

DIocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Diocese

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



**35<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
RIGHTEOUS GOD-BEARER SIMON &  
ANNA THE PROPHETESS  
FEBRUARY 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2019**

# 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. Eric Affsprung, Parish Warden - 570-412-4438*  
*Mr. Dan Thetford, Asst Warden - 724-544-5029*

***Today's Scripture Readings:***  
*Epistle: 1 Timothy 1:15-17*  
*Gospel: St. Matthew 15:21-28*

*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 6<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm (Orthodoxy 101 after Vespers)***

***\*\*Great Vespers – Saturday, Feb 9<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm***

***\*\*Divine Liturgy – Sunday, Feb 10<sup>th</sup> @ 10am***

***\*\*Souper Bowl of Caring **TODAY** Sunday Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>! You can drop off items for a local food pantry and we will also take up a collection for IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) at the end of today's Liturgy. Thank you ALL for your generosity.***

***\*\*The weekly Parish bulletin can now be accessed on the Parish website homepage. [www.holycrosswilliamsport.org](http://www.holycrosswilliamsport.org). While you are there, please sign up for our Parish Email List. ☺***

**\*\*Please stay tuned for information concerning choir practice next Saturday Feb 9<sup>th</sup>. We will once again have Mr. Jacob Mandell visiting and helping us. Anyone interested in singing with the choir are invited to come!**

**LAST SUNDAY – Jan 27**

**Attendance 61 - Regular Offering – \$2217.00**

**Candles – \$133.55 Monthly Special – \$20.00**

**Memorial Gift - \$100.00**

**NEXT SUNDAY – Feb 10**

**Reading of the Hours – Methodios Y.**

**Reading of the Epistle – Jason F.**

**Fellowship Hour**

**Feb 10<sup>th</sup> – Strayer & Gavlock**

**Feb 17<sup>th</sup> – Almasy & Beard**

**Feb 24<sup>th</sup> – Pam P. & Aislinn A.**

***A Word from Your Pastor . . .***

***Please do not forget about our shut-ins and those who we have not seen for some time. Write them a note, call them or maybe visit with them and let them know that we care about them. ☺***

***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.***

***I want to thank everyone who attended the Annual Parish Meeting last Sunday. If any member is interested in the business of the Parish, you are most welcomed to attend to our monthly Council Meetings. Our next one is Thursday Feb 21<sup>st</sup> @ 6pm.***

***With Love and God’s Blessing,***

***+ Fr. Seraphim***

*Our Life is Incomplete Without the Church . . . by Abbot  
Tryphon*

There is a certain emptiness in trying to live the Christian life outside the life of the Church. This is because it is impossible to truly live as a Christian without the Church. The reading of the scriptures, and our commitment to prayer, are important foundations in the life of a Christian, but they are incomplete without the mystical and sacramental life that is found within the Church.

If we hope to grow spiritually, we will take advantage of the Mysteries that are found only within the Church. Without the Mystery of Penance, and the absolution of the Church, we have no hope of transformation and holiness, for without the corporate life of the Church, our sins keep us captive. Without the Mystery of Christ's Body and Blood, received during the celebration of the Church's Divine Liturgy, the healing of the soul remains undone, and salvation is next to impossible.

The center of the Church's Eucharistic liturgy is to be found in the descent, the appearance, the divine presence of the resurrected Christ, and is central to every moment of the liturgy. As believers, the partaking of Communion is actually that moment when we are encountering the living person of the Lord who enters the congregation as "King of the universe borne invisibly over their spears by the angelic hosts." This act is so central to the life of a Christian, as to make it the necessary component to being a Christian.

*Love in Christ,*

*Abbot Tryphon*

*All Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA*