

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross
Orthodox Church
Williamsport, PA.



St. Alexander of Svir

12th Sunday After Pentecost

August 30th, 2020

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: priestserafim@gmail.com

Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Gospel: Matthew 19:16-26

*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 September 2nd @ 6pm
Discussion on the Prayers Before Holy Communion**

***Great Vespers – Saturday September 5th @ 5pm (Confessions
before, after or by appointment)**

***Divine Liturgy – September August 6th @ 10am (Hours @
9:40am) Fellowship After in the Hall**

****Memory Eternal – Harriet (Hiriklia) Peters +8/28
Public viewing 9:30-11am, Thursday Sept 3rd at Crouse Funeral
Home. Graveside Service 11:30am, Montoursville Cemetery.
Please keep all her family in your prayers, and May Her
Memory Be Eternal.**

Our Giving – August 23rd, 2020

OUR GIVING

Tithes/Offerings - \$1,402.00

Candle Offerings – \$71.00

Love Offerings - \$5.00

From Your Pastor . . .

When it comes to tithing and giving, we should be doing this because we want to and because we love God and His Church. We should also be giving without expecting anything in return. Over the past months, our giving has dropped, and I want to encourage you to pray about the amount you are giving. There is no pressure or coercion to tithe and support the Church, but our God asks of us to offer the firstfruits of our labors. 10% is the Biblical model for our giving.

Everything that we have comes from God, and in thanksgiving for what He has given us, we should *cheerfully* give back to the work of His Church. Although we should not expect anything because of our giving, we will certainly be blessed for doing so when we have the right attitude. *“Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”* 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (NASB)

With Love and God’s Blessing,

+ Fr. Seraphim

Interpreting the Bible

The Bible can only be understood through the Church, for the Holy Scriptures came forth from the Church. The reformers dumped the papacy only to replace that institution with themselves as the ultimate authority. Since reason and logic ruled, there was no room for the intuitive, noetic nature of the heart. Thus, the

interpretation of the Bible became a debatable subject between believers, ending in new denominations proliferating like rabbits.

The Bible is the written account of the first Christians experience with God, and was a living, oral tradition inspired by the Holy Spirit, and put down in written form. To think that it is therefore open to personal interpretation, apart from the Church from which it sprang, is the cause of over forty thousand different denominations today!

The Orthodox Church has kept the early teachings and liturgical traditions precisely because she has refused to interpret Scripture apart from that which was always taught. Her Divine services connect us to the early Church precisely because they are the same liturgical services used by the early Church.

Orthodoxy is increasingly becoming known in the West, and more and more people are being drawn to Her. But we don't convert people to Orthodoxy by words and debate, but by the example of our lives. Judging others cannot be a part of our witness to the truth of Orthodoxy. Giving witness to the transformational power of the Church is what convicts others of the truth of our faith.

We must pray for friends and loved ones who do not know the truth of Orthodoxy, yet we should also give thanks for those who know Jesus Christ. For we Orthodox, it is a joy to have God as our Father, while an extra benefit to have the Church as our Mother. But lest we forget, it is of no value whatsoever to be Orthodox if we do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and if we do not truly love our neighbor.

With Love In Christ,

Abbot Tryphon

All-Merciful Saviour Monastery – Vashon Island, WA.