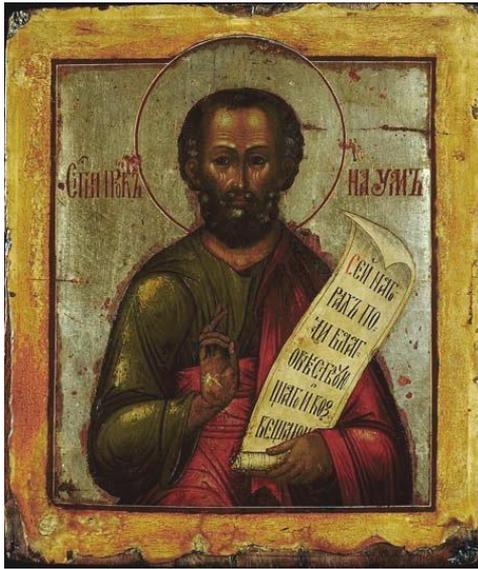


DIocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Diocese

**ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
ORTHODOX CHURCH
WILLIAMSPORT, PA.**



PROPHET NAHUM

**RIGHTSUS PHILARET THE MERCIFUL OF
AMHIA IN ASIA MINOR**

DECEMBER 1ST, 2019

ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS ORTHODOX CHURCH

1725 Holy Cross Ln
Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701-2749

Rev. Fr. Seraphim Reynolds, Pastor
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Mr. Michael (Cory) Chelko, Parish President
Mr. Dan Thetford, Vice President

Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22

Gospel: St. Luke 18:18-27

Welcome to ALL our visitors and guests this morning! Please, come over to the Hall after Liturgy for some food & fellowship!!

Services, Events & Announcements

++Wed. Dec 4th – Daily Vespers @ 6pm (Adult Ed.)

++ *Feast of St. Nicholas – Dec 6th* ++

++Thurs. Dec 5th – Great Vespers w/Litya @ 6pm

++Fri. Dec 6th – Divine Liturgy @ 10am

****Sat. Dec 7th – Church decoration/Children's Activities @ 9am**

++Sat. Dec 7th – Great Vespers @ 5pm (Confessions)

++Sun. Dec 8th – Divine Liturgy @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40)

****Tues. Dec 10th – Baklava Baking (See the bulletin board)**

****Sun. Dec 15th – Parish Bake Sale during Fellowship Hour!!**

++Sun. Dec 22nd – Baptism of Azariah Keegan Federoff

****Sun. Dec 22nd – St. Tikhon’s Bookstore is coming!!**

LAST SUNDAY – Nov 24th

Attendance 43 - Regular Offering - \$511.00

Candles - \$57.01 / Love Offering - \$1.00

NEXT SUNDAY – Dec 8th

Reading of the Epistle – Subdeacon Anthony

From Your Pastor . . .

During this Advent season, let us consider our spiritual state. The times of fasting that the Church offers is an excellent time to visit Our Lord in confession. I am available for confession often, so let me know if you have a time and day. We have heard that this is a time of preparation, a time to prepare the “cave of our hearts” as we await the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us prepare and be ready for His arrival!

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.* ☺

It’s a Wonderful Life

One of the most beloved movies ever made was Frank Capra’s, “It’s a Wonderful Life”. Staring Jimmy Stewart as George Bailey, the movie tells the story of an ever-optimistic man, who, while facing life’s hardships, set aside his own dreams in order to help others, only to witness a run on his bank. Feeling he’d failed his family, his friends, and the bank’s customers, and that he was about to lose everything, George found himself struggling with the idea of committing suicide on Christmas Eve.

At the point in the movie where George utters the words, “It would have been better had I never been born”, his guardian angel,

Clarence, played by Henry Travers, shows George all the lives he has touched and how different life in his community of Bedford Falls would have been, had he never been born. George is allowed the gift of seeing firsthand the lives he has touched, and as a result learns to understand the miracle of family and friendship.

“It’s a Wonderful Life” has become a favorite movie to watch for countless Americans during the holiday season, for the message is timeless. All of us have had moments where we felt we just couldn’t go on, and suicide seemed like the only logical solution. As a young man I experienced a terrible period of depression and despair, and attempted suicide. Yet, when I hear from others how my daily blog and Ancient Faith Radio podcast, both under the banner, “The Morning Offering”, have helped so many people, it is unfathomable that I was ever that despairing young man. Yet perhaps it is because I was that young man, that I am able to sympathize with those who are suffering and help them see that this dark time can be the very catalyst for a bright future.

It has been my experience that we are all called, at some time or another, to be Clarence, that funny guardian angel who points out the worth of another person, and reaches out with a loving embrace, and soothing words of comfort, and support. If, as Clarence, we pay attention to the fact that many people’s high expectations for happiness will fall short, leaving them lonely and despairing, our own acts of kindness, words of encouragement, and smile of acceptance, will make all the difference in the world, and we will become that signpost pointing the way to a bright and happy future.

With Love in Christ, Abbot Tryphon

All Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA.

You can visit & sign up for Abbot Tryphon’s daily blog “The Morning Offering” at www.blogs.ancientfaith.com/morningoffering/