

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



St. Gregory Palamas

Archbishop of Thessaloniki

2nd Sunday of Great Lent

March 20th, 2022

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Hebrews 7:26-8:2; Hebrews 1:10-2:3
Gospel: St. Mark 2:1-12; St. John 10:9-16

A very warm welcome to everyone, and especially to all our visitors this morning! Please join us for some fellowship after in the Parish Hall!

Services, Events & Announcements

+ **Presanctified Liturgy** – Wed March 23rd @ 5:30 (9th Hour @ 5:20) Lenten potluck following

++ Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos ++

+ Vespers Liturgy – Fri March 25th @ 5:30 (9th Hour @ 5:20) Lenten potluck following

+ *Great Vespers* – Saturday March 26th @ 5pm

+ *Divine Liturgy – Sunday of the Precious Cross* - March 27th @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40), a Lenten fellowship following in the Hall.

Our Giving – March 13th, 2022

Tithes/Offerings - \$2,077.00 / Online Giving - \$125.00
Candle Offerings – \$112.00 / Love Offerings - \$20.00

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 everyone too.*** If you have any questions about Communion, please see Fr. Seraphim. 😊

Fruitless Discussions

The Power and Influence of Good Deeds

“For it is the will of God, that with well-doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men” (1 Peter 2:15).

Bishop Nikolai Velimirovic tells us in *The Prologue from Ochrid* that we are better off if we do not engage others in lengthy debates and fruitless discussions, but that we can better change their hearts by our love and good deeds. Arguing with others, even over matters of faith, is usually a fruitless venture, rarely leading the other to ponder the truth of your words. Better to demonstrate truth by holiness of life, patience, and kindness in our response. Entering into heated words most often leads to a standoff, where only the demons win in the end.

“It is difficult, my brethren, to dispute with an atheist; it is difficult to converse with a stupid man; it is difficult to change an embittered man. It is only with the greatest difficulty that you will convince an atheist, a stupid man, or an embittered man, with words.”

“If you argue with an atheist on his own diabolical terms, you simply strengthen the demon of atheism. If you converse with a stupid man in a spirit of derision, the darkness of stupidity will be

made the greater. If you think to change a bitter man by anger, you will merely add more fuel to the fire of bitterness.”

Responding to the embittered man, the angry man, or the stupid man, while hoping to win him over, does nothing for him, and eventually gives power to the demon who would devour the man’s soul, and consume your own. Thinking you have to prove the correctness of your point of view does nothing for truth, but only gives power to the demons of pride, anger, and stupidity. The power and influence of good deeds always wins out in the end.

With love in Christ,

Abbot Tryphon

All Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA.

"In this time of fasting and prayer, brethren, let us with all our hearts forgive anything real or imaginary we have against anyone. May we all devote ourselves to love, and let us consider one another as an incentive to love and good works, speaking in defense of one another, having good thoughts and dispositions within us before God and men. In this way our fasting will be laudable and blameless, and our requests to God while we fast will be readily received."

-St. Gregory Palamas, excerpt from Homily Seven: "On Fasting"

Prayers For the Health and Salvation of those in need: Many Years!

His Eminence Archbishop Mark, Priestmonk Ambrose (Young), Abbot Tryphon, Mitred-Archpriest Nicholas (Harris), Mitred-Archpriest Daniel & Mat. Myra (Kovalak), Archpriest Moses (Berry), Pres. Eva (Koutroulelis), Presbytera Rosy (Tanveer), Helen Maybo, Paul Beard, Evelyn Chabal, Phoebe Davis, Michael Kuzmiak, Juliana Matusiak, the Newly Illumined Anna & Isaac & those suffering in the Ukraine.

Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!

Archpriest George Hnatko +2/13, Protodeacon Sergius Miller +3/16, Mat. Carol Janecek +2/14, & those who have lost their lives in the Ukraine.