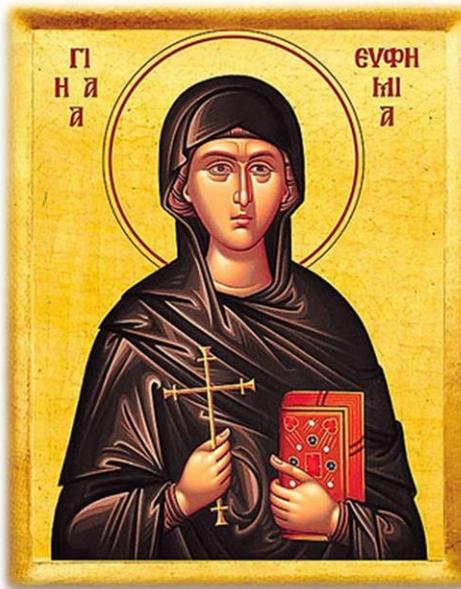


Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



Great Martyr Euphemia

3rd Sunday After Pentecost

July 11th, 2021

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

1725 Holy Cross Ln
Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701-2749
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Rev. Fr. Seraphim Reynolds, Pastor
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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Romans 5:1-10
Gospel: St. Matthew 6:22-33

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

Services, Events & Announcements

- + Compline/Bible Study – Wednesday July 14th @ 5:30pm
- + Great Vespers – Saturday July 17th @ 5pm
- + Divine Liturgy – Sunday July 18th @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40)
Fellowship following in the Hall.
- + 2nd Official Announcement *Special Parish Meeting – Sunday July 18th* to discuss and vote on a new roof for the Church and ceiling repair inside.
- + MANY BLESSED YEARS this morning to our newest catechumens, Annette Conrad and Isaac Bannister!
- + MANY BLESSED YEARS as we say goodbye to our Subdeacon Anthony (and Elizabeth), moving to Oklahoma.

Our Giving – July 4th, 2021

Tithes/Offerings - \$2,496.00

Candle Offerings – \$117.00 / Love Offerings - \$35.00

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 Communion, please see Fr. Seraphim. 😊

Inspiration from the Louhs

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, or you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. James 1:2-4

St. Isaac the Syrian reminds us that, “God does not grant a great gift without a great trial.”

You see trials bring us both anguish and growth at the same time, cultivating within us a deepening of roots and a depth of experience that brings us closer to God, if we choose to be transformed through them. Einstein captured this notion when he said, that in every difficulty, lies opportunity.

Think about how you might have grown through difficult moments in your own life. Did you notice a deeper compassion for others? More patience in petty moments? More gentleness when it was needed? A more giving spirit, through your own experience of deep need? More trust in God? Did you become more merciful through the experience of God’s mercy? Did you lay down your pride, in lieu of humility? Did you learn to rely more on God, rather than trying to control everything all on your own? Did you learn you were less alone as you experienced a greater intimacy with God? These values though

sought after, are often more deeply cultivated only through the experience of being stretched in difficult moments.

“God permits tribulations and adversities to befall people – even the saintly – so that they may persist in humility. But if we harden our hearts against adversities and tribulations, he also hardens these tribulations against us. On the other hand, if we accept them in humility and with a contrite heart, God will mingle tribulation with mercy.” St Isaac the Syrian

“For without trials God’s providence is not seen, and you cannot obtain boldness before God, nor learn the wisdom of the Spirit, nor can divine longing be established in you.” St. Isaac the Syrian

Rev. Dr. Nicholas & Dr. Roxanne Louh
St John the Divine Orthodox Church, Jacksonville, Fl.

“If, then, the time of this life is for repentance, the very fact that a sinner still lives is a pledge that God will accept whoever desires to return to Him. Free will is always part and parcel of this present life. And it lies within the power of free will to choose or to reject the road of life or the road of death . . . for it can pursue whichever it wishes. Where, then, are the grounds for despair, since all of us can at all times lay hold of eternal life whenever we want to?”

St. Gregory Palamas

Prayers For the Health and Salvation of those in need: Many Years!
Priestmonk Ambrose (Young), Abbot Tryphon, Mitred-Archpriest Nicholas (Harris), Mitred-Archpriest Daniel & Mat. Myra (Kovalak), Pres. Eva (Koutrouvelis), Mat. Seraphima (Hunter) and the child to be born of her, Helen Maybo, Paul Beard, Evelyn Chabal, Phoebe Davis, Michael Kuzmiak, Juliana Matusiak, & Michael Juran

Prayers For the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!

Archpriest Sergei Droba +6/7, Deacon Stephen Hall +6/10 & Peter Petronka +6/27