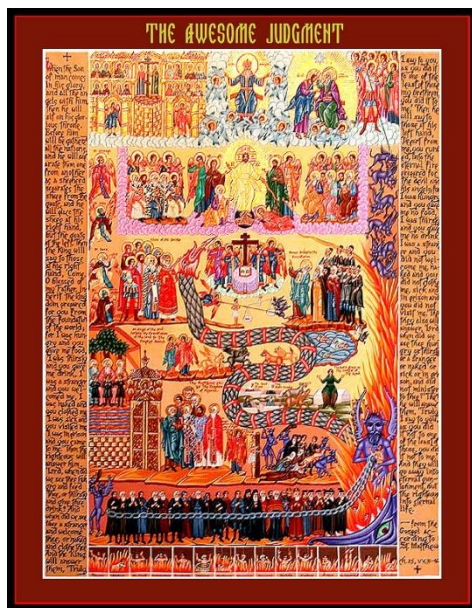


Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



Sunday of the Last Judgement

39th Sunday After Pentecost

March 7th, 2021

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701-2749
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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

Gospel: St. Matthew 25:31-46

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

*Compline/Adult Ed. (Bible Study/St. Mark) – Wednesday,
Mar 10th @ 5:30pm

*Great Vespers – Saturday, Mar 13th @ 5pm

*Divine Liturgy – Sunday, Mar 14th @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40am)
Fellowship After in the Hall

*Next Sunday is *Cheesefare*, so we will be having a very
“cheesy” potluck. Bring your favorite non-meat/cheesy dish
to share!

*Next Sunday is also *Forgiveness Sunday* and we will have
Forgiveness Vespers @ 5pm that evening. This is the
beginning of Great Lent.

Our Giving – January 28th, 2021

Tithes/Offerings - \$2,727.00.00

Candle Offerings – \$91.50

Love Offerings - \$170.00

Choir Fund - \$100.00 / Flowers - \$25.00

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 this, please see Fr. Seraphim. 😊

The Sins of Others

If we are to win the battle, we must focus only on our own sins.

When we take our eyes off our own failings, shortcomings, and sins, we notice the failings of others. As the sins of others get our attention, our focus turns away from our own struggles with the passions, and we begin to fall further into sin, our eyes having turned away from the Lord. When our focus is no longer turned towards the conquering of our own passions, our hearts become vulnerable, and we begin to expend our energy on picking apart our neighbor. Their sins become the hot topic with our gossiping friends, and we fall further into the rottenness of our own sins. At this stage, Abba Sisoës asks, "How can we guard the heart if the tongue leaves the door of the fortress open?"

If we are to take ourselves out of the mire of sin, and with Christ's help, be transformed and made whole, our eyes must never look to the sins of others, "For a person cannot be disquieted or concerned about other people's affairs if he is satisfied with concentrating on the work of his own hands (St. John Cassian)."

As we approach Great and Holy Lent, let us refocus ourselves, and prepare for the struggle ahead. Let us make this Great Fast the most profitable of all, with the goal of acquiring a humble and contrite heart. If we focus on our own failings, only, we will find this Lenten season will be the most profitable of all, and we will be lifted up by God, and our celebration of Holy Pascha will be the most glorious of them all.

Remember, the Great and Holy Fast was created for us as a time for repentance, renewal, and the restoration of heart, mind, and body. Let us keep our spiritual eyes on Christ, and be open to the healing of our soul that comes for us through this very Christ Jesus, Whom we worship and adore.

*Love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon*

“The saints are like the Lord, but so are all the people who keep the commandments of Christ; but those who live according to their own passions and do not repent are like the devil. I think that if this mystery were revealed to the world, then they would stop serving the devil, and every one would strive to serve the Lord with all his strength and to be like Him” St. Silouan the Athonite

Prayers For the Health and Salvation of those in need: Many Years!
Priestmonk Ambrose (Young), Abbot Tryphon, Mitred-Archpriest Nicholas (Harris), Archpriest Daniel (Kovalak), 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!
Proto-Pres. Daniel Hubiak (+2/5), Archpriest John Chupeck (+2/10), Archpriest John Tkachuk (+2/19), Protodeacon John Eby (+2/3)