

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



Christ Is Born! Glorify Him!

Sunday After the Nativity

David the King, Joseph the Betrothed, James
the Brother of the Lord, &

Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen

29th Sunday After Pentecost

December 27th, 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: Galatians 1:11-19
Gospel: St. Matthew 2:13-23

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

*NO Compline/Adult Ed. - Wednesday Dec. 30th

****Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord****

Vespersal Divine Liturgy – Thursday, Dec. 31st @ 5pm

*Great Vespers – Saturday, Jan. 2nd @ 5pm

*Divine Liturgy – Sunday, Jan. 3rd @ 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 Church.***

Our Giving – December 20th, 2020

Tithes/Offerings - \$851.00

Candle Offerings – \$86.00

Love Offerings - \$150.00

From Your Pastor . . .

The Star

From the East, the Magi came
Many miles from home
In search of a king, the heavens foretold
The Messiah revealed, the night sky speaks
Months having traveled, their objective to find the King
A prophet foretells, Bethlehem to be
From the house of bread, comes the Bread of Life
Herod conspires, The King is found
Kneeling in worship, three gifts they bring
Divine warning, the long trip home
Can one know what they held in their hearts?
Months to ponder what the heavens foretold
What faith they had, because of a star

With Love and God's Blessing,

+ *Fr. Seraphim*

Nativity of our Lord 2020

To the Venerable Hierarchs, Esteemed Clergy, Reverend Monastics,
and Beloved Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

My Beloved Brethren and Blessed Children in the Lord, on this the
glorious and light-filled Feast of the Nativity in the Flesh of our
Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ, I greet you with the words that
resound throughout our Churches and homes during this season:
Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

By the grace of God, we have come through an extraordinary year
fraught with challenges and trials that none of us could have
expected. We have found ourselves confused, scared, and anxious.

As we realized the frailty of our earthly life and the many fleeting things of this world to which we so often cling, more than anything, we have found ourselves in need of a Savior.

It is especially in these challenging moments that we are strengthened by God's promise, spoken in the book of Deuteronomy, "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear or be in dread of them: for it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you (Dt 31:6)." As children of God, as children of the promise, we should remain steadfast in hope. We should never let our hope waiver, because, as the present feast reminds us, we are strengthened continually by the presence of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus, who saves us from our sins and weaknesses, and reconciles us with our heavenly Father. The scripture, hymns, and rites of the feast testify that Jesus Christ, born of the Virgin Mary, is He who has also died on the Cross, and become the first-born of the dead, raised us all by the Power of God, and opened the gates of the kingdom to us.

The great Prophet Isaiah, speaking of this kingdom, tells us:

Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever (Is 9:7).

Beloved hierarchs, clergy, monastics, and faithful, let your hope be renewed at the Nativity of Christ! Be assured that God is with us! Perceiving the mystery of this feast, difficulties and trials in this life will become bearable, as your faith is strengthened, and your hope remains firm.

With all the blessings of the feast, I remain

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

+ Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada