Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

Williamsport, PA.

Saints of the British Isles & Ireland

3rd Sunday After Pentecost

June 28th, 2020

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

1725 Holy Cross Ln
Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701-2749
www.holycrosswilliamsport.org

Rev. Fr. Seraphim Reynolds, Pastor
Office: 570.322.3020
(c) 717.576.3503
priestserafim@gmail.com

Mr. Michael (Cory) Chelko, Parish Warden
Mr. Herman (Ed) Almasy, Vice Warden

Today's Scripture Readings:
Epistle: Romans 5:1-10
Gospel: St. Matthew 6:22-33

Welcome to ALL our visitors and guests this morning! Please join us for some fellowship after!

Services, Events & Announcements

****Services are being streamed live on our website homepage & Facebook page****

Feast of Sts Peter and Paul – Divine Liturgy – Monday June 29th @ 9:30am

Compline w/Adult Ed following (Discussion on Morning Prayers) – Wednesday July 1st, @ 6pm

Great Vespers – Saturday July 4th, @ 5pm

Divine Liturgy – Sunday July 5th, @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40)

Our Giving – June 21st, 2020
Tithes/Offerings - $458.00
Candle Offerings – $34.00
Love Offerings - $100.00

From Your Pastor . . .

It thrills my heart to be getting back to some sense of normalcy in the life of our Church, and to see you all! Ever so slowly, we are returning to worship together and fellowship. Let us not take what we have for granted.

With Love and God's Blessing,

+ Fr. Seraphim

Tending the Garden of the Heart

Both my maternal grandfather and my mother were avid gardeners, so I grew up surrounded by the beauty of plants and flowers. The cottage garden is a distinct style of garden that is certainly my favorite. The use of traditional materials, in an informal design, together with dense plantings, and a mixture of ornamental and edible plants, is identified the world over as English in origin. The grandeur and formal structure, found in classical English estate gardens, has surrendered to homey and functional gardens that are filled with grace and charm.

The massive plantings of perennials, annuals, vegetables, and plants and flowers of every size and color, display like nothing else, the variety of beauty that bespeaks God's creation. These gardens remind me of people, coming, as we do, in every size and color, all beautiful in our own special way. Some are like climbing roses, reaching to the heavens, and God's glory. Others are like creepers, hugging the ground, and covering large areas like a carpet of green. Some are like cactus, needing little water, while able to live in the ascetic splendor of an Egyptian desert. Others, like water lilies, display beautiful blooms, even while floating in squalid water. Like plants, we need watering and tending. For Christians, the Waters of Life can be found in baptism, where we are immersed in

the Living Waters that bring us into life, standing us before the Creator, Who, like the gardener, tends to our needs, that we may grow and bloom to all our potential.

As we tend to our own heart, we must make sure we have guarded ourselves against the weeds that would strangle us and smother our full potential as children of God. We must make sure we avail ourselves to the life sustaining food and water, that comes from God as His Uncreated Grace. And, as the Body of Christ, the Church, ("neither male nor female, Greek nor Jew") we will flower together, making up a garden of beautiful souls, basking in the Light of the Son of Righteousness.

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

"Stand guard over your heart," that is, keep vigilant, keep your attention on yourself; keep attentive watch over all that happens in the innermost recesses of your soul and heart, and do not allow anything foul or unclean to enter.

Archbishop Averky (Taushev)
The Struggle for Virtue: Asceticism in a Modern Secular Society p.87

"...awareness of sin is a result of love and humility, while unawareness is a result of pride and hardness of heart."

St. Ignatius Brianchaninov
The Arena p.89