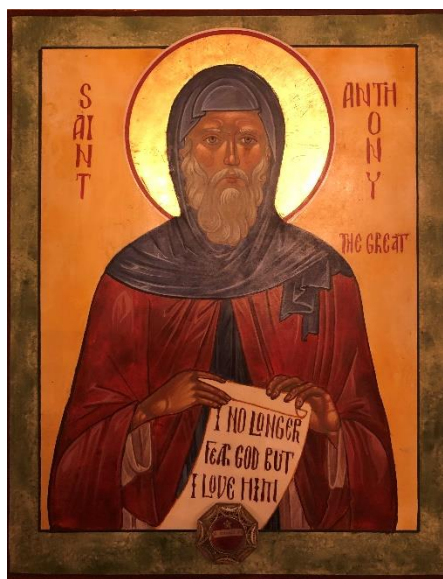


Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

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



Venerable and God Bearing  
Father, Anthony the Great

32nd Sunday After Pentecost

January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021

# Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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

*Epistle:* Colossians 1:12-18; Hebrews 13:17-21

*Gospel:* Luke 18:18-27; Luke 6:17-23

***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 Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm**

**\*Great Vespers - Saturday, Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 5pm**

**\*Divine Liturgy - Sunday, Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40am)  
Fellowship After in the Hall**

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

**\*Our January *Love Offering* collection will go to our newly formed Choir Fund. Ask any choir member for details.**

### **Our Giving - January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Tithes/Offerings - \$1,964.00

Candle Offerings - \$96.37

Christmas Offerings - \$525.00

Memorial Gift - \$100.00

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

*My dear Brothers and Sisters, it has been a while since I last posted the guidelines for receiving Holy Communion. This is very important for a couple of reasons: first, it is so that we are prepared to receive the Body and Blood of our Lord who IS truly present. Secondly, so that we do not bring judgement upon ourselves. St. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 11:27, "Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord." If we are not prepared, it is best not to receive. AND, if we are not prepared, let us do what we need to do in order that we might be spiritually fortified. We will never be perfect in our preparation, but we must do the best we can, and remember, God does know our hearts. I would certainly be glad to speak with anyone concerning this.*

*With Love and God's Blessing,*

**+ Fr. Seraphim**

**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.**



### ***The Holy Mysteries - January 12, 2021***

***The Holy Eucharist defies analysis precisely because it is a mystery***

Eternity is an everlasting banquet (the Divine Liturgy) that takes place in the heavenly realm. Every time we participate in the Divine Liturgy we are transported into a place where there is neither time nor space and participate in that very banquet. As we receive the Holy Mysteries (Christ's very Body and Blood), we

receive the healing medicine for that which ails us. Our brokenness in both body and soul are given the healing medicine that we so very much need.

The Eucharist is the very medicine that God designed for this transformation. Our response should be one of humble submission to this invitation to commune with the very God Who created us. Holy Communion is meant to be the very agent that changes us, making us whole. The Holy Mysteries give us life. Frequent confession and communion are the means we have for change.

The Holy Eucharist defies analysis and explanation in purely rational and logical terms, precisely because it is a mystery. The Eucharist, as is Christ himself, is a mystery of the Kingdom of Heaven which, as Jesus has told us, is “not of this world.” The Eucharist, because it belongs to God’s Kingdom, is truly free from the earth-born “logic” of fallen humanity.

Saint John of Damascus says, “If you enquire how this happens, it is enough for you to learn that it is through the Holy Spirit ... we know nothing more than this, that the word of God is true, active, and omnipotent, but in its manner of operation unsearchable”.

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

“If we make every effort to avoid death of the body, still more should it be our endeavor to avoid death of the soul. There is no obstacle for a man who wants to be saved other than negligence and laziness of soul.” *St. Anthony the Great*