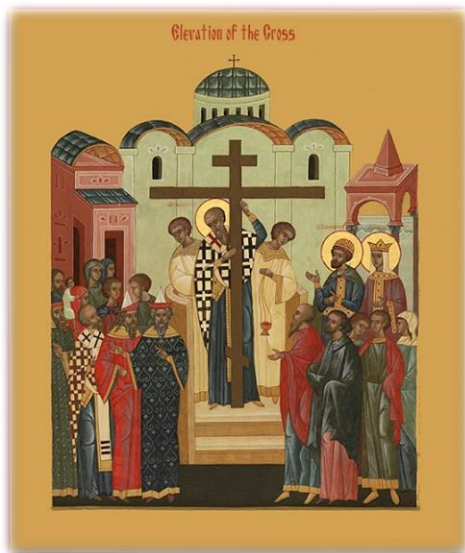


Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



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

13th Sunday After Pentecost

September 19th, 2021

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4; 1 John 4:12-19
Gospel: St. Luke 5:1-11; St. John 19:25-27; 21:24-25

JOYOUS FEAST of the Cross! *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

- + **NO** *Compline/Bible Study* this Wednesday.
- + *Great Vespers* – Saturday September 25th @ 5pm.
- + *Divine Liturgy* - Sunday September 26th @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40), Fellowship following in the Hall.
- + Need confession? Please see Fr Seraphim to setup a time.
- + Financials/Council Minutes are on the bulletin board.

Our Giving – September 12th, 2021

Tithes/Offerings - \$3312.00
Tithes/Offerings (online) - \$175.00
Candle Offerings – \$90.00
Love Offerings - \$50.00 / Choir Fund - \$25.00

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. 😊

AVOIDING ISOLATION

Community is the Essential Element to Living the Christian Life

Christianity is a communal faith, one that requires its followers to be actively involved with others. The Church's worship is communal, and salvation itself is a corporate act, one that necessitates interaction with others. One is not "saved" in a vacuum, but as part of the corporal life of the Church. Your salvation must be as much a concern to me, as is my own salvation. My relationship with Christ is not about me, but about us. Our sins are not just against God, but against the Body of Christ, the Church. Our love of God cannot be salvific if we do not love others, for just as the Lord said, "If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? (1 John 4:20)".

Given the communal nature of the Church, it is particularly alarming to see increasing numbers of people isolating themselves from others. Many have turned to the Internet as the primary source of interaction with others, finding "friendships" with people who will never be met in person. The importance of social interaction in the central square, as seen in traditional villages

where the cafe life and church were the primary source of fraternal interaction, has pointed the way to a future of increased estrangement from each other.

Isolated from others, the communal nature that is an important element in what it means to be human, is lost. It is thus imperative that we guard against the temptation of spending too much time in front of the computer, and too little time with others. The sight of young people sitting in coffee houses, together, yet apart, is troubling. Mobile phones, text messaging, iPods, communication through email, and countless hours on Facebook, leads to the furtherance of an isolation that is murdering the soul. As humans, we are meant to be together, for it is in our lives together that we grow in mind and spirit. It is in community that we learn to love God. For friendships to be limited to on-line chat rooms is a tragedy of major proportions, one that will ultimately be the ruin of society.

*Love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon*

All Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA.

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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!

Archpriest Anastasy Richter +9/5, Archpriest Sergei Glagolev +9/1, 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