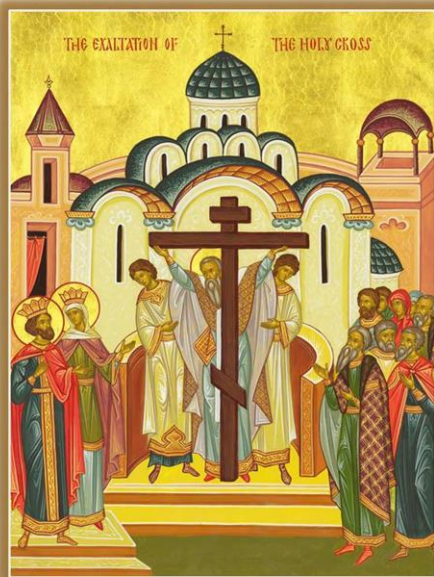


Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

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



*Forefeast of the Exaltation of  
the Precious and Life-Giving  
Cross*

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

September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021

# Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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

*Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Galatians 6:11-18*

*Gospel: St. Matthew 19:16-26; St. John 3:13-17*

***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**

**+FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS**

**+Great Vespers w/Litya – Monday Sept 13<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm**

**+Divine Liturgy w/ Procession – Tuesday Sept 14<sup>th</sup> @ 9am**

**+ Compline/Bible Study – Wednesday September 15<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm -**  
Please consider meeting with us!

**+ Great Vespers – Saturday September 18<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm**

**+ Divine Liturgy - Sunday September 19<sup>th</sup> @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40),**  
Fellowship following in the Hall.

## **Our Giving – August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Tithes/Offerings - \$1898.00

Tithes/Offerings (online) - \$175.00

Candle Offerings – \$70.00

**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. 😊

***Inspiration from the Louhs – Friday September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021***

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”

Romans 8:28

Though we often make choices in our lives that we wish we could go back and do differently, the truth is we cannot evaluate our choices in the *past*, with the knowledge and wisdom we have in the *present*. Life is an evolution of learning. Despairing over our past, only hurts our opportunity to live well in the present. And God has dreams, aspirations and goals for every relationship we are in, including the relationship we are in with ourselves.

But the enemy would love nothing more than to disrupt this incredibly important relationship that has the power to affect everything we do, including our purpose. When we give the enemy a foothold in our lives, by speaking to ourselves in self-defeating ways, (using shame and unproductive guilt to deal with our past), it creates dissonance within our soul. This dissonance subtly corrupts how we think and feel about ourselves and robs us of our worth. But God calls us toward self-compassion, to view our lives through a lens of Biblical love. This love is not earned, has no conditions, and is freely given. Therefore, “be sober-minded and watchful. Our

adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour,” 1 Peter 5-8. So if you are struggling with shame, struggling to let go of the mistakes of your past, refuse despair, refuse guilt and refuse to look at your life with judgment.

We simply cannot evaluate a decision of our past, with wisdom that could have only been gained by the growth that has brought us to the present. So, keep God’s voice of love, peace, mercy and hope as the foundation for how you speak to yourself. Let your thoughts be guided by love, because “all the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful,” Psalm 25:10. “For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more,” Hebrews 8:12.

*Rev Fr Nicholas & Dr Roxanne Louh  
St. John the Divine Orthodox Church, Jacksonville, FL.*

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***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*

***Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!***  
*Mitred Arcpriest Michael Klobosh +8/18, Archpriest Anastasy Richter +9/5, Archpriest Sergei Glagolev +9/1, Archpriest Stephen Janos +8/7, Protopresbyter Leonid Kishkovsky +8/3, Matushka Anisia Boldireff +9/1, Mat. Bonnie Jean [Ioanna] Robinson +8/19, Mat. Tresja Denysenko +8/19, Emilia Klar +9/3 & Those who gave their lives in Afghanistan +8/26*