

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



Holy Martyrs and Confessors
Gurias, Samonas, and Abibus, of
Edessa

23rd Sunday After Pentecost

November 15th, 2020

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10

Gospel: St. Luke 10:25-37

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

Services, Events & Announcements

***Compline/Adult Ed. - Wednesday, Nov. 18th @ 6pm**

*****Feast of the Entrance of the Most Holy Theotokos*****

***Great Vespers w/Litya - Friday, Nov. 20th @ 6pm**

***Divine Liturgy - Saturday, Nov. 21st @ 9am**

***Great Vespers - Saturday, Nov. 21st @ 5pm**

***Divine Liturgy - Sunday, Nov. 22nd @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40am)
Fellowship After in the Hall**

***Parish Workday - Saturday, Nov. 21st after Liturgy**

Our Giving - November 8th, 2020

Tithes/Offerings - \$1293.00

Candle Offerings - \$79.00

Love Offering - \$240.00

From Your Pastor . . .

We have now entered into the Nativity Fast, so we must ask ourselves, “Are we going to do anything different this year?” I think we could all answer “yes!” There is always something going on in our lives that we could change. Something that we could change in our hearts and minds. It would probably be a good time to just distance ourselves from the media and focus on our relationship with God. Politics and the media are not going to save us. If you have not read Archbishop Mark’s “Nativity Fast” letter, I encourage you to prayerfully read over it.

Confession is available most anytime. Wednesdays before Compline, Saturdays before Vespers, or see me to make an appointment for most any other time. ☺

*With Love and God’s Blessing,
+ Fr. Seraphim*

True Repentance

Confession is a God-given commandment, and it is one of the Sacraments of our Church. Confession must never become a formal, habitual, and unprepared act, coming forth from a sense of duty or obligation. Nor can we allow our confession to be nothing beyond some sort of psychological relief. Our confession must be united to a sincere desire for true repentance. If our confession is nothing more than an act of relieving a sense of guilt, we will not have truly confessed.

Repentance is that important moment when we reach deeply into our heart and cultivate the process of contrition and sorrow for having distanced ourselves from God through sin. To be

truly repentant has nothing to do with promoting a relentless sense of guilt, for that could lead to the inflating of our ego. This would not be sincere repentance, but a secret egotism based on shame alone.

True repentance must be about making a complete about-face, demonstrating our sincere desire to turn our backs on sin, and focus on an inner communion with God. Our act of true repentance must make clear our desire to embrace all that is good in our life and make our commitment to the things of this world, a thing of the past.

Repentance means a change in our thoughts and making a commitment to living a life of virtue, and benevolence. Repentance must prompt us to be re-joined to Christ through the Grace of the Holy Spirit. True repentance must begin in the depth of our heart, and culminate in the sacrament of Confession, wherein we sincerely and humbly bear all before the confessor, as though in the presence of Christ. Our repentance must be grounded in a true commitment to keeping our eyes on the things of God and casting aside all that would detract from the ultimate goal, Eternal Life.

*With Love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon,
All Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA.*

*“Now a man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. Jesus, upon seeing this man lying there and knowing that he had already been in that condition for a long time, said to him, **“Do you want to get well?”** The sick man answered Him, “Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I am coming, another steps down before me.” Jesus said to him, “Get up, pick up your pallet and walk.” Immediately the man became well, and picked up his pallet and began to walk. John 5:5-8 NASB*