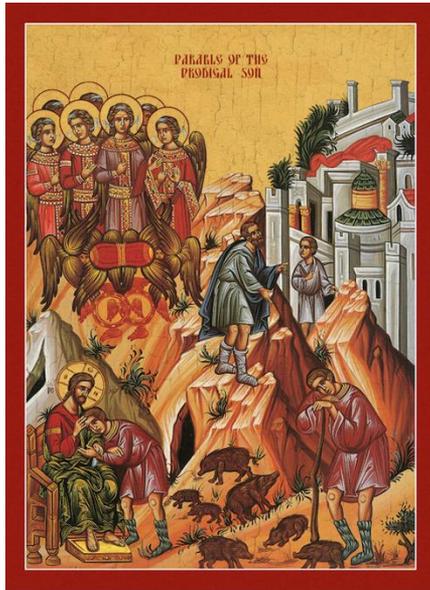


Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

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



## Sunday of the Prodigal Son

### Martyr Pamphylus

February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020

# 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  
Dr. Theodore Federoff, Vice President

## *Today's Scripture Readings:*

*Epistle:* 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

*Gospel:* St. Luke 15:11-32

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

## Services, Events & Announcements

- ++Weds. Feb 19<sup>th</sup> – Daily Vespers (Adult Ed/Orth 101) @ 6pm**
- ++Sat. Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> – Great Vespers @ 5pm (Confessions)**
- ++Sun. Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> – Divine Liturgy (Hours @ 9:40)**
- \*\*Parish Council - Thursday Feb 20<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm**
- \*\*Choir Practice – Saturday Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> after Vespers**
- ++Forgiveness Vespers – Sunday Mar 1<sup>st</sup> @ 5pm**

## Our Giving – Feb 9<sup>th</sup>

Attendance 48 - Regular Offering - \$3131.00

Candles - \$59.00 / Love Offering - \$215.00

*From Your Pastor . . .*

*If you would like to have your home blessed, please see Fr. Seraphim to arrange a day and time.*

*Also, on Wednesdays after Vespers, please think about joining us as we explore what “prayer” is about. We are using the book “Beginning to Pray” by Met. Anthony Bloom (available from your favorite bookstore) and also look at some Orthodox prayers. If you are looking for a prayer book, we have copies of the new “Orthodox Christian Prayers” from St. Tikhon’s for \$20.*

**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 this, please see Fr. Seraphim.**



***What should be our attitude toward icons and other sacred things?***

One of the attributes of God is holiness, and is reflected in His people, and in physical objects that have been blessed by the Church for the use of His people in their journey towards Him. Therefore, reverence for these sacred objects and images is the manifestation of the relationship between ourselves and God. “And ye shall be holy unto me: for I the Lord am holy... (Leviticus 20: 26).” Icons of Christ, His Holy Mother, the saints, or depictions of biblical events, are not just art objects, popular today, but disposable tomorrow, but are vehicles for God’s sustaining grace.

As Orthodox Christians, we should make it a rule never have arguments, or engage in improper behavior before the images of the saints, and instill in children, from the earliest of age,

reverence for the holy icons. Not only do we call upon the saints for their heavenly intercession, but their icons serve as reminders that Christ has called us to repentance, and the deification of each human soul.

Under no circumstance can such an icon, even one that has not been blessed, be simply thrown away. A holy item, even if it has lost its original appearance, should always be treated with reverence.

If an icon's condition has rendered it unfit for use and it cannot be restored, it should be taken to the church, where it can be burned in a furnace or special place set aside for the disposal of holy things. If this is not possible, you should burn the icon yourself, and bury the ashes in a place that will not be sullied or disturbed, such as in a cemetery or under a tree in the garden.

Our patronal icon should be held in particular reverence, for following baptism, we each have a special bond with our personal saint. Parents should make it a tradition to bless their children with the child's personal icon, as they set off for a new year at school, an extended journey, or when they leave home, to start their own family. Family members should be sure to bring at least a few icons into the hospital room or the nursing home, of their loved one, so a person's own departure from this life can take place in the presence of their personal icons.

Holy oils, and any other blessed articles used in the home, should always be treated with the uttermost reverence, and, like the icons, never be improperly disposed of. Those things, like bottles of holy oil, that cannot be burned, should be placed in the ground, always in a place that will not be used for something else.

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