

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross
Orthodox Church
Williamsport, PA.



St. Nicholas the Wonderworker,
Archbishop of Myra and Lycia
26th Sunday After Pentecost

December 6th, 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: Hebrews 13:17-21; Ephesians 5:9-19

Gospel: St. Luke 6:17-23; St. Luke 17:12-19

***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. 9th @ 6pm**

***Great Vespers w/Litya (St. Herman of Alaska) – Saturday,
Dec. 12th @ 5pm**

***Divine Liturgy – Sunday, Nov. 13th @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40am)
Fellowship After in the Hall**

****To ALL of you who helped with the pierogi project (making
and cleanup) this past week . . . THANK YOU for your hard
work!!!***

****Please remember to bring your items for St. Ann's Food
Pantry when you come to our Holy Supper, Dec 24th.***

Our Giving – November 29th, 2020

Tithes/Offerings - \$4,220.81

Candle Offerings – \$105.00

Love Offerings - \$40.00 / Flowers - \$100.00

From Your Pastor . . .

On Dec 9th, the Church celebrates the feast of St. Anna's conception of the Theotokos. Along with her husband Joachim, they both prayed fervently that the Lord would heal Anna of her barrenness, and she gave birth to Mary. Archpriest Vassilios Papavassiliou in his book Meditations for Advent says this concerning the barrenness of women in Scripture, "This serves as a reminder of our own spiritual barrenness, and notwithstanding, this sterility in virtue, the possibility of yielding the fruits of repentance, however late it is." When in our own lives we experience a "barrenness" of spiritual fruit, we should not fall into despair. Rather, we should cry out to God like St. Anna, so that He would heal us, so that we may bear fruits of repentance.

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

Liturgical Worship

Because we Orthodox see our services as transcending time and space, we worship God in a way that reduces the personality of the pastor or the musicians and come together to do the "work of the people". All believers are seen as united in worship in the Kingdom of God, along with the departed saints and the angels of heaven.

The word liturgical or liturgy comes from the Greek word leitourgia, meaning “public service.” It is formed from two words: laos (people) and ergon (work). It literally means “work of the people.”

Thus, when we celebrate the Divine Liturgy, we are transported to the Heavenly Realm, where we become participants in the Heavenly Banquet that is ongoing. In other words, we don't have to wait for that “Sweet By and By” as suggested in the old protestant hymn but are united with the saints and martyrs that have gone on before us.

When we Orthodox enter into the worship of the Church, we become participants in the very same services that have united the Church from the earliest of times. This historical nature of our worship connects us with the Ancient Apostolic Church, just as it unites we Orthodox to one another. This means I can step into an Orthodox service in Norway, America, Greece, or Russia, and be worshiping in the same manner, not just as did my ancestors, but just as Orthodox believers around the world.

The added bonus is that we don't have to hunt for a charismatic pastor with a great personality, or a church that has a great, up to date rock band that will meet our needs, for what we'll find, consistently in Orthodox worship, is that historical way of prayer that has been the foundation of worship from the very beginning of the Church.

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