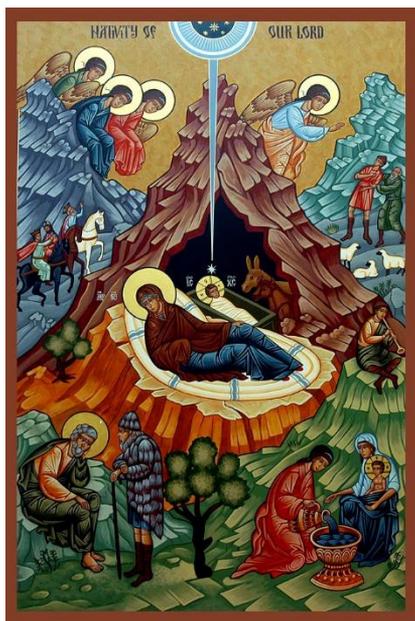


Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



The Sunday Before the Nativity of
Our Lord God & Saviour

Jesus Christ

28th Sunday After Pentecost

December 20th, 2020

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Today's Scripture Readings:
Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40
Gospel: St. Matthew 1:1-25

Welcome to 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. 23rd @ 6pm**

****Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord****

Nativity Vigil – Thursday, Dec. 24th @ 6pm

Divine Liturgy – Friday, Dec. 25th @ 10am

***Great Vespers – Saturday, Dec. 26th @ 5pm**

***Divine Liturgy – Sunday, Dec. 27th @ 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 the Vigil Service on Dec. 24th***

Our Giving – December 13th, 2020

Tithes/Offerings - \$1,235.00

Candle Offerings – \$20.00

Benevolence - \$300.00

From Your Pastor . . .

What a truly joyous time of the year this is! Even in the midst of the troubles around the world, we need to be focused on what we will soon be celebrating in a few days. During this Advent Season, our eyes have been fixed on the coming of Our Lord Jesus, born in a cave in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago. Our Emmanuel, *God becoming flesh* for our salvation! My prayer is that this will spark great joy in all of hearts and remain with us throughout the coming year and for the rest of our lives. Let us rejoice and give thanks along with the Shepherds, the Magi, and the Angelic Hosts as they proclaimed, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

Have we prepared our hearts during this Advent Season? Confession is always available when you need it. To make an appointment for a time that best suits your schedule, please see me.



With Love and God's Blessing,

+ Fr. Seraphim

Darkness and Light

The Light of Christ dispels the darkness

In many of my writings I have shared the joy and healing that is to be found within the walls of the Orthodox Church, and the depth of an encounter with Christ that brings about transformation, and the restoration of the human heart as God meant it to be.

The mixture of anger boiling on all sides of the political spectrum, together with the forced separation from the social and

psychological support we all have grown to expect from our society, is only compounded by a world that has become devoid of love. Thus, the importance of the Church as a hospital of the soul where one can receive the healing from Christ that makes us whole is just as important today, as it has been since the beginning, and dare not be dismissed.

The message of the Incarnate Son of God Who condescended to take on our flesh, and share His Divinity with our humanity, is the only real hope any of us has. The very Christ Who healed the sick, forgave the sins of the woman at the well, and sat down with tax collectors and sinners, reaches out to us through His Church, wherein His Light shines brightly, revealing the love of God to all of us.

It is within His Church that we can see the darkness of this world dispelled, and the Sun of Righteousness illuminating the salvific path that brings about the "peace that passes all understanding". Only by moving ourselves within the safe harbor of the Church will we see the Light that saves us, and brings about eternal hope. Only the Light of Christ can dispel the darkness.

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

"She [Mary] will give birth to a Son; and you shall name Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." Now all this took place so that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet [Isaiah] would be fulfilled: "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN WILL CONCEIVE AND GIVE BIRTH TO A SON, AND THEY SHALL NAME HIM IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US." St. Matthew 1:21-23 NASB