

DIOCESE OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA + WILKES-BARRE DEANERY

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



29TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS

HOLY PROPHET Haggai

DECEMBER 16TH, 2018

ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS ORTHODOX CHURCH

1725 Holy Cross Ln
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Today's Scripture Readings:
Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11
Gospel: St. Luke 14:16-24

A VERY WARM welcome to EVERYONE this morning to our visitors and guests! Please join us over in the Parish Hall after the Liturgy for some fellowship!

Services, Events & Announcements

*****Parish Council Meeting, Wednesday Dec 19th @ 6pm***

*****Compline (Evening Prayers) w/confessions Friday Dec 21st @ 6pm***

*****Great Vespers, Saturday Dec 22nd @ 5pm***

*****Divine Liturgy, Sunday Dec 23rd @ 10am***

*****Services for the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ:***

Vigil - Monday Dec. 24th @ 6pm

Divine Liturgy - Tuesday Dec. 25th @ 10am

*****Baklava pickup TODAY in the Parish Hall. Anyone interested in helping with baking, and/or pierogi making, please see Chris Sinatra or call 570-745-7740***

****Bake Sale/Craft Sale – TODAY during Fellowship Hour with all the proceeds going to our Parish Education Fund.**

****St. Tikhon's Bookstore is with us today in the Parish Hall during Fellowship Hour! Thank you for coming and being with us!**

****Need to go to Confession during this Advent Season? There are many times available to do this. Let us make an extra effort to celebrate this wonderful Sacrament as we prepare for the Birth of Our Savior. If you would like to make an appointment for confession, please see Fr. Seraphim. ☺**

+ Please take a moment and fill out the *Stewardship and the Time and Talent* cards, if you have not already. When completed, they can be given to Council Warden, Anthony (Eric) Affsprung.

LAST SUNDAY – Dec 9

Attendance 55 - Regular Offering – \$2,792.00

Candles – \$124.00, Monthly Special – \$251.00

NEXT SUNDAY – Dec 23

Reading of the Hours – Nicholas O.

Reading of the Epistle – Herman (Ed) A.

Fellowship Hour

Dec. 23rd – Michael (Cory) C. & Joel S.

Dec 30th – Mat. Mary & Beth Y.

We Are Not Alone

As we struggle in this life, it is good to remember that we are not alone, but together with countless others in this life. We find our place of silence, where we encounter God, but even in this place set apart, we are together with others.

In our journey to God, our common goal is the acquisition of a humble and contrite heart, and our common homeland is found in the Divine Liturgy, wherein we enter Paradise, and participate in the Heavenly Banquet, together.

In our moments of loneliness and despondency, we are not alone. We are together with other Orthodox Christians in our celebration of life, and even in our encounter with death. Even when we seem so alone, we are together with others, for in Christ we are one. The Lord loves all of us together, for we are all His children. Our struggles are our common struggles, and we are all, together, surrounded by His loving kindness.

Even death cannot separate us from our loving God, and from one another, for even in death we are united together with other Christians. And at the moment we receive the Holy Mysteries, the unity we have is that very unity that God has designed for us that will last for all eternity, for the Divine Liturgy is when time and space cease to exist as we know it, and all of creation is united in worship before the Throne of Our Creator.

*Love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon
All Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA*

Regarding Holy Communion: Only those faithful who are Orthodox Christians and have properly prepared themselves by fasting, prayer, confession, who were at least present for the reading of the Epistle and Gospel and are at peace with one another should approach to receive the Holy Eucharist. Questions? Please see Fr. Seraphim.