

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

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



Martyrs Marcian and Martyrius,  
Notaries of Constantinople  
20<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost  
October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020

# Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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## *Today's Scripture Readings:*

*Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19*

*Gospel: St. Luke 16:19-31*

***A warm welcome to ALL of our visitors and guests this morning! Please join us for some fellowship after in the Parish Hall!***

## Services, Events & Announcements

\*Compline/Adult Ed. (Canon of Repentance) -  
Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm

\*Great Vespers – Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup> @ 5pm

\*Divine Liturgy – Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup> @ 10am (Hours @  
9:40am) Fellowship After in the Hall

**\*2<sup>nd</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 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Tithes/Offerings - \$1,1889.00

Candle Offerings – \$74.00

Love Offering - \$10.00

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

***THANK YOU*** to everyone who made last weekend so special in the life of our Parish! ***THANK YOU*** for your cards and gifts to Mat. Mary and myself. We are truly grateful.

*Once again, I just want to thank His Eminence for being with us last weekend. His role as the Shepherd of our Diocese entails much, and especially, he carries many burdens, most 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. Send him a card. ☺*

*Eis Polla, Eti Despota!!*

*With Love and God's Blessing,*

*+ Fr. Seraphim*

***It Is God Who Sought Me Out***

I'm facing another three day hospitalization on the 2nd of November. My cardiologist has decided they need to do another procedure for my heart, so, once again, I am facing my mortality. I turn 75 on the 9th of November, so I am nearing the age when my own father died of heart related issues.

I am not afraid, for I know in my heart that I am loved by the Lord, and I try each and every day to live in repentance, knowing that I have failed to live according to the gospels. Even as a monk of over forty years, I am so far from the holiness and purity of my late spiritual father, Blessed Dimitry of Santa Rosa, that I often feel as though I should hide my face in shame. Yet I live in the hope that the Lord will be merciful to me, the miserable child that I am.

I live with the knowledge that just as a child who has been adopted by loving parents knows from the outset that he is loved because he knows they chose him, God chose me. The adopted child was not simply received because he was conceived and born into their midst, but was rather sought out to become their child. I therefore rest in the knowledge that God has adopted me as His child.

“Although it may appear outwardly that we make our way toward God, the joyful and wonderful truth is that it is God who comes to us (Matthew the Poor).” It is with this knowledge that I face my own mortality with a peaceful heart, for just as a good parent loves his child even when he’s been naughty, the Lord loves me, even though I’ve fallen short of His expectations.

*With Love in Christ,*

*Abbot Tryphon,*

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

“Refuse to listen to the devil when he whispers to you: give me now, and you will give tomorrow to God. No, no! Spend all the hours of your life in a way pleasing to God; keep in your mind the thought that after the present hour you will not be given another and that you will have to render a strict account for every minute of this present hour.”

From *Unseen Warfare*, St. Theophan the Recluse and St. Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain