

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



**Martyr Gallistratus &
49 Companions
16th Sunday After Pentecost
September 27th, 2020**

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

1725 Holy Cross Ln
Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701-2749
www.holycrosswilliamsport.org

Rev. Fr. Seraphim Reynolds, Pastor
Office: 570.322.3020
(c) 717.576.3503
Email: priestserafim@gmail.com

Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

Gospel: St. Luke 5:1-11

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

Services, Events & Announcements

- *Compline/Adult Ed. (Discussion on Evening Prayer) -
Wednesday, September 30th @ 6pm***
- *Great Vespers – Saturday, October 3rd @ 5pm (Confessions
before, after or by appointment another time)***
- *Divine Liturgy – Sunday, October 4th @ 10am (Hours @
9:40am) Fellowship After in the Hall***
- *Life Chain – Sunday, October 4th @ 1:30? - See Lenora Georges***
- *Crop Walk – Sunday, October 11th - See Lenora Georges***

Our Giving – September 20th, 2020

Tithes/Offerings - \$796.00

Candle Offerings – \$111.00

Love Offerings - \$30.00 / Memorial - \$50.00

From Your Pastor . . .

As I mentioned last week, Stewardship cards for 2021 are now being given out in the Parish, so we can prepare our Parish budget for 2021. Prayerfully consider how you will give back to God, for all that He has given you. If you need one mailed to you, please let me know, and we will get one to you. Let us not forget that **ALL** we have comes from God. Where do our treasures lie? How thankful are we to Him?

With Love and God's Blessing,

+ *Fr. Seraphim*

The Church: An Essential Institution

Over the years I have met people who have chosen not to join a church, choosing, rather, to “worship” at home. Some have convinced themselves church is a waste of time, and feel they can be close to God while staying home on a Sunday morning. Others believe none of the churches teach the bible according to their own interpretation, and choosing to worship in the privacy of their own home, assure themselves they won't have to hear any false teachings.

Some people have chosen to stay away from church because of past conflict with a clergyman, or perhaps got tired of hearing pleas for money, and have convinced themselves that giving to a charity is money better spent (in reality, church goers tend to outspend non-church goers in charitable giving).

In truth, God has given us the Church as the very place wherein we can grow spiritually, while enjoying the protection, and the blessings, of being in weekly contact with other believers. Just like an earthly family, we don't always enjoy the presence of other members, but it is often those difficult and uncomfortable moments that help us grow the most. As well, there are blessings

that would never be experienced, should we remain apart from fellow Christians.

In these trying times we have witnessed civil authorities telling us the Church is not an “essential institution”. Many Church leaders have chosen to allow the dictates of governments to order parishes to remain in lockdown, while liquor stores, pot shops, and even, as in the case of San Francisco, museums to be seen as essential.

In Luke 4:16, we read that Our Lord Jesus Christ was regularly in the temple, for “He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom.” It was Christ’s regular practice to go to attend and take part in corporate worship – as He always did on the Sabbath, He went to the meeting place. If Our Lord Jesus made it a priority to meet together with other believers, how can we excuse ourselves from doing the same?

Finally, the most important reason for weekly church attendance lies in the fact that it is only in the church where we can receive Holy Communion, for Our Lord went so far as to say that unless we eat of His flesh, and drink of His blood, we will have no life in us (John 6:53). It is in the reception of Holy Communion where we receive the grace needed to grow spiritually, and where we are empowered to live in all holiness and truth.

With Love in Christ,

Abbot Tryphon – All-Merciful Saviour Monastery