

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

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



Holy Fathers of the 7<sup>th</sup>  
Ecumenical Council  
18<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost  
October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020

# Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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## *Today's Scripture Readings:*

*Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11*

*Gospel: St. Luke 7:11-16*

*Welcome to ALL our visitors and guests this morning!  
Please join us for some fellowship after!*

## Services, Events & Announcements

*\*Crop Walk – TODAY - Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> - See Lenora Georges for more info*

*\*Compline/Adult Ed. (Discussion on *Special Prayers*) -  
Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm*

*\*Great Vespers – Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm **His  
Eminence, Archbishop Mark will be with us!***

*\*Divine Liturgy – Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> @ 10am (Hours @  
9:40am) Fellowship After in the Hall - **His Eminence,  
Archbishop Mark with us, please do not be late!** ☺*

## *Our Giving – October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

**Tithes/Offerings - \$2,005.84**

**Candle Offerings – \$95.00**

**Love Offering - \$5.00 / Memorial - \$100.00**

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

*“But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?” (St Luke 6:46). I spoke briefly about this on Wednesday evening, and I wonder how often do we think about this. The Lord’s words to us are given for instruction, a way of life, the way to eternal life. How can we claim to be a Christian and not act on His words? We have a choice: we can either follow or do it our way. I pray that we will all choose wisely.*

*With Love and God’s Blessing,*

*+ Fr. Seraphim*

### ***The Church is the Hospital of the Soul***

The ER for the Soul Orthodoxy offers a very precise way to enter into communion with God. It is a way that must be learned, for simply “becoming Orthodox” will not lead the seeker into an inner life that transforms and enlightens. Membership in the Church is not enough, for the Church is not just about beautiful services, icons, and mystical theology.

As a hospital for the soul, it is a place where we can receive healing for what ails us. Yet patients can’t simply walk into an emergency room and expect to be healed. They have to submit themselves to examination by the ER staff, who ask them to describe what is going on and where they are hurting. The hospital staff who run tests, and prescribe the necessary medication or treatment that will bring about healing.

His Eminence Hierotheos, Metropolitan of Nafpaktos and Agios Vlassios wrote, “The whole therapeutic method of the Orthodox Church is not aimed simply at making human beings morally and socially balanced, but at re-establishing their relationship with God and one another. This comes about through the healing of the soul’s

wounds and the cure of the passions through the Sacraments and the Church's ascetic practice.”

Within the hospital of the soul, the Church, priests act in the same capacity as ER personnel. They interview the patient (parishioner), and through the Sacrament of Confession, examine the heart to find the sickness, and recommend the cure. The priest serves as the therapeutic guide, and recommends what the parishioner can do in order to be made whole.

A prayer rule, the daily reading of the Holy Scriptures, and frequent confession and reception of the Holy Mysteries are all part of the Church's medicine that will bring about the cure. Just as the doctor prescribes the proper dosage after getting to know her patient, so the priest prescribes what will help his spiritual son or daughter.

The spiritual life needs to be learned, perhaps more so now than at any time in history. As godlessness increases, so do obstacles to spiritual progress. The degradation of the whole of our society and the depths of depravity that have become a normal part of our age have made this a dangerous time. Going it alone spiritually can leave one vulnerable to spiritual delusion. We all need a trusted and experienced guide who can help us avoid the pitfalls of the pride and self-will that would lead us down to perdition.

Saint John Chrysostom tells us, “The Church is a hospital, and not a courtroom, for souls. She does not condemn on behalf of sins, but grants remission of sins.”

*With Love in Christ,*

*Abbot Tryphon,*

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