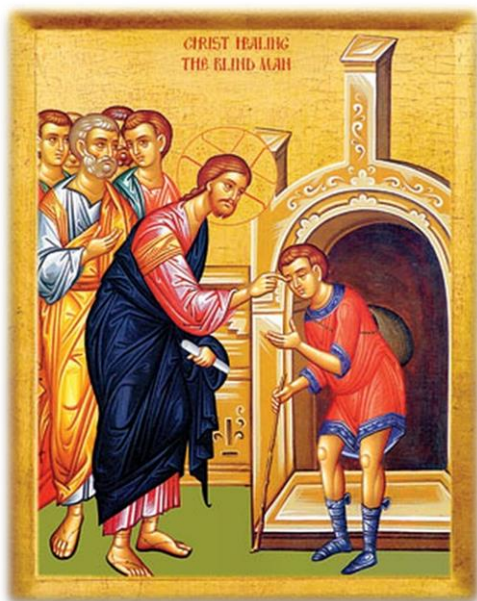


Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



The Blind Man
6th Sunday of Pascha
June 6th, 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: Acts 16:16-34
Gospel: St. John 9:1-38

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!
Christos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!
Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!

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

Services, Events & Announcements

**+Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ –
Vespers Divine Liturgy – Wednesday June 9th @ 5:30pm**

+Great Vespers – Saturday June 12th @ 5pm

+Sunday of the Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council – Divine Liturgy - June 13th @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40) Fellowship following

+Compline/Bible Study – Wednesday June 16th @ 5:30pm

Our Giving – May 30th, 2021

Tithes/Offerings - \$772.00

Candle Offerings – \$264.00

Memorial Gifts - \$650.00

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. 😊

ENDURING TRIALS

By Abbot Tryphon

Without Suffering the Cross Cannot be Embraced

In comparison to eternity, the trials we suffer in this life are but a blip on the meter. Many are suffering job loss, illnesses, mortgage foreclosures, and all kinds of strife and hardships. Yet if we look at all these difficulties in light of eternity, this time of trial is nothing. “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us (Romans 8:18)”.

God’s desire that we all come to the knowledge of the truth, and be saved, is real. His love for us is all consuming, and nothing that happens in our life is without value in this journey to eternity. Our God does not send anything our way that is beyond our ability to withstand, for His grace is sufficient. Suffering has a salvific role, for it is in suffering that we are able to take up our cross and follow Christ. Without ascetic struggle, we remain unchanged, and transformation of self is unattainable.

God desires all be saved, yet this gift of salvation has to be accepted by the believer, since God will not force salvation on humanity. As we are free to reject the gift of salvation, suffering

allows us to remember that this world is transitory, and that we need God. It is in that turning to God during periods of struggle that we grow in our faith, becoming one step closer to deification, where we are united, in our humanity, to God's divinity. This transformation takes place when we give ourselves over in humility to the will of God, embracing repentance as a way of life, and placing ourselves before God's mercy.

There is nothing a person can do to earn salvation, for it is a gift from God. Yet to be saved, we must work together with God in a synergeia whereby our entire being, including our will, effort and actions, are perfectly conformed with, and united to, the Divine.

Our Orthodox life is a life of suffering love, and this is perhaps the most difficult for most of us to accept. We are familiar with suffering, but will do anything we can to avoid it, forgetting that Christ told us that if we were to follow him, we had to take up our cross. Without suffering, the cross cannot be embraced.

*Love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon*

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), Mat. Theodora (Ressetar), Pres. Eva (Koutroulelis), Mat. Seraphima (Hunter) and the child to be born of her, Mat. MaryAnn (DeTrana), Mary (Federoff) and the child born of her, Helen Maybo, Paul Beard, Evelyn Chabal, Phoebe Davis, Michael Kuzmiak & Juliana Matusiak

Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!

*Archpriest Nilus Perro +4/28 & Protodeacon Edwin Aasen
+5/23*