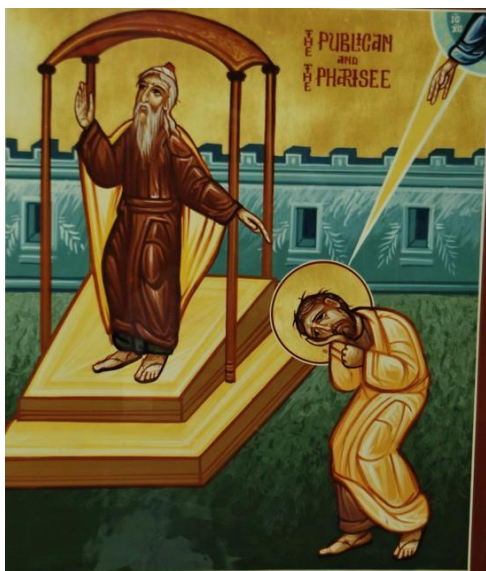


Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

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



**Sunday of the Publican and  
the Pharisee** Beginning of the  
Lenten Triodion

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

February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021

# Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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

*Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15*

*Gospel: St. Luke 18:10-14*

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

## **Services, Events & Announcements**

- \*Compline/Adult Ed. (Bible Study/St. Mark) – Wednesday, Feb 24<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm
- \*Great Vespers – Saturday, Feb 27<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm
- \*Divine Liturgy – Sunday, Feb 28<sup>th</sup> @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40am)  
Fellowship After in the Hall
- \*This week is a Fast-Free week!!! ☺
- \*Parish Council Meeting this Monday Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 5:30pm
- \*If you would like to have your home blessed, please see Fr. Seraphim to setup a day and time.

## **Our Giving – January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Tithes/Offerings - \$820.00

Candle Offerings – \$42.75

**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 each other too.* If you have any questions about this, please see Fr. Seraphim. 😊

*“A monk also asked Sisoës: How can I attain humility? The saint replied: When someone learns to acknowledge every man as being better than himself, then he has attained humility.”*

*St. Sisoës the Great*

*The Prologue of Ohrid: Volume 2 p.26*

### ***The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee***

The Sunday after the Sunday of Zacchaeus is devoted to the Publican and the Pharisee. At Vespers the night before, the TRIODION (the liturgical book used in the services of Great Lent) begins.

Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee who scrupulously observed the requirements of religion: he prayed, fasted, and contributed money to the Temple. These are very good things, and should be imitated by anyone who loves God. We who may not fulfill these requirements as well as the Pharisee did should not feel entitled to criticize him for being faithful. His sin was in looking down on the Publican and feeling justified because of his external religious observances.

The second man was a Publican, a tax-collector who was despised by the people. He, however, displayed humility, and this humility justified him before God (Luke 18:14).

The lesson to be learned is that we possess neither the Pharisee's religious piety, nor the Publican's repentance, through which we can be saved. We are called to see ourselves as we really are in the light of Christ's teaching, asking Him to be merciful to us, deliver us from sin, and to lead us on the path of salvation.

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2021/02/21/2-sunday-of-the-publican-and-the-pharisee-embeginning-of-the-lente>

*save the date*  
**04.03.21**  
*virtual event*

26TH ANNUAL NICHOLAS TSAKALOS MEMORIAL LENTEN RETREAT  
presented by the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation in Baltimore, MD

***Authentic Christianity: Why Young People are Leaving the Church (and How We Can Inspire Them to Stay)***

*with speakers*

**FR. ANDREW STEPHEN DAMICK**  
Chief Content Officer of Ancient Faith Ministries, Author and Podcaster

&

**STEVEN CHRISTOFOROU**  
Director of Y<sup>2</sup>AM (GOARCH) and Host of "Be the Bee"

*online registration information to follow*

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

Priestmonk Ambrose (Young), Abbot Tryphon, Mitred-Archpriest Nicholas (Harris), Archpriest Daniel (Kovalak), Mat. Myra (Kovalak), Mat. Theodora (Ressetar), Presbytera Eva (Koutroulelis), Mary (Federoff) and the child to be born of her, Helen Maybo, Paul Beard, Evelyn Chabal, Phoebe Davis, Newly Illumined Child Lucille Ruth Crews, & the Newly Illumined Servant Ephraim Heller

***Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!***

His Beatitude, Met. Philaret of Minsk (+1/12), Mitred-Archpriest Daniel Ressetar (+1/20), Proto-Pres. Daniel Hubiak (+2/5), Archimandrite Alexander Cutler (+1/26), Archpriest Joseph Gibson (+1/20), Archpriest John Tkachuk (+2/19), Protodeacon John Eby (+2/3)