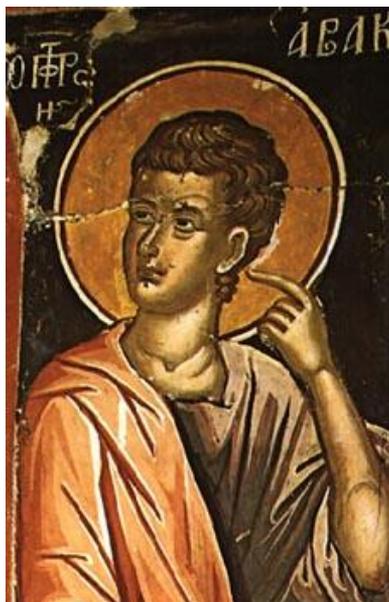


DIocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Diocese

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



**27<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**PROPHET HABBAKUK**

**MARTYR MYRSUS**

**DECEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2018**

# 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. Eric Affsprung, Parish Warden*  
*Mr. Dan Thetford, Asst Warden*

***Today's Scripture Readings:***  
*Epistle: Ephesians 6:10-17*  
*Gospel: St. Luke 18:18-27*

*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***

***\*\*Feast of St Nicholas, Vespers Dec 5<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm, Divine Liturgy Dec 6<sup>th</sup> @ 10am***

***\*\*Great Vespers, Saturday Dec 8<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm***

***\*\*Divine Liturgy, Sunday Dec 9<sup>th</sup> @ 10am***

***\*\*Compline (Evening Prayers) w/confessions Friday Dec 7<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm***

***\*\*Daily Vespers w/Orthodoxy 101, Wednesday Dec 12<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm***

***\*\*Many Years to Andrew Evick, having entered the catechumenate this morning! Please keep him in your prayers.***

***\*\*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.*

**+** *As we prepare the budget for 2019, please take a moment and fill out a **Stewardship Card**, and the **Time and Talent inventory**. Please pray and ask the Lord how you might give of yourselves for the work of His Church.*

***LAST SUNDAY – Nov 25***

*Attendance 65 - Regular Offering – \$1,221.00*

*Candles – \$91.00, Monthly Special – \$121.00*

***NEXT SUNDAY – Dec 9***

*Reading of the Hours – Nicholas O.*

*Reading of the Epistle – Herman A.*

*Fellowship Hour – Fish & Pelesh*

*Fellowship Hour Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> – Beth Y. & Yvonne B.*

*Fellowship Hour Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> – Cory C. & Joel S.*

**Regarding Holy Communion:** Only those faithful who are Orthodox Christians and have properly prepared themselves by fasting, prayer and confession, and who were at least present for the reading of the Epistle and Gospel, should approach to receive the Holy Eucharist. If you would like to make an appointment for confession, **please** see Fr. Seraphim. ☺

**Parish Contacts:**

**Eric Afsprung, Parish Warden - 570-412-4438**

**Dan Thetford, Asst. Warden - 724-544-5029**

**Chris Sinatra, Auxiliary Pres. - 570-745-7740**

**Beth Yonkin, Fellowship Hour - 570-447-8030**

***The Ultimate Sickness***

This world is the place of preparation for our life in eternity, the place where we are prepared for the Kingdom that is to come. Within this world, Our Lord Jesus Christ established a hospital in which the

medicine for the cure of our sickness is available, and this hospital of the soul is none other than the Church.

This world does not provide the medicine for that which ails us, for the only medicine that can heal us, is Christ Himself. If we are unwilling to receive this medicine, we will never be healed, and will never know the joys of the eternal Kingdom that awaits us. This illness that awaits a cure is unbelief, and this unbelief is based on our failure to avail ourselves to the medicine that is abundantly available within the life of the Church.

Belief comes as a free gift from a God Who “so loved us that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him, will have eternal life (John 3:16)”. All we need to do is cooperate with God’s grace, and unbelief will disappear.

When we receive the Word of God into our heart, we, like the Apostle Thomas, will have touched His wounds, and will know the Lord, personally. When we confess our sins, and receive Christ into our life, we will have thrust our hand into His side, and we will believe. Unbelief, at this very moment in time, will have no place to reside in our heart, and like the Apostle Thomas, we will know the peace that comes with a life in Christ.

“You need not be despondent. Let those be despondent who do not believe in God. For them sorrow is burdensome, of course, because besides earthly enjoyment they have nothing. But believers must not be despondent, for through sorrows they receive the right of sonship, without which it is impossible to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. (Saint Barsanuphius of Optina).”

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