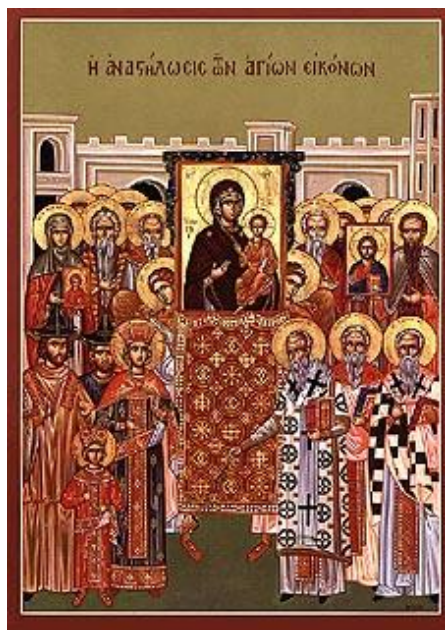


Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



Sunday of Orthodoxy
1st Sunday of Great Lent
March 21st, 2021

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2

Gospel: St. John 1:43-51

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

Services, Events & Announcements

++Vesperal Liturgy - Annunciation of our Most Holy Lady, Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary - Wednesday Mar 24th @ 5:30pm - Begin your Eucharistic fast after your noon meal.

++Presanctified Liturgy - Friday Mar 26th @ 5:30pm (9th Hour @ 5:20) Begin your Eucharistic fast after your noon meal, and we will have a light Lenten potluck Fellowship to follow in the Hall.

****Great Vespers - Saturday, Mar 27th @ 5pm***

****Divine Liturgy - Sunday, Mar 28th @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40am) Lenten Fellowship After in the Hall***

Our Giving - March 14th, 2021

Tithes/Offerings - \$2,880.00

Candle Offerings - \$113.00

Love Offerings - \$215.10

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. 😊

Beauty

Orthodoxy and beauty are inseparable

Orthodox Christianity attracted me from my very first encounter with the magnificence of its churches and the grandeur of her divine services. Having grown up amid the natural beauty of Northern Idaho, with mountains and lakes that could take our breath away, I'd previously found inspiration primarily in the world of nature.

Orthodoxy and beauty are inseparable because God and beauty are inseparable. The beauty of a sunset is a reflection of our Creator, just as is the interior of a temple reflects our experience with this Creator God. We humans were formed as physical beings, placed in a material world and invited to commune with our Creator. The majesty and beauty of the created world inspires us to an awareness of God's presence.

A bouquet of flowers placed in our icon corner has an internal affect on us. Created in God's image, we in turn become creators. The beauty that comes from the artist's brush or the poet's voice, is an act of a creator. Taking our creative instincts into the realm of the spiritual unites us with God and connects us to the

eternal. This is why an artist or a poet can experience the eternal when creating something of beauty.

God is the Creator of heaven and earth and is present through His creative energies. The material world, being good, is an important means through which God expresses Himself. It is through God's created beauty that we are drawn into a relationship that is meant to be eternal and through which Divine Revelation can transform our nature. Then creation is completed and the created is united to the Creator.

Love in Christ,

Abbot Tryphon

All Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA.

“When we look upon the holy Icons, our hearts should be overflowing with love for God and for the Saints, and we should prostrate ourselves to venerate them and kiss them devoutly.”

Elder Paisios of Mount Athos

Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.165

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

Priestmonk Ambrose (Young), Abbot Tryphon, Mitred-Archpriest Nicholas (Harris), Archpriest Daniel (Kovalak), Archpriest Antonio (Perdomo), Mat. Myra (Kovalak), Mat. Theodora (Ressetar), Presbyteria Eva (Koutroulelis), Mary (Federoff) and the child to be born of her, Helen Maybo, Paul Beard, Evelyn Chabal, Phoebe Davis & Peter Georges

Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!

Archpriest George Morelli +3/17, Archpriest Vladimir Lecko +3/16, Archpriest Viktor Tseshkovsky +3/15, Archpriest John Tkachuk +2/19, Mat. Sonja Tutko +3/7