

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



Synaxis of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia

33rd Sunday After Pentecost

January 24th, 2021

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11; Romans 8:28-39

Gospel: Luke 18:35-43; Luke 21:8-19

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. 27th @ 6pm**

***Great Vespers - Saturday, Jan. 30th @ 5pm**

***Divine Liturgy - Sunday, Jan. 31st @ 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 17th, 2021

Tithes/Offerings - \$2,986.00

Candle Offerings - \$53.00

Love Offerings - \$65.00

From Your Pastor . . .

My dear Brothers and Sisters, what a joy this morning for Ephraim (Lance) Heller to have entered fully into the life of the Orthodox Church! May we remember him in our prayers as he prays for us, and May God grant the Newly Illumined Servant of God Ephraim and his Godfather Methodios, Many Blessed Years! Please keep all our Catechumens (Kelsi, Ryan, Brayden, Collin, John & Ashley) in your prayers as they continue the journey.

Today is also Sanctity of Life Sunday. Please remember the Unborn and for all the little ones whose life was taken from them.

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.**



Detachment - January 22, 2021

Detachment and the Life of a Christian by Abbot Tryphon

Detachment from the world is not necessarily cutting off all social contact with people, or avoiding any exposure to or contact with things of the world in some sort of pharisaical obsession with keeping oneself ritually 'pure'. The work of purification is an inner work. Simply running away from things on the outside isn't all there is to our struggle. Nor will we find success in trying to make the world conform to our spiritual principles. Our task as Christians

is not to purify the world or the people in it but to purify ourselves, our souls and bodies.

Orthodox Christians do need to exercise restraint in contacts with persons, things or situations in the world that are a potential threat to our spiritual health and progress. But the life of an Orthodox Christian is less concerned with avoiding people, places, situations and things than it is concerned with cultivating personal restraint over the passions and inner detachment from things of the world, which is a process that is linked with the cultivation of our love for God and our desire for participation in spiritual communion with Him. Our exercise of ascetic restraint, through fasting, prayer, almsgiving and repentance, as well as our participation in the mystical life of the Church, is at the very heart of the Christian life.

Love in Christ,

Abbot Tryphon

All-Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA.

“Strive to become for the whole community a good example of every virtue: of humility, gentleness, active compassion, obedience even in the least of things, freedom from anger, detachment, unpossessiveness and compunction, guilelessness and uninquisitiveness, of simplicity and estrangement from the world.”

St. Simeon the New Theologian

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

Abbot Tryphon, Priestmonk Ambrose (Young), Mitred-Archpriest Nicholas (Harris), Archpriest Daniel (Kovalak), Mat. Myra (Kovalak), Helen Maybo, Paul Beard, Evelyn Chabal, Phoebe Davis, Newly-Illumined Child Lucille Ruth Crews, & the Newly-Illumined Ephraim Heller

Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal! Met. Philaret of Minsk (+1/12), Mitred-Archpriest Eugene Pianovich (+1/2), Mitred-Archpriest Daniel Ressetar (+1/20)