

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



The Blind Man 6th Sunday of Pascha

May 29th, 2022

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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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!

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 1st @ 5:30pm**

+Great Vespers – Saturday June 4th @ 5pm

**+Sunday of the Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council – Divine
Liturgy - June 5th @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40) Fellowship following**

+ MEMORIAL DAY: Today we remember those who have given their lives in service to our Country. May their memories be eternal.

Our Giving – May 22nd, 2022

Tithes/Offerings - \$1,324.00 / Online Giving - \$175.00

Candle Offerings – \$106.00

Love Offerings - \$520.00

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. 😊

Hollow Orthodoxy

We must guard against noticing when another parishioner seems careless in the making of the sign of the cross, while we go about demonstrating for all around us, the proper way. Making sweeping signs of the cross that are done in such a way as to be almost a caricature, following up with profound bows, we can end up distracting fellow worshipers in the process. If we make a public display of our fasting, making sure our non-Orthodox family and friends know how strict we are, we miss the point of fasting. If we struggle to make our icon corner the largest and most complete of anyone in the parish, but never stand before it in prayer, we treat it as nothing more than nice art.

If we allow ourselves to become spiritual gluttons, and turn the traditions of Orthodoxy into occasions for sensual and prideful displays, we will not embrace the grace that can be ours through quiet and penitential struggle. If our public displays of piety become distractions for fellow worshipers, we can actually be diverting our attention from the all important confrontation of our personal sin. Externals, while important to Orthodox piety, and the deepening of our faith, must not be allowed to replace the mystery of faith that comes only with the acquisition of a humble and contrite heart.

We must guard against allowing external displays of Orthodoxy to become an end in themselves, and remember these traditions and pious practices were designed to serve as aids for deepening our faith by connecting our whole being, both body and soul, on this journey to God. We must take Orthodoxy beyond the self-congratulatory of being a part of a beautiful faith, with sublime worship practices, glorious temples, and beautiful vestments.

Without giving our full attention to the struggle for holiness, and deepening our prayer time, we will end with a weak form of Orthodoxy, that is beautiful on the outside, but hollow on the inside. Taking simple little steps under the guidance and direction from one's priest or spiritual father, or by council with that pious little old lady, whose face radiates the light of Christ, we will be able to enter into the Kingdom of God, having gained the humility and joy that does not necessitate being extravagant with the externals.

Love in Christ,

Abbot Tryphon, All-Merciful Saviour Monastery

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!

His Beatitude, Metropolitan HILARION (Kapral) +5/16, His Eminence, Archbishop PAUL (Gassios) +4/24, Protodeacon Nicodemus Myers +4/29, Matushka Helen Kuchta +5/6, Matushka Evgenia Glagolev +5/23 & those who have lost their lives in Ukraine.