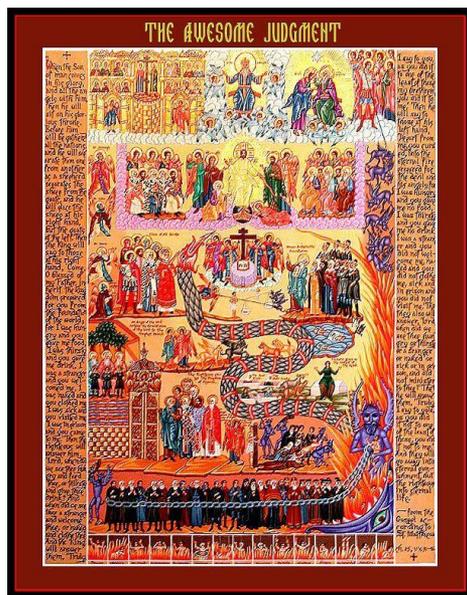


Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



Sunday of the Last Judgment

Holy Martyr Polycarp

February 23rd, 2020

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

1725 Holy Cross Ln
Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701-2749

Rev. Fr. Seraphim Reynolds, Pastor
Office: 570.322.3020
(c) 717.576.3503
priestserafim@gmail.com

Mr. Michael (Cory) Chelko, Parish President
Dr. Theodore Federoff, Vice President

Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:9-9:2

Gospel: St. Matthew 25:31-46

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 26th – Daily Vespers (Adult Ed/Orth 101) @ 6pm

****Choir Practice – Saturday Feb 29th @ 3:30pm**

++Sat. Feb 29th – Great Vespers @ 5pm (Confessions)

++Sun. Mar 1st – Divine Liturgy (Hours @ 9:40)

++Forgiveness Vespers – Sun. Mar 1st @ 5pm++

++ Great Canon of St Andrew – Mon. Mar 2nd – Thurs. Mar 5th @ 6pm

++Pre-Sanctified Liturgy – Friday Mar 6th @ 6pm

Our Giving – Feb 16th

Attendance 69 - Regular Offering - \$1738.00

Candles - \$71.77 / Love Offering - \$50.00

Memorial - \$100.00

From Your Pastor . . .

Great Lent is upon us, as Forgiveness Vespers is next Sunday. What are we going to do differently from the previous year? If we are weak in our fasting, let us ask Our God to help us. Maybe, we need to attend more of the Services that are being offered? The point of it all is to draw us closer in our relationship with God, and not to make our daily life harder. Anytime you would like to chat with me concerning our Lenten practices (or anything else), just let me know. I will be more than happy to meet with you.

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.



The Church: A spiritual hospital, a clinic, a hospice, a therapeutic center, and a fitness center

Our Orthodox Church has always seen herself as a hospital for the soul, the place where her children can seek healing. It is within her walls that we find the medicine we need to make us holy (whole), and where we can find the means for transformation that opens the doors to the Kingdom of God. It is within her walls that we gain access to our true inheritance and enter into communion with God.

Adolf Harnack, in his book “The Mission and Expansion of Christianity: The First Three Centuries”, wrote,

“Christianity never lost hold of its innate principle; it was, and it remained, a religion for the sick. Accordingly, it assumed that no one, or at least hardly anyone, was in normal health, but that men were always in a state of disability.”

Christ is the Great Physician and established His Church that we might all be healed of the sickness that has separated us from the Father. Nothing in this world offers this promise of healing, and nothing in this world can open the gates to Paradise. Only through Christ’s Church can we hope to be saved, and only through His Church can heaven and earth be united as one.

In the Church we find combined in one, a spiritual hospital, a clinic, a hospice, a therapeutic center, and a fitness center, for treatment to provide the spiritual cure, maintain wellness for its patients (faithful members). Is it any wonder, then, that the Church should be the very center of each and every day, taking precedence over everything else, including work, leisure time, and entertainment?

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

“A little spiritual reading or study, when carried out prior to prayer, is very helpful because the soul is warmed and the mind is transported to the spiritual realm.”

*St. Paisios of Mount Athos
Spiritual Councils IV: Family Life p.165*