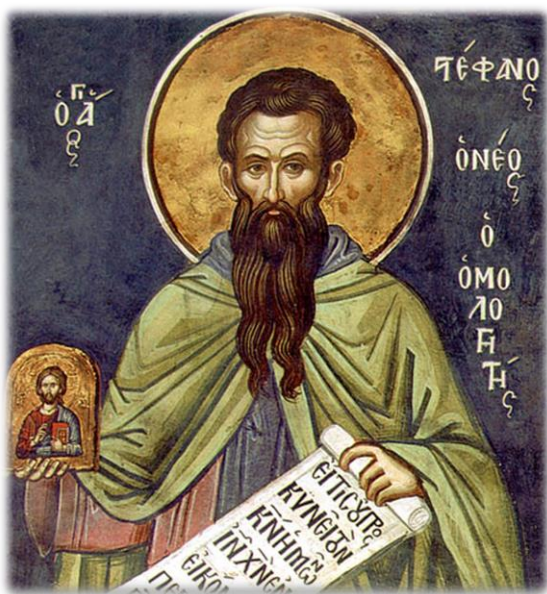


Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



*Monk Martyr and Confessor
Stephen the New*

23rd Sunday After Pentecost

November 28th, 2021

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

1725 Holy Cross Ln
Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701-2749
www.holycrosswilliamsport.org

Rev. Fr. Seraphim Reynolds, Pastor
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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10

Gospel: St. Luke 13:10-17

A very warm welcome to everyone, and especially to our visitors this morning! Please join us for some fellowship after in the Parish Hall!

Services, Events & Announcements

- + *Compline/Bible Study* - Wednesday Dec 1st @ 5:30pm
- + *Great Vespers* – Saturday Dec 4th @ 5pm
- + *Divine Liturgy* - Sunday December 5th @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40),
fellowship following in the Hall and tree decoration!

++Feast of St. Nicholas of Myra and Lycia++

Great Vespers w/Litya – Sunday, Dec. 5th @ 5pm

Divine Liturgy – Monday, Dec. 6th @ 9am

Our Giving – November 21st, 2021

Tithes/Offerings - \$318.00

Online Giving - \$125.00

Candle Offerings – \$42.75 / Aux Gift - \$1,256.27

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 everyone too.* If you have any questions about Communion, please see Fr. Seraphim. 😊

Artificial Christianity

Avoiding Hypocrisy in Our Journey to God

It is very easy to live our lives in hypocrisy if we are not mindful of the pitfalls of the spiritual life. We can become Pharisees without even noticing if we let our Christianity be artificially lived. Living our lives as though we have been rehearsed by a stage director, we will have accomplished nothing, and will remain no more than an actor. Putting on the mask of Christianity is not living in Christ. An honest, daily examination of our conscience, together with regular guidance by our confessor, is the only way we can live a Christian life that will lead to transformation of the heart.

If we simply put on a show of being a Christian, without any true repentance, we will remain mired in false religiosity, and our heart will grow dark. Christ must be invited into the heart on a daily basis, through prayer, and honest examination of our conscience, without which there can be no spiritual growth. We cannot play at being a Christian, for to do so will lead to spiritual death.

We must “put on Christ”, daily, and make sure our public expression of our faith is not being acted out for others but is ever entering into a deeper relationship with this very Christ. Playing at spirituality only leads to spiritual death. If our life does not give witness to Christ in us, and if our attention is given over to self-promotion, or a desire to please others, but avoids honest examination of our sins, we will be like fruit that dies on the vine.

Love in Christ,

Abbot Tryphon

All Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA.

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), Subdeacon Anthony (Affsprung), Pres. Eva (Koutroulelis), Mat. Seraphima (Hunter) and the child Theodora Marie, Helen Maybo, Paul Beard, Evelyn Chabal, Phoebe Davis, Michael Kuzmiak, Juliana Matusiak, Phillip Paxos, Newly Illumined Matrona (Evick) & Her Godmother Judy Beard

Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!

Archpriest Peter Tutko +11/5,
Priest Maximos Herman +10/26, Olga Uvari +10/23

Looking for a unique gift or need to buy groceries (or maybe gas)? See Mat. Mary and pick up some Giant gift cards! Our Parish receives 5% of the sales of these cards, and it's a simple way to generate a little income for our Parish. Available in denominations of \$25, \$50, or \$100. Stocking stuffers??

