

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

# Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



Holy Wonderworkers and  
Unmercenary Saints Kosmos & Damian  
21<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Pentecost  
November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

# Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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## *Today's Scripture Readings:*

*Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20*

*Gospel: St. Luke 8:26-39*

***A warm welcome to ALL of our visitors and guests this morning! Please join us for some fellowship after in the Parish Hall!***

## Services, Events & Announcements

\*Compline/Adult Ed. (Canon of Repentance) -  
Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm

\*Great Vespers – Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm

\*Divine Liturgy – Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup> @ 10am (Hours  
@ 9:40am) Fellowship After in the Hall

**\*3<sup>rd</sup> Official Announcement** – Annual Parish Meeting,  
Sunday Nov 1<sup>st</sup> – After Fellowship Hour. Out of deference  
and consideration for our higher risk parishioners, His  
Eminence requested that our Annual Meeting be limited  
to voting parish members in good standing.

## Our Giving – October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Tithes/Offerings - \$883.00

Candle Offerings - \$112.00

Love Offering - \$15.00

## ***From Your Pastor . . .***

*I want to encourage to read Archbishop Mark's Nativity Fast Letter . . . it is very good! There is much going on around us, and it is a good time to really do some deep soul searching. His Eminence puts things in perspective and says, "Let us seek the Lord! Pour out our hearts to Him! The psalms are full of mankind expressing the full range of human emotion. Trust me, the Lord can handle it."*

*With Love and God's Blessing,*

*+ Fr. Seraphim*

## ***Divided Loyalties***

"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon" (Matthew 6:24). As you begin your day, be mindful of where you place your priorities. Are you of Christ, or are you of the world? Do you serve God, or do you submit to this temporal world which shall one day come to an end?

Do you think you can divide your loyalties in this life, serving your spouse or boss during the week, while serving God only on weekends, or perhaps even just major holy days? Do you think of God only when in church or with religious people? When working at your job, do you think of God, or are you disconnected from your spiritual life because you've compartmentalized it? Jesus says this is impossible, because "No one can serve two masters".

The Apostle Paul taught in I Timothy 3:15, the Church is the pillar and ground of Truth, and it is to this Church that the Apostles entrusted the Faith, once and for all delivered to the saint as its guardian and protector (Jude v. 3). Thus, the Church's services, Liturgies, prayers and sacraments are all essential if we are to be authentic as people of faith.

“In accordance with the Apostolic faith delivered to us by tradition from the Fathers, I have delivered the tradition, without inventing anything extraneous to it. What I have learned, that I inscribed, conformably with the Holy Scriptures (Saint Athanasios the Great).”

It is through this Tradition that we bind ourselves to Christ, serving only Him. All else must be secondary. When the Lord says “You cannot serve God and mammon,” He is referring to things of a materialistic nature (mammon is the Aramaic word for “god of wealth”). He asks us all to declare whom we serve, God or mammon? And the way to determine who or what you love the most is to see where your loyalties lie.

When you are faced with choices between God, and anything else, what will be your choice? Do you choose to attend church on Sunday or do you choose to sleep in? Do you prioritize your life around your relationship with God, or do sporting events, vacations, family outings, entertainment, or friends take center stage? Does prayer, reading the bible, serving others, financially supporting the church and its mission, and giving alms serve as your central theme, or do you choose personal gain and pleasure as central to your life?

Are you more concerned about money, your popularity, or the home you own, or do these things take a back seat to Jesus Christ? If God is your master, you will be able to honestly say that none of these worldly things are anywhere near as important to you as your relationship with Christ.

Christ said, “Be not therefore like them: for your Father knows what things you have need of, before you ask him (Matthew 6:8).” If we serve only God as our master, all else that we need will be provided.

*With Love in Christ,*

*Abbot Tryphon,*

*All Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA.*