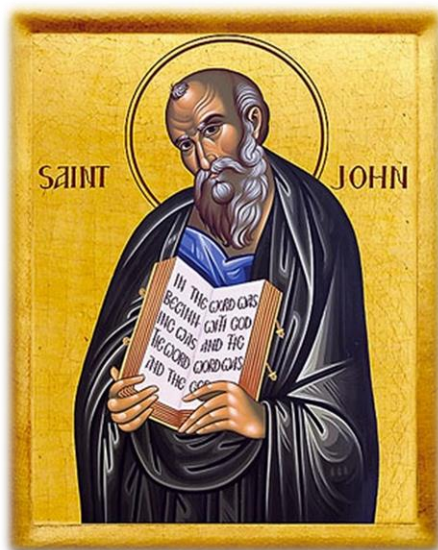


Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

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



*Rest of the Holy Apostle and
Evangelist John the Theologian*

14th Sunday After Pentecost

September 26th, 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

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 September 29th @ 5:30pm
- + *Great Vespers* – Saturday October 2nd @ 5pm.
- + *Divine Liturgy* - Sunday October 3rd @ 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.
- + *Ladies W[h]ine Fest* – Tuesday September 28th @ 6pm (See Mat.)

Our Giving – September 19th, 2021

Tithes/Offerings - \$943.00
Candle Offerings – \$100.00
Love Offerings - \$195.00

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. 😊

Laughter

Joy is the Infallible Sign of God's Presence

Although we have no written evidence that Our Lord Jesus Christ laughed, I am personally convinced that he did. How could He not have shared in our humanity with perfection had he not had a sense of humor, and shared moments of laughter with His disciples? Laughter is such a precious gift, for it allows us to share circumstances in our lives in a special way. When we allow ourselves to see with joy those often funny events that take place around us, we are able to put ourselves in a proper perspective. Our ability to laugh at ourselves helps reduce our sense of self-importance.

That a Christian can laugh in no way suggests it is proper to smile at dirty humor, or make light of another person's infirmity or failure. Our humor must never be based on ridicule, or the demeaning of another. Christ used humor when He depicted a camel struggling to get through the eye of a needle. (Matt. 19:24). And we read in Proverbs 17:22, "that a merry heart does good, like medicine".

A sense of humor demonstrates to others that we live with joy and gladness in our hearts, because we have reason to be happy.

We believe the gift of salvation is a good reason to be happy, since the Lord's ministry did not end on the Cross, but was followed by His Holy Resurrection. Living with a joyful heart adds value to our faith because it makes others want to share in the joy they see in us.

We can laugh because we know that all will work out in the end because God loves us, and we believe His providential hand is at work in our lives. We believe that God knows there is plenty of sadness, sorrow, and sickness in this life, but that it will not prevail, because His plan for our salvation is at work. The old Celtic saying, "Life is all about loving, living, and laughing, not about hating, dying, and moaning," has as its basis the Orthodox Christianity of the Celtic people. That is why it is an oxymoron for a Christian to be crabby, griping, and whining, and why "Joy is the infallible sign of God's presence".

*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