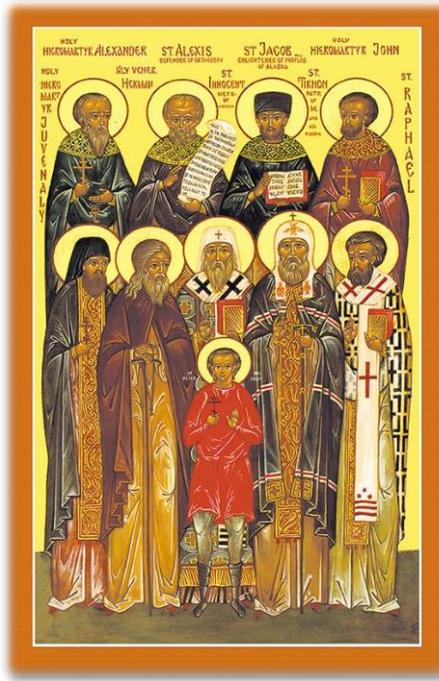


Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



All Saints of North America

June 26th, 2022

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

1725 Holy Cross Ln
Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701-2749
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Today's Scripture Readings:

*Epistle: Romans 2:10-16; Hebrews 11:33-12:2
Gospel: St. Matthew 4:18-23; St. Matthew 4:25-5:12*

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

Services, Events & Announcements

- + **VESPERAL LITURGY** - Sts. Peter & Paul – Tuesday June 28th @ 5:30pm
- + **NO** Compline/Bible Study – Wednesday June 29th
- + Great Vespers – Saturday July 2nd @ 5pm
- + Divine Liturgy - Sunday July 3rd @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40)
Fellowship following
- + **From Fr. Seraphim:** THANK YOU to everyone for remembering me on my birthday this week! For the gifts, cards, calls, and texts, I thank you. May God bless y'all!

Our Giving - June 19th, 2022

Tithes/Offerings - \$956.00 / Online Giving - \$130.00

Candle Offerings – \$76.00

Love Offerings - \$120.00

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. 😊

From a talk at a conference by Met. Jonah

"There is a temptation to reduce Orthodoxy, especially among young male converts, to a rational system of doctrines and dogmas, canons and rituals. We get all excited about the new things we are learning, and about how far superior they are to the Catholic and Protestant systems of Christian thought, or to secular and non-Christian philosophy. But because we are not mature in the Faith, we are off balance.

All these things, doctrines, dogmas, canons and so forth, are there in order to support one primary purpose: the transformation of our souls in theosis, in short, salvation. Just because you have the right doctrine, pure dogmas and strict observance of the canons does not mean that you are deified. In fact, the great spiritual fathers all say that knowledge puffs up, inflates our ego, and inflames our passions. These things will not save you. They are the context for the spiritual struggle but are not its content. If we judge others, condemn others, criticize others and generally exalt ourselves, we are simply the new Pharisees. You can have perfect obedience to all the rules, and if you do not love your neighbor, they condemn you. You can fast perfectly, and if you judge and criticize your neighbor, you condemn yourself.

If you judge and criticize the Roman Catholics or the Protestants and their faith, and decide they are all going to hell, you have condemned yourself. It is not for us to judge anyone else's faith or salvation. We need to worry about ourselves, and our own salvation. We must not only mercilessly persecute hypocrisy within ourselves, but any kind of arrogance, selfishness, self-centeredness, and egotism. Otherwise, we make the truth into a lie, because we take what is good and holy, and use it to not only destroy others, but inflate our own egos. If you don't have love, St Paul says, you are a sounding gong or clanging cymbal.

The Fathers tell us, over and over, that until we have achieved a substantial degree of purification from the passions, we must not touch theology. In the early Church, the three year period of catechesis was primarily devoted to moral teaching from the Old Testament. You have to live Orthodox to understand the Faith."

- Metropolitan Jonah Paffhausen

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), Archpriest Moses (Berry), Pres. Eva (Koutroulelis), Pres. Rosy (Tanveer), Helen Maybo, Paul Beard, Evelyn Chabal, Phoebe Davis, Michael Kuzmiak, Juliana Matusiak, Michael Juran, Catherine Mann, & those suffering in Ukraine

Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!

Protodeacon Averky Davis +6/19, Schemamonk Ephraim (Atwood) +6/8, Matushka Evgenia Glagolev +5/23, Mat. Lovey Ropitsky +6/12, & those who have lost their lives in Ukraine