

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

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



## Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke

19<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020

# Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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## *Today's Scripture Readings:*

*Epistles: Colossians 4:5-9, 14, 18; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11*  
*Gospels: St Luke 10:16-21; St. Luke 8:5-15*

***A very special welcome to His Eminence, our Archbishop  
MARK and ALL our visitors and guests this morning!  
Please join us for some fellowship after!***

## Services, Events & Announcements

**\*Compline/Adult Ed. (Discussion on *Special Prayers*) -  
Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> @ 6pm**

**\*Great Vespers – Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm**

**\*Divine Liturgy – Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> @ 10am (Hours @  
9:40am) Fellowship After in the Hall**

**\*1<sup>st</sup> Official Announcement – Annual Parish Meeting,  
Sunday Nov 1<sup>st</sup> – After Fellowship Hour. Out of deference  
and consideration for our higher risk parishioners, His  
Eminence requested that our Annual Meeting be limited  
to voting parish members in good standing.**

## **Our Giving – October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Tithes/Offerings - \$2,807.00**

**Candle Offerings – \$78.00**

**Love Offering - \$360.00**

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

*I just want to take a moment to thank His Eminence for being with us this weekend. His role as the Shepherd of our Diocese entails much, and especially carrying many burdens, most of which we will never know. Remember to pray for him daily as he continues to guide us, and please take a moment to thank him for all that he does. We are truly blessed.*

*Vladyka, Eis Polla, Eti Despota!!*

*With Love and Grateful Hearts,*

*+ Fr. Seraphim & the People of Holy Cross*

### ***Forgiveness is the Fruit of Love***

Our Lord Jesus Christ, while hanging on the cross, asked the Father to forgive his murderers because they did not know what they were doing (Luke 23:34). This was the fruit of love. If we immerse ourselves in God's love and actively strive and force ourselves to try and love everyone, we will be on the path to acquiring the heart of God, where love will permeate every aspect of our life. The Lord told us we must even love our enemies, a feat that is impossible without the grace of God empowering us.

In these difficult times, what with the divisions taking place in our nation, and even the stresses that have divided the various parts of our Orthodox Church in this country, there has perhaps never been a time when our call to forgive others has been more needed. Even the Roman Catholic Church is experiencing divisions that seem to point to a

massive assault upon the very foundations of the Christian faith.

We must, therefore, embrace prayer more than ever before. Our nation, and her political leadership, need our prayers. Our bishops and clergy need our prayers. However, first and foremost each one of us is in great need of prayers from others and must pray for others. As Believers, we must not allow ourselves to turn away in despair, as though the darkness that seems to have descended upon our nation, and our churches, is somehow inevitable.

As Christians, we must remember the power of prayer and repentance. Our common cry before the Lord must be that He turn His wrathful gaze away from our sins, and come to the aid of His people.

*With Love in Christ,*

*Abbot Tryphon,*

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

“To repent is not to look downwards at my own shortcomings, but upwards at God’s love. It is not to look backwards with self-reproach, but forwards with trustfulness. It is to see not what I have failed to be, but what by the grace of Christ, I might yet become.” *St. John Climacus*