

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

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



*Venerable Sarva the Sanctified*

24<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021

# Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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## ***Today's Scripture Readings:***

*Epistle:* Galatians 5:22-6:2; Ephesians 2:14-22  
*Gospel:* St. Matthew 11:27-30; St. Luke 17:12-19

***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**

***++Feast of St. Nicholas of Myra and Lycia++***

***Great Vespers w/Litya – Sunday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm***

***Divine Liturgy – Monday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> @ 9am***

- + Compline/Bible Study - Wednesday Dec 8<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm***
- + Great Vespers – Saturday Dec 11<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm***
- + Divine Liturgy - Sunday December 12<sup>th</sup> @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40),  
fellowship following in the Hall***

## **Our Giving – November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Tithes/Offerings - 425.00  
Candle Offerings – \$51.25 / 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. 😊

## *Giving Thanks*

### *Remembering to Give Thanks Frequently*

“We thank thee, O Christ our God, that thou hast satisfied us with thy earthly gifts, deprive us not of thy Heavenly Kingdom; but as thou entered into the midst of thy disciples, O Saviour, and gave them peace, enter also among us and save us. Amen.”

This prayer is one of my personal favorites, for it recognizes in concise words my need to remember to give thanks to God for all He has given me. It connects me to the ancient Church, for it allows me to recount the Lord’s coming in the midst of His disciples, and granting them the peace I so desire. It keeps me focused on the goal, and remembering, throughout my day, that the Lord is to be my focus.

This is the prayer many Orthodox Christians pray at the end of meals, yet also a prayer that can be offered whenever we are feeling a certain gratefulness of heart, or desiring God’s loving mercy.

Prayers like this are easily memorized, allowing us to express our gratitude to God without being wordy. The Lord knows our needs, and there is no need to “spell it out” for God. What is necessary is that we remember to give thanks to God, and let the Lord hear from us throughout the day. These short little prayers are perfect for keeping ourselves spiritually focused, as they express our desire to make communion with God the central part of our day.

This is a wonderful prayer to say with children, just before tucking them in for the night, ending their waking hours by calling down God’s peace into their hearts. It is a wonderful prayer to offer, as we’ve arrived safely to our destination, following the morning commute.

Our prayers need not be long, but they should be frequent. Just as an old couple who've shared a long life together don't need to say a lot of words in order to demonstrate their love for one another, so too, our prayers don't need to be long and formal, in order to let God know we love Him, but they do need to be frequent.

*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), Subdeacon Anthony (Affsprung), Pres. Eva (Koutroulelis), Mat. Seraphima (Hunter) and the child Theodora Marie, 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 John Larson +11/25*

*Archpriest Peter Tutko +11/5,*

*Priest Maximos Herman +10/26*

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??

