

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



Synaxis of the Archangel Michael and
the Other Bodiless Powers
22nd Sunday After Pentecost
November 8th, 2020

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistles: Hebrews 2:2-10; Galatians 6:11-18

Gospels: St. Luke 10:16-21; St. Luke 8:41-56

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, November 11th @ 6pm
- *Great Vespers – Saturday, November 14th @ 5pm
- *Divine Liturgy – Sunday, November 15th @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40am) Fellowship After in the Hall
- *Advent Season begins next Sunday November 15th
- *In need of Confession? Wednesdays before Compline, before Vespers, or see Fr. Seraphim to make an appointment. ☩
- *Remember to thank all our Veterans this Wednesday, No 11th!

Our Giving – November 1st, 2020

Tithes/Offerings - \$3025.00

Candle Offerings – \$88.00

Love Offering - \$50.00

From Your Pastor . . .

If you remember back in one of my sermons, I mentioned that the Church has given us certain times of the year, where we should focus on where we are at spiritually. We must be focused on the “one thing needful” – our relationship with God. These are the times of Fasting. As the Advent Season is quickly approaching, I pray that this will be a time of spiritual renewal for all of us. The Apostle Peter says in Acts chapter 3, “Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.”

With Love and God’s Blessing,

+ Fr. Seraphim

Seeking Reconciliation

There are people who insist on holding on to resentment, often inventing situations in their minds that never happened, justifying their bad behavior by putting the blame on others. They always see themselves as the abused party.

Such behavior betrays a deep spiritual and psychological illness, one that is not easily healed. Such people feel empowered by making other people uncomfortable, and normal attempts at rapprochement often end in failure, for such people are always looking for ways to continue their control over others. Their illness is difficult to heal, for their pride and deep-seated sense of superiority makes repentance difficult, for they simply don’t see themselves as having a problem.

The cure for the illness of the soul is to be found in the life of the Church, where Her sacred mysteries (the sacraments), Her scriptures, and Her divine services, are the source for the healing that the heart so craves. We must remember the Church’s teaching that we can only forgive others if we have Christ in us, for it is Christ Who

gives us the power to forgive. Since God forgives us, we, too, can forgive.

One of the Desert Fathers tells the story of a young monk who came to his elder, complaining that he'd been wronged by one of his brothers, and following the holy tradition of the desert, had gone to the one who had wronged him, asking for forgiveness. The erring brother refused, so the wronged brother wanted to know what he should do in response. The elder told the young monk that he had walked away justified in the eyes of God, and that there was nothing left for him to do, except to pray for his erring brother.

This true story from the Desert Fathers makes clear that we must always be quick to forgive others, even if they were at fault, and not remember the wrong done to us. We dare not depend on the other person cooperating in the reconciliation, for we must remember that their repentance is not required. We will be held accountable only for our own response.

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

“God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous, so that He will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.” 1 John 1:5-9 NASB