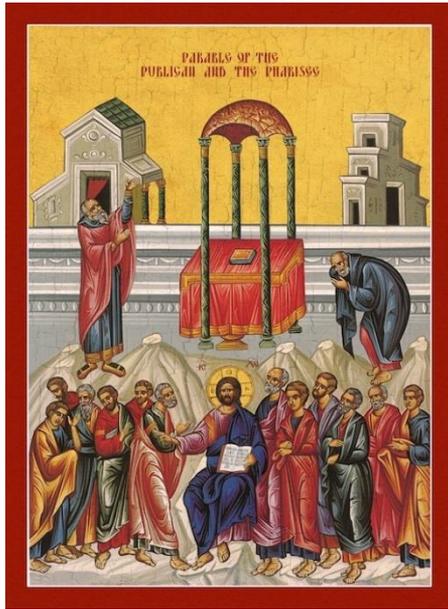


**ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
ORTHODOX CHURCH
WILLIAMSPORT, PA.**



**38TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN & THE
PHARISEE**

FEBRUARY 17TH, 2019

ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS ORTHODOX CHURCH

1725 Holy Cross Ln
Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701-2749

Rev. Fr. Seraphim Reynolds, Pastor
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Today's Scripture Readings:
Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15
Gospel: St. Luke 18:10-14

Welcome to EVERYONE this morning to our visitors and guests, and we especially welcome Mr. Jacob Mandell, helping with our choir! Please join us over in the Parish Hall after the Liturgy for some fellowship!

Services, Events & Announcements

**Daily Vespers - Wednesday, Feb 20th @ 5:30pm (Orthodoxy 101 after Vespers)

**Great Vespers - Saturday, Feb 23rd @ 5pm

**Divine Liturgy - Sunday, Feb 24th @ 10am

**Parish Council Meeting will be this Thursday, Feb 21st @ 6pm . . . any member is welcome to attend.

**This week is a *FAST FREE* week as we prepare for Great Lent (Mar. IIth)

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 10

Attendance 68 - Regular Offering - \$2674.00

Candles - \$115.25 Monthly Special - \$242.00

NEXT SUNDAY - Feb 24

Reading of the Hours – Mat. Mary

Reading of the Epistle – Anthony A.

Fellowship Hour

Feb 24th - Pam P. & Mat. Mary

Mar 3rd - Meatfare Potluck *Meatfare Sunday*

Mar 10th – Yvonne B. & Elizabeth Y. *Cheesefare Sunday*

A Word from Your Pastor . . .

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 have any concerns or questions, please see Fr. Seraphim. ☺

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.

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.

With Love and God's Blessing,

+ *Fr. Seraphim*

The Saints are Alive in Christ Jesus. . . *by Abbot Tryphon*

Vigil lights are placed before the icons of the saints, according to Saint Symeon the New Theologian, as a way of showing that without the Light, Who is Christ, the saints are nothing. It is only as the light of Christ shines on them that they become alive and resplendent.

The saints show us what a glorious destiny we have in God, and through the example of their lives, point the way to our becoming “partakers of divine nature.” The saints, as the cloud of witnesses in heaven, are present in the divine services, worshipping the Holy Trinity with us. They, as our friends, intercede before the Throne of God on our behalf, having won the good fight, and we are encouraged by the memory and example of their lives, as we struggle on our own path to God. It has been said that there are two kinds of people in the world: sinners who think they are saints, and saints who know they are sinners. A saint is a Christian who lets God’s light shine through, and who’s life has been transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

We venerate the Saints as we seek their intercession with God, but we adore and worship only God in Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We venerate the Images (Icons) as well as the relics of the saints and martyrs. Yet according to the decisions and Canons of the Seventh Ecumenical Council, this veneration relates not to the icons as such, but to their prototypes, or to the persons whom they represent.

The interior walls of our temples are adorned with the icons and frescoes of the saints as a reminder that we are surrounded by the cloud of witnesses, the saints, and that the Church Militant (here on earth) is not separated from the Church Triumphant (in heaven). In Christ, death does not divide us, for the saints are not dead, but alive in Christ Jesus. Glory to Jesus Christ, Who is glorified in His saints.

Love in Christ,

Abbot Tryphon

All Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA.