

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

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



Afterfeast of the Meeting of  
our Lord in the Temple

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

February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021

# 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: 1 Timothy 1:15-17*  
*Gospel: St. Matthew 15:21-28*

***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**

\*Compline/Adult Ed. – Wednesday, Feb 10<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm

\*Great Vespers – Saturday, Feb 13<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm

\*Divine Liturgy – Sunday, Feb 14<sup>th</sup> @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40am)  
Fellowship After in the Hall

\*Today is ***Souper Bowl Sunday!*** Thank you for helping to feed the hungry and supporting the St. Ann food pantry.

\****Special choir rehearsal*** next Saturday, Feb 13<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm

\*If you would like to have your home blessed this year, please see Fr. Seraphim to setup a day and time.

## **Our Giving – January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021**

Tithes/Offerings - \$1,177.00

Candle Offerings – \$74.85

Love Offerings - \$10.00

### ***From Your Pastor . . .***

Psalm 36:4-5 (LXX) says, “Delight yourself in the Lord; And He will give you the desires of your heart. <sup>5</sup>Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, and He will do it.” “Delight” in this context means that we *take pleasure* and *enjoy* the things of God. So, we must ask ourselves this question before moving forward in these verses. Do we immerse ourselves, our lives with Godly things? Do we have a yearning to know Him better? When we genuinely love someone, we will do whatever it takes to show them that this is so. Writing these verses, King David is saying that the Lord will give us our desires when we *commit* our lives and place our *trust* in Him. When we do this, we will see that the “desires” of our hearts are really what God desires for us. Do we really love God? Our outlook on life will be different when we desire to know and love Him more. This is my desire for all of us.

*With Love and God’s Blessing,*

✝ *Fr. Seraphim*

*“...as God is ever-flowing, infinite goodness, he desires and ever seeks to impart His goodness to His creatures, if only they turn to Him with faith, hope, and love, like children to their father, recognising their sinfulness, poverty, need, blindness, and infirmity without Him.”*

*St. John of Kronstadt, My Life in Christ p.440*

**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. 😊

## All About Christ

### ***Orthodoxy is about Christ, not religion***

Orthodoxy is not a religion, but a way of life that is centered in Jesus Christ. Orthodoxy, as a way of life, has the cure to what ails us and can return us to that state of wholeness that was God's original intent for human kind. Because Orthodoxy is not about religion, it can offer the transformation of the heart that comes with entering into a relationship with our Creator.

This transformation begins with repentance, that moment when we decide to return to that pure state of communion with God, for which we were created. When we renounce ourselves, we become a different person through the action of God's grace. Where we became corrupt because of the fall, through repentance we are returned to that state for which we were created.

With Love in Christ,  
Abbot Tryphon

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

*His Beatitude, Met. Jonah, Priestmonk Ambrose (Young), Abbot Tryphon, Mitred-Archpriest Nicholas (Harris), Archpriest Daniel (Kovalak), Mat. Myra (Kovalak), Mat. Theodora (Ressetar), Presbyteria 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 Eugene Pianovich (+1/2), Mitred-Archpriest Daniel Ressetar (+1/20), Proto-Pres. Daniel Hubiak (+2/5), Archimandrite Alexander Cutler (+1/26), Archpriest Joseph Gibson (+1/20), Protodeacon John Eby (+2/3)*