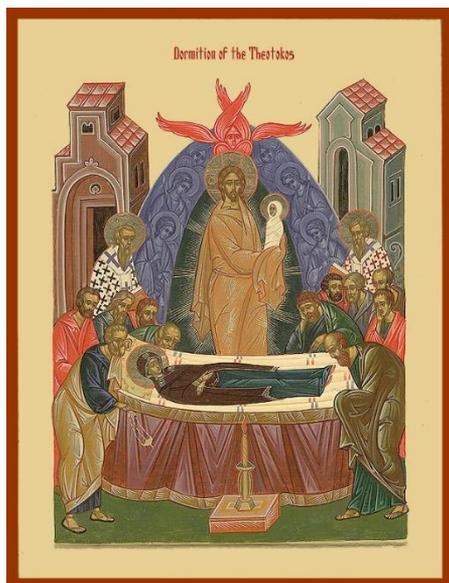


Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

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



## Leavetaking of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos

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

August 23rd, 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 9:2-12

*Gospel:* Matthew 18:23-35

*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\*\***

**\*Compline / Adult Ed. – Wednesday August 26<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm  
Discussion on the *Prayers Before Holy Communion***

**\*Great Vespers – Saturday August 29<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm (Confessions before, after or by appointment)**

**\*Divine Liturgy – Sunday August 30<sup>th</sup> @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40am) Fellowship After in the Hall**

**\*\*MANY BLESSED YEARS this morning to the newly illumined Ana Elizabeth Evick, her family and Godparents, Elizabeth & Methodios Yonkin. Glory Be to God!! Please remember them in your prayers.**

**Our Giving – August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Tithes/Offerings - \$1,575.00**

**Candle Offerings – \$92.00**

*From Your Pastor . . .*

**Joyous Feast!!**

I was thinking about the number of times that we say the *Our Father*, and we ask, “Thy Will be done.” If we truly desire for God’s Will to be done in our lives, then we must surrender our own will. As Jesus says in St. Matthew’s Gospel, we must seek first the Kingdom of God, then everything else will fall into place. We must humble ourselves and let go of our pride.

*With Love and God’s Blessing,*

*+ Fr. Seraphim*

***Confidence***

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.

"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)"

*With Love In Christ,*

*Abbot Tryphon*

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

"Come, let us wonder at the virgin most pure, wondrous in herself, unique in creation, she gave birth, yet knew no man; her pure soul with wonder was filled, daily her mind gave praise in joy at the twofold wonder: her virginity preserved, her child most dear. Blessed is He who shone forth from her!"— **St. Ephraim the Syrian, Songs of Praise**