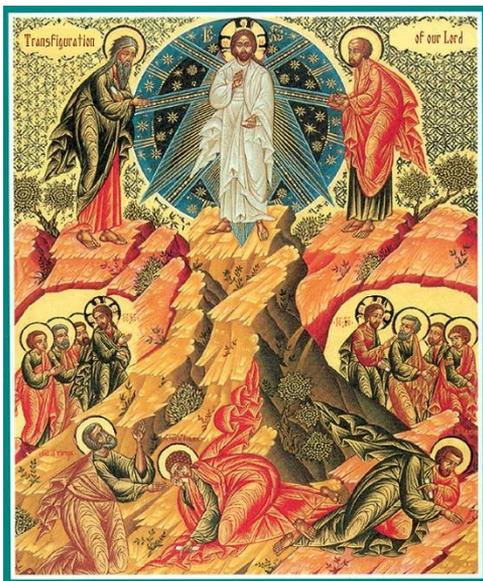


Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



Afterfeast of the
Transfiguration of Our Lord
Glorification of St. Herman of Alaska
9th Sunday After Pentecost

August 9th, 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
priestserafim@gmail.com

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

Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 3:9-17

Gospel: St. Matthew 14:22-44

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 12th @ 6pm**
Discussion on the Prayers Before Holy Communion

****Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos****

***Great Vespers w/ Litya – Friday August 14th @ 6pm**

***Divine Liturgy– Saturday August 15th @ 9am w/The Blessing of Flowers & Herbs**

***Great Vespers – Saturday August 15th @ 5pm (Confessions before, after or by appointment).**

***Divine Liturgy – Sunday August 16th @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40am) Fellowship After in the Hall**

Our Giving – August 2nd, 2020

Tithes/Offerings - \$2,841.00

Candle Offerings – \$66.00

Love Offerings - \$70.00

From Your Pastor . . .

Thank you to everyone who came out for the Parish Workday! The Hall looks much better and tidy. Lately, I also have received many comments on how beautiful the Church grounds look! Beauty and Orthodoxy go hand in hand. 😊

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

Tending Our Garden

We teeter on the edge if we let ourselves be concerned about our neighbor's garden rather than being concerned about the cultivation of our own garden. Judging another person's spiritual life is one of the most dangerous things we can do, for judging another distracts us from fully living a life of repentance.

It is very easy to live in hypocrisy if we are not mindful of the pitfalls of the spiritual life. We can become Pharisees without even noticing, if we let ourselves concentrate on the sins and failures of our neighbor, for to do so leads to our own spiritual downfall.

Our personal faith must not be artificially lived, for putting on the mask of Christianity is not living in Christ. We must in all

honesty examine our conscience, and together with the guidance of our confessor, work for the transformation of our heart.

If we simply put on a show of being a Christian, without any true repentance, we will remain mired in false religiosity, and our heart will grow dark. Christ must be invited into the heart on a daily basis, through prayer, and honest examination of our conscience, without which there can be no spiritual growth. We can not play at being a Christian, for to do so will lead to spiritual death.

We must “put on Christ’ daily, and make sure the public expression of our faith is not being acted out for others, but is ever entering into a deeper relationship with God. Playing at spirituality will only lead to spiritual death. We dare not ignore the cultivation of our own garden, for to do so will lead to fruit that dies on the vine.

With Love In Christ,

Abbot Tryphon (All-Merciful Saviour Monastery – Vashon Island, WA.)

Galatians 5:19-26 (NASB)

19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. 26 Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.