

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



Afterfeast of the Elevation
of the Holy Cross
15th Sunday After Pentecost
September 20th, 2020

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20; 2 Corinthians 4:6-15
Gospel: St. Mark 8:34-9:1; St. Matthew 22:35-46

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

Services, Events & Announcements

****Compline/Adult Ed. (Discussion on Morning Prayer) -
Wednesday, September 23rd @ 6pm***

****Great Vespers – Saturday, September 26th @ 5pm
(Confessions before, after or by appointment another time)***

****Divine Liturgy – Sunday, September 27th @ 10am (Hours @
9:40am) Fellowship After in the Hall***

****The beautiful flowers that have surrounded the Cross during
our Patronal Feast Days were given in memory of Michael and
Julia Stefanick.***

Our Giving – September 13th, 2020

Tithes/Offerings - \$2,424.00

Candle Offerings – \$74.00

Love Offerings - \$200.00

From Your Pastor . . .

Soon, pledge cards will be given out in the Parish, and we do this to better prepare our Parish budget for the upcoming year. Begin now to prayerfully consider how you will give back to God, for all that He has given us.

ALL that we have comes from God, and what we give back in return is a sign of our thankfulness to Him. Tithing 10% is Biblical, and the standard by which we measure what we can give financially. It is from the first fruits that we receive that we give back to God, not the leftovers. It is not just about money (although the Church does need it to operate), rather, it is the giving of ourselves totally and being thankful for the blessings that God has bestowed upon us. How thankful are we to Him?

With Love and God's Blessing,
+ Fr. Seraphim

St. Paul says, "Now this *I say*, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one *must do* just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 NASB

In his article 6 Reasons Why Tithing is Good for an Orthodox Parish, Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick says, "*When I speak of tithing here, I am referring most obviously to giving 10% of income, but for this article, you can define tithing as **serious giving**. 10% is serious for most of us. For some of us who are more affluent, 10% is not that serious, and we should do more because we can. And for some of us, 10% is unaffordable, so we need to be serious with another percentage. But the point is to be serious. So if you're not serious, get serious.*

How do you know if you're serious? Well, to start with, if you're spending more on cable TV or other forms of entertainment every

month than you're giving to the Church, it's a safe guess that you're not being serious about giving.

I love the phrase "put your money where your mouth is." It's definitely true. Jesus says almost exactly the same thing when He says, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matt. 6:21, Luke 12:34). Where we put our money proves where are hearts are. Where is your heart?"

The Eucharist: The Necessary Component to Being a Christian

The center of the Church's Eucharistic liturgy is to be found in the descent, the appearance, the divine presence of the resurrected Christ, and is central to every moment of the liturgy. As believers, the partaking of Communion is actually that moment when we are encountering the living person of the Lord who enters the congregation as "King of the universe borne invisibly over their spears by the angelic hosts."

There is a certain emptiness in trying to live the Christian life outside the life of the Church. This is because it is impossible to truly live as a Christian without the Church. The reading of the scriptures, and our commitment to prayer, are important foundations in the life of a Christian, but they are incomplete without the mystical and sacramental union we experience in our celebration of the Holy Eucharist. It is so central to the life of a Christian as to make it the necessary component to being a Christian.

With Love in Christ,

Abbot Tryphon – All-Merciful Saviour Monastery