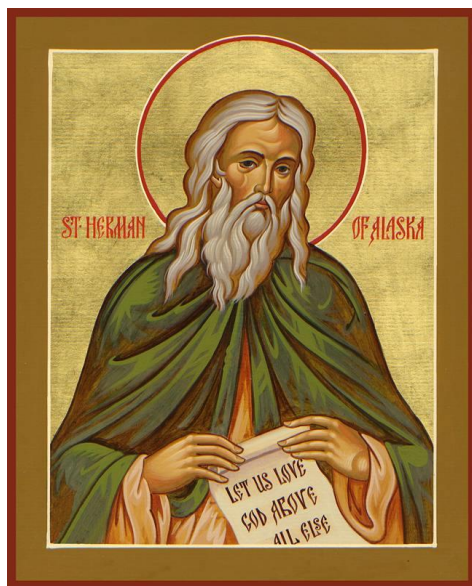


Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

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



Rest of Ven. Herman of Alaska,  
Wonderworker of All America  
27<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost  
December 13<sup>th</sup>, 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:***

*Epistles: Colossians 3:4-11; Galatians 5:22-6:2*

*Gospels: St. Luke 14:16-24; St. Luke 6:17-23*

***Welcome everyone, and especially our visitors and guests  
this morning! Please join us for some fellowship after in  
the Parish Hall!***

## **Services, Events & Announcements**

**\*Compline/Adult Ed. - Wednesday Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm**

**\*Great Vespers – Saturday, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm**

**\*Divine Liturgy – Sunday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40am)  
Fellowship After in the Hall**

***\*Please remember to bring your items for St. Ann's Food  
Pantry when you come to our Holy Supper or Service on Dec.  
24<sup>th</sup> @ 4pm***

## **Our Giving – December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Tithes/Offerings - \$2,979.01**

**Candle Offerings – \$61.30**

**Love Offerings - \$25.00**

### ***From Your Pastor . . .***

*If you had a chance to watch the video I emailed out this past week, I pray that you have gained a greater appreciation for the Book of Psalms (The Psalter). One verse that has always stood out to me is Psalm 33:18, “The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed [or contrite] in spirit” NASB.*

*Most of the Psalms were written by King David, a man who knew all too well about being humbled and contrite (Psalm 50). When we come before our God with a humble spirit, casting aside our pride, then we will know His presence in our lives.*

*If we insist on living life our way, and distant from God, it is no wonder that our life can be filled with such distress and anxiety. But, if we meditate on the things of God, we will be like a tree planted by a stream, flourishing and having life (Psalm 1). He IS our source of strength in our daily life. When we seek Him, our faith will be strengthened, and when the struggles and cares of life come along, we will be at peace.*

*Confession is available most anytime during this Advent Season. Wednesdays before Compline, Saturdays before Vespers, or see me to make an appointment for a time that best suits your schedule. ☺*

*With Love and God's Blessing,*

*+ Fr. Seraphim*

### ***Complaining Bears the Fruits of Bitterness***

*Instead of complaining, do something to make a difference in your life, and the lives of those around you. Keeping focused on making a difference. If there is reason to complain, change your complaint into a positive action that changes your perspective.*

Complainers never change a thing by their constant negativity, other than make those around them want to take a cab to the other side of town. Complaining seems to many like such a little sin, and nothing to be worried about. Yet the impact of a complaining heart is spiritually ruinous, for when we complain we bear bitter fruits that destroy our peace and the peace of those around us.

When we refuse to fill our lives with complaints, we live our lives knowing that opposing the evil that is the root of our complaints means we preserve our inner peace. Some people live as though avoiding complaining will make everything worse, for they think that by doing so the destructive reality of negative thinking will be undone. Yet when we complain, we are returning evil for evil, and giving the fallen spirits the very thing they thrive upon.

Complaining never changes a thing, but only strengthens the power of the evil that is the very basis of our complaints. When we face every bad situation with a positive response, we empower the heart to good, as we diminish the power of negativity. By keeping a positive mindset, the sin of complaining is banished from our life, and everyone around us is bathed in a healing and healthy light.

*With Love in Christ,  
Abbot Tryphon,  
All Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA.*

“If we are to submit to Him [God], let us stop complaining and crying about worldly things; rather, we should cry over our sins, our constant transgression of God’s commandments, and the fact that we offend the Lord through our lack of faith, disbelief in His words and our insensitivity to His love for us.”

*Abbot Nikon Vorobiev  
Abbot Nikon Letters to Spiritual Children p.136*