

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

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



*Holy Prophet Zachariah and Righteous  
Elizabeth, parents of Saint John the  
Baptist*

September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021

# Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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

*Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:2-12*

*Gospel: St. Matthew 18:23-35*

***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 8<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm -  
Please consider meeting with us!

+ **NATIVITY OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS - VESPERAL  
LITURGY - TUESDAY @ 5:30PM**

+ *Great Vespers* – Saturday September 11<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm

+ *Divine Liturgy* - Sunday September 12<sup>th</sup> @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40),  
Fellowship following in the Hall.

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

Tithes/Offerings - \$287.00

Tithes/Offerings (online) - \$260.00

Candle Offerings – \$98.00 / Love Offerings - \$200.00

**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 – Thursday September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021***

“The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9

The other day, a young adult was sharing with me, “I work so hard. I pray so much, and yet nothing seems to go my way,” “I’m starting to doubt God.” So I asked him, do you think you are truly doubting God, or perhaps doubting His will for your life? “I don’t doubt God, I just don’t always understand His will.” How true is this for so many when we encounter things we don’t understand? The truth is, life is full of uncertainty. And it’s so hard when things don’t go as we pray for them to or how we ourselves, will them to. At times, we work hard and yet still face closed doors, disappointments and bad luck. It’s easy in these moments to look up and question God, or start comparing ourselves to others who seem to have everything we want. Jealousy is born, doubt is born. Yet God asks us in these times, to continue to trust Him, to believe in the plans He has for us; “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future,” Jeremiah 29:11. He asks us to keep our eyes and our hearts fixed on Him, trusting that He is in our corner preparing the way; “The Lord will fight for us; we need only

to be still,” Exodus 14:14. And when we can’t see the outcome, He reminds us that, “what we will be, has not yet been made known,” 1 John 3:2 .

So as we continued to talk about His doubt and how to trust in God, the clouds began changing and shifting and suddenly, as clear as day, all that could be seen was a huge cross in the sky that could not be missed (see image below). Alongside this monumental cross, was his phone sounding the alarm for his daily scripture inspiration which read, “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts,” Isaiah 55:8-9. In this moment, he just teared up and said, “I know God is with me.”

So if you are facing one obstacle after another, and nothing is going according to your plans, don’t let doubt overtake you, or let defeat overwhelm you. God too, is with you. He is holding you in the palm of His hands. He has created you for good works, which were “prepared in advance for you,” and His ways are always better than our ways. So, let us remember in the face of things we just don’t understand, to “trust in the Lord with all our heart and lean not on our own understanding; in all our ways submit to Him, and He will make our paths straight,” Proverbs 3:5-6

*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 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, Preotessa Maria Parau +7/25, Aaron Gingo +7/28, Those who gave their lives in Afghanistan +8/26