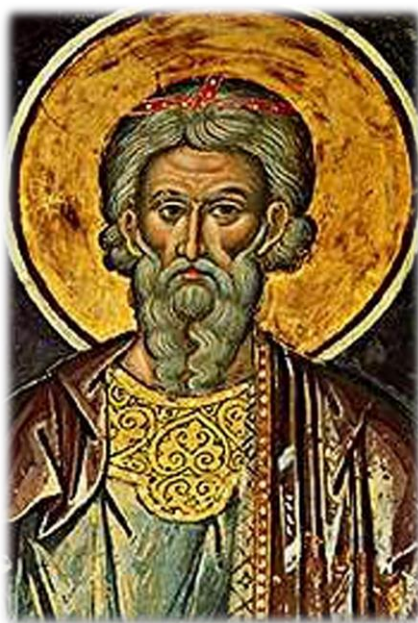


Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross  
Orthodox Church  
Williamsport, PA.



*Martyr Arethas and 4,299  
Martyrs with him*

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

October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021

# Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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## ***Today's Scripture Readings:***

*Epistle:* 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

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

***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 October 27<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm

+ *Great Vespers* – Saturday October 30<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm

+ *Divine Liturgy* - Sunday October 31<sup>st</sup> @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40), fellowship following in the Hall.

+ Giant gift cards are available! See Mat. Mary and help support the Parish!

+ *Ladies W[h]ine Fest* - Thursday October 28 @ 6pm, please see Mat. Mary if you are planning to attend.

\*\*A BIG THANK YOU for your gifts and remembering me on the anniversary of my being assigned to Holy Cross! I am grateful for your love. + Fr. Seraphim

\*\*THANK YOU to EVERYONE who had a part in our first *Parish Fall Pig Roast!!* A great time of fellowship and the food was good!!

+ 1<sup>st</sup> Official Announcement – Annual Parish Meeting – November 7<sup>th</sup>

## **Our Giving – October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Tithes/Offerings - \$1,109.00

Online Giving - \$135.00

Candle Offerings – \$51.00

**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. 😊

## **MANIFESTING THE KINGDOM**

### ***Bringing the Kingdom of God into this World***

The Gospel demands Christians usher the Kingdom of God into this world, not by political ideology, but by the individual Christian's transformation of self. This command to usher in the Kingdom of God is not about neutrality in the face of evil, but a recognition that the Church is only the Church when she is there for others. The Church must be immune from any possibility of turning the message of Christ into anything that diminishes focus on the Crucified One, for her glory, as the Church, is in Christ Crucified. "If you cannot find Christ in the beggar at the Church door, you will not find Him in the Chalice." Saint John Chrysostom

Orthodoxy is the incarnation of beauty, while political extremism is devoid of poetry and art. Political extremism destroys beauty, while the Church embodies the very essence of beauty. The Church must never surrender to any political ideology because she must always stand on the side of the weakest and poorest of society. When the Church aligns herself with one camp or another, she is in danger of being absorbed into worldly ideologies that obscure her beatific vision. Neither democratic, nor socialistic, nor monarchical forms of government, are needed for the Church to thrive, if she is committed to living out her biblical vocation of pointing to Christ Jesus, the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.

The manifestation of the Kingdom of God cannot be brought forth into this world by any political movement, nor by force of arms, but by the changing of the hearts of men and women everywhere. Only when Christ

is manifest in His people, will the Kingdom take root, and peace and justice reign in this world. The darkness cannot be overcome by any political movement, but only by the introduction of the light, the Light of Christ.

*Love in Christ,*

*Abbot Tryphon*

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

*“But I say to you,” the Lord says, “love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, pray for those who persecute you.” Why did he command these things? So that he might free you from hatred, sadness, anger, and grudges, and might grant you the greatest possession of all, perfect love, which is impossible to possess except by the one who loves all equally in imitation of God.”*

***St. Maximus the Confessor***

*“A believer in Christ needs only to realize his weaknesses and sins and ask forgiveness, and God’s love cleanses and heals all the wounds of sin. The sins of the entire world drown in the sea of God’s love, like a stone which sinks when thrown into the water. There should be no place for despondency, hopelessness or despair.”*

***Abbot Nikon Vorobiev***

*Abbot Nikon Letters to Spiritual Children p.154*

***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), Pres. Eva (Koutroulelis), Mat. Seraphima (Hunter) and the child to be born of her, Helen Maybo, Paul Beard, Evelyn Chabal, Phoebe Davis, Michael Kuzmiak, Juliana Matusiak, Elizabeth Almasy & Benjamin Almasy*

***Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!***

*Priest Narcis Stoica + 10/16, Olga Uvari + 10/23*