

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



Holy Wonderworkers and
Unmercenarics Cyrus and John

34th Sunday After Pentecost

January 31st, 2021

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Colossians 3:12-16

Gospel: St. Luke 25:14-30

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

++Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple++

Vesperal Divine Liturgy – Monday, Feb 1st @ 6pm

***Compline/Adult Ed. – Wednesday, Feb 3rd @ 6pm**

***Great Vespers – Saturday, Feb 6th @ 5pm**

***Divine Liturgy – Sunday, Feb 7th @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40am)
Fellowship After in the Hall**

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

***Next Sunday is *Souper Bowl Sunday!* Please bring something for the St Ann Food Pantry and place it in the containers in the Narthex. Thank you for helping to feed the hungry.**

Our Giving – January 24th, 2021

Tithes/Offerings - \$1,136.36

Candle Offerings – \$66.00

Love Offerings - \$640.00

From Your Pastor . . .

My dear Brothers and Sisters, there are many times in our lives where it is better to say nothing, rather than ramble on with many words. If we think that speaking many words is going to make things better, maybe it will not. We all need to practice restraint and be careful of the words that come from our mouths. This also applies to what we communicate on social media. As the Apostle James says in his Epistle, “But no one among mankind can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people, who have been made in the likeness of God; ¹⁰ from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, these things should not be this way” (3:8-10 NASB). Sometimes, few words (maybe even none) are best. We must pray and ask for wisdom from our God before we speak (or write) . . . for we will never be able to get the words back.

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. 😊

Colossians 3:12-17

“So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so *must* you *do* also. ¹⁴ In addition to all these things *put on* love, which is the perfect bond of unity. ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ, to which you were indeed called in one body, rule in your hearts; and be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns, *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ Whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father” (NASB).

“Do you desire, then, to embrace this life of solitude, and to seek out the blessings of stillness? If so, abandon the cares of the world, and the principalities and powers that lie behind them; free yourself from attachment to material things, from domination by passions and desires, so that as a stranger to all this you may attain true stillness.” *Evagrius the Solitary*

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

His Beatitude, Met. Jonah, Abbot Tryphon, Priestmonk Ambrose (Young), Mitred-Archpriest Nicholas (Harris), Archpriest Daniel (Kovalak), Mat. Myra (Kovalak), Mat. Theodora (Ressetar), 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!

His Beatitude, Met. Philaret of Minsk (+1/12), Mitred-Archpriest Eugene Pianovich (+1/2), Mitred-Archpriest Daniel Ressetar (+1/20), Archimandrite Alexander Cutler (+1/26), Archpriest Joseph Gibson (+1/20)