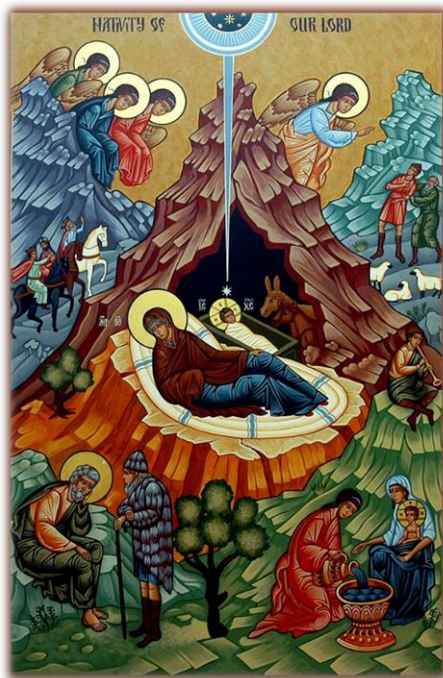


Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



Sunday Before the Nativity

26th Sunday After Pentecost

December 19th, 2021

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

1725 Holy Cross Ln
Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701-2749
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Rev. Fr. Seraphim Reynolds, Pastor
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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40
Gospel: St. Matthew 1:1-25

A very warm welcome to everyone, and especially to our visitors this morning! Please join us for some fellowship after in the Parish Hall!

Services, Events & Announcements

- + NO Compline/Bible Study - Wednesday December 22nd
- + *Holy Supper* – Friday December 24th @ 4pm (**sign up**)
- ++ Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ ++**

Vigil Service – Friday December 24th @ 6pm

Divine Liturgy – Saturday December 25th @ 9am

- + *Great Vespers* – Saturday December 25th @ 5pm
- + *Divine Liturgy* - Sunday December 26th @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40),
POTLUCK fellowship following in the Hall.
- + NO Compline/Bible Study - Wednesday December 29th

Our Giving – December 12th, 2021

Tithes/Offerings - \$1,093.00 / Online Giving - \$125.00
Candle Offerings - \$92.00 / Love Offerings - \$150.00

Regarding Holy Communion: Only those faithful who are Orthodox Christians and have **properly prepared themselves** by **fasting, prayer** [i.e., *Prayers Before Communion*], **recent confession**, and who were *at least present for the reading of the Epistle and Gospel* should approach to receive the Holy Eucharist. *We should all be at peace with everyone too.* If you have any questions about Communion, please see Fr. Seraphim. 😊

Hope

The Gifts of the Lord Abound

If we are attentive to all the Lord does for us, we will endure those times when our prayers seem to go unanswered. That God is not always giving us just what we think we need, in no way means he does not hear us. Our days are filled with gifts from God, most often in ways we do not even notice. When we pray in the Our Father, “give us this day our daily bread”, we are asking God to give us that which we need. It is not required of us that we be specific in our request, for our loving Lord knows before we ask.

The Lord comes to us in the stillness of our heart, and provides for us in ways that are not even known to us. He has loved us before our conception in the womb of our mother, and is close to us even when we think He is far away. If we allow ourselves to look closely, we will see His gifts abound in every breath we take, in every flower we pick, in every child we hold. Our hope is eternal, because God’s love is eternal.

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear (I Peter 3:15).”

Love in Christ,

Abbot Tryphon

All Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA.

Prayers For the Health and Salvation of those in need: Many Years!

Priestmonk Ambrose (Young), Abbot Tryphon, Mitred-Archpriest Nicholas (Harris), Mitred-Archpriest Daniel & Mat. Myra (Kovalak), Archpriest Moses (Berry), Subdeacon Anthony (Affsprung), Pres. Eva (Koutroulelis), Helen Maybo, Paul Beard, Evelyn Chabal, Phoebe Davis, Michael Kuzmiak, Juliana Matusiak, Phillip Paxos, Newly Illumined Matrona (Evick) & Her Godmother Judy Beard

Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!

Archpriest Igor Soroka +12/18

Archpriest John Loejos +12/10

Archpriest John Larson +11/25

Matushka Anne Pawlush +12/7

Looking for a unique gift or need to buy groceries (or maybe gas)? See Mat. Mary and pick up some Giant gift cards! Our Parish receives 5% of the sales of these cards, and it's a simple way to generate a little income for our Parish. Available in denominations of \$25, \$50, or \$100. Stocking stuffers??

