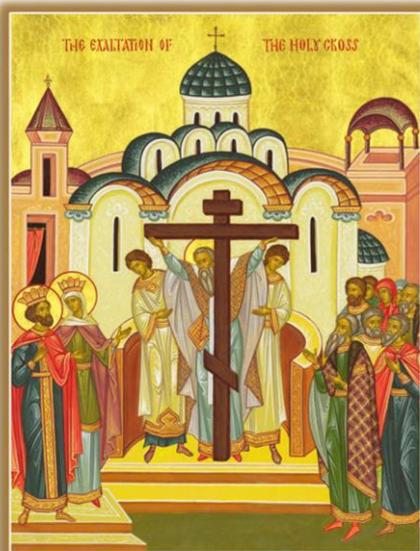


Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



*33 Holy Martyrs of Melitene &
Venerable Lazarus, Wonderworker
of Mount Galesius Near Ephesus*

20th Sunday After Pentecost

November 7th, 2021

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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

Rev. Fr. Seraphim Reynolds, Pastor
Office: 570.322.3020
(c) 717.576.3503
Email: priestseraphim@protonmail.com

Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19

Gospel: St. Luke 8:41-56

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 November 10th @ 5:30pm
- + *Great Vespers* – Saturday November 13th @ 5pm
- + *Divine Liturgy* - Sunday November 14th @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40), fellowship following in the Hall.
- + Giant gift cards are available! Help support the Parish and they make good stocking stuffers too! 😊 See Mat. Mary!
- + 3rd **Official Announcement** – **Annual Parish Meeting** – November 7th

Our Giving – October 31st, 2021

Tithes/Offerings - \$1,624.00

Online Tithes - \$125.00

Candle Offerings – \$89.00 / Love Offerings - \$10.00

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. 😊

HUMILITY

The Link Between Repentance and Humility

By Abbot Tryphon

In an age when "self-focus" is the rule of the day, and where the ego seems to reign, it is hard for people to see the value of humility. Many people, from politicians to rock stars, seem to climb the ladder of success by being anything but humble. In our darkened state, with sin dominating our lives, and bad habits seemingly insurmountable, holiness seems to be about saints, but unattainable for ourselves. Stuck in our habitual patterns of behavior, we seem to have surrendered all hope for real change.

The antidote to this inertia can be found in one simple act, that of repenting. We fall down before our God, confessing our failure at having kept the commandments, and asking for God's help in turning our lives around. We commit ourselves to crushing down the ego and acquiring a humble heart. We take every opportunity to accept correction or criticism, without becoming defensive, for we know the truth in the words of Saint John Climacus, "As with the appearance of light, darkness retreats; so, at the fragrance of humility, all anger and bitterness vanishes."

We refrain from judging anyone, but only examine our own conscience, accusing only ourselves. Saint Macarius the Great wrote, "Christians therefore ought to strive continually, and never to pass judgment on anyone—no, not upon the harlot on the street, or upon open sinners and disorderly persons—but to regard all men with singleness of intention and purity of eye, so that it may become like a fixed law of nature to despise no one, to abhor no one, to make no distinctions between them. This is purity of heart,

when you see sinners or sick people, to have compassion on them and be tenderhearted towards them.”

With love in Christ,

Abbot Tryphon – All Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA.

“And so, one must ask the Lord for humility. Humility cannot coexist with judging one’s neighbor or taking offense. If we accuse others or get offended when our feelings are hurt, then we have no humility at all. The holy ascetics sincerely thanked those who hurt and mistreated them, for by enduring this they learned humility.”

Abbot Nikon Vorobiev

Abbot Nikon: Letters to Spiritual Children p.141

“Our life depends on the kind of thoughts we nurture. If our thoughts are peaceful, calm, meek, and kind, then that is what our life is like. If our attention is turned to the circumstances in which we live, we are drawn into a whirlpool of thoughts and can have neither peace nor tranquility.” Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica

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 born of her, Helen Maybo, Paul Beard, Evelyn Chabal, Phoebe Davis, Michael Kuzmiak, Juliana Matusiak & Gabrielle Russin

Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!

Priest Narcis Stoica + 10/16, Priest Maximos Herman +10/26

Olga Uvari + 10/23