

DIocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Diocese

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



37TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ZACCHAEUS SUNDAY

HIEROMARTYR HARALAMBOS

FEBRUARY 16TH, 2019

ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS ORTHODOX CHURCH

1725 Holy Cross Ln
Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701-2749

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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: 1 Timothy 4:9-15

Gospel: St. Luke 19:1-10

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

**Daily Vespers - Wednesday, Feb 13th @ 5:30pm (Orthodoxy IOI after Vespers)

**Great Vespers - Saturday, Feb 16th @ 5pm

**Divine Liturgy - Sunday, Feb 17th @ 10am

**Next weekend Feb 16/17 we are blessed to once again have Mr. Jacob Mandell visiting and helping with the choir. He will be leading a workshop on the basics of singing in a choir. Anyone interested in joining with the choir are invited to come! A schedule for the workshop will be announced soon. ☺

**The weekly Parish bulletin can now be accessed on the Parish website homepage. www.holycrosswilliamsport.org. While you are there, please sign up for our Parish Email List. ☺

LAST SUNDAY - Feb 3

Attendance 61 - Regular Offering - \$6086.00

Candles - \$106.00 Monthly Special - \$90.00

IOCC - \$289.00 Memorial Gift - \$30.00

NEXT SUNDAY - Feb 17

Reading of the Hours - Nicholas O.

Reading of the Epistle - Herman A.

Fellowship Hour

Feb 17th - Almasy & Beard

Feb 24th - Pam P. & Aislinn A.

Mar 3rd - ?? Meatfare Sunday

A Word from Your Pastor . . .

Today as we install our new Parish Council for 2019, I want to say THANK YOU to those who are leaving after many years of fruitful service to our Parish! You all have been a real blessing to me, especially since my coming to Holy Cross. I am deeply grateful and cannot say it enough.

House Blessings are still happening! If you would like to have your home blessed, please see the calendar sign-up sheets on the candle counter. Also, please make sure that you pick up a copy of "You Want to Bless My House?" Please consider this wonderful opportunity to get to know your Pastor better. If you have any questions, please see me.

If any Parish member is interested in the business of our Church, you are most welcome to attend to our monthly Council Meetings. Our next one is Thursday Feb 21st @ 6pm.

With Love and God's Blessing,

+ *Fr. Seraphim*

Anything that is quickly obtained is also easily lost. . . by Abbot Tryphon

Americans are not a particularly patient people, as demonstrated by the fact that the fast food industry began with us. We don't tolerate slow service, thus much of the food we consume is prepared before we order it. We drive our

car to a window, order our food, and expect it to be ready, without delay, at the next window. If we be church goers, we expect the service to end within one hour, on the dot. Our gardens are filled with flowers that come fully grown, are dropped into the soil, and look good from the very first watering. No waiting around for the germination of seeds, we want instant beauty.

If an appliance breaks down, we buy a new one, rather than wait a week for repairs. We throw ourselves into the latest fad diet promising fast weight loss, only to see the weight come back after we've tired of the menu. We don't apprentice for a career but walk out of a university with the expectation our career will begin on day one. Many of our children are allowed to dress in adult pop fashion, resulting in the loss of innocence, and the precious sweetness of childhood is transformed into a sort of miniature adult.

Since we have grown accustomed to having everything happen quickly, and without delay, we also expect our spiritual lives to be on the same quick time line. We don't have the patience to build upon the knowledge of the holy fathers, so we don't practice regular spiritual reading. Our church attendance is limited to the essential Sunday Liturgy, and even then, we arrive late and perhaps leave before the Thanksgiving Prayers have been concluded. If fasting is difficult for us, we don't fast at all. If keeping a Prayer Rule is tedious, we don't try at all to develop a set time for our prayers. If our mind wanders during prayer, we let it, avoiding even the least amount of struggle.

If we hope to make progress in the spiritual life, it is good to remember the words of Saint Isaac the Syrian, "For anything that is quickly obtained is also easily lost, whereas everything found with toil is also kept with careful watching."

Love in Christ,

Abbot Tryphon

All Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA