

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



*Forefeast of the Dormition
of the Most Holy Theotokos*

August 14th, 2022

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 3:9-17
Gospel: St. Matthew 14:22-34

A very warm welcome to everyone, and especially to our visitors this morning! Please join us after in the Fellowship Hall!

Services, Events & Announcements

- + Feast of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos – Divine Liturgy - Monday August 15th @ 9am**
- + Compline/Bible Study - Wednesday August 17th @ 5:30**
- + Parish Council Meeting – Thursday August 18th @ 5:30**
- + Great Vespers – Saturday August 20th @ 5**
- + Divine Liturgy - Sunday August 21st @ 10 (Hours @ 9:40) Fellowship following**
- + Thank you to Paul Beard and his crew for the beautiful landscaping on the property this past week!!**

Our Giving – August 7th, 2022

Tithes/Offerings - \$2,355.00 / Online Giving - \$1,125.00
Candle Offerings – \$49.00 / Love Offerings - \$200.00 (collections through August will benefit Phoebe Davis and her children)

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 Communion, please see Fr. Seraphim. 😊

The Feast of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos

The Dormition of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary: After the Ascension of the Lord, the Mother of God remained in the care of the Apostle John the Theologian, and during his journeys She lived at the home of his parents, near the Mount of Olives. She was a source of consolation and edification both for the Apostles and for all the believers. Conversing with them, She told them about miraculous events: the Annunciation, the seedless and undefiled Conception of Christ born of Her, about His early childhood, and about His earthly life. Like the Apostles, She helped plant and strengthen the Christian Church by Her presence, Her discourse and Her prayers.

The reverence of the Apostles for the Most Holy Virgin was extraordinary. After the receiving of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, the Apostles remained at Jerusalem for about ten years attending to the salvation of the Jews, and wanting moreover to see the Mother of God and hear Her holy discourse. Many of the newly-enlightened in the Faith even came from faraway lands to Jerusalem, to see and to hear the All-Pure Mother of God.

During the persecution initiated by King Herod against the young Church of Christ (Acts 12:1-3), the Most Holy Virgin and the Apostle John the Theologian withdrew to Ephesus in the year 43. The preaching of the Gospel there had fallen by lot to the Apostle John the

Theologian. The Mother of God was on Cyprus with Saint Lazarus the Four-Days-Dead, where he was bishop. She was also on Holy Mount Athos. Saint Stephen of the Holy Mountain says that the Mother of God prophetically spoke of it: "Let this place be my lot, given to me by my Son and my God. I will be the Patroness of this place and intercede with God for it."

The respect of ancient Christians for the Mother of God was so great that they preserved what they could about Her life, what they could take note of concerning Her sayings and deeds, and they even passed down to us a description of Her outward appearance.

According to Tradition, based on the words of the Hieromartyrs Dionysius the Areopagite (October 3) and Ignatius the God-Bearer (December 20), Saint Ambrose of Milan (December 7) had occasion to write in his work "On Virgins" concerning the Mother of God: "She was a Virgin not only in body, but also in soul, humble of heart, circumspect in word, wise in mind, not overly given to speaking, a lover of reading and of work, and prudent in speech. Her rule of life was to offend no one, to intend good for everyone, to respect the aged, not envy others, avoid bragging, be healthy of mind, and to love virtue. (from the website oca.org)

Prayers For the Health and Salvation of those in need: Many Years!

Priestmonk Ambrose (Young), Abbot Tryphon, Mitred-Archpriest Nicholas (Harris), Mitred-Archpriest Daniel & Mat. Myra (Kovalak), Archpriest Moses (Berry), Pres. Eva (Koutroulelis), Pres. Rosy (Tanveer), Helen Maybo, Paul Beard, Evelyn Chabal, Phoebe Davis, Michael Kuzmiak, Juliana Matusiak, Catherine Mann, & those suffering in Ukraine

Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!

Archimandrite Duane Pederson +7/20, Archpriest Alexander Padlo +8/2, Monk Arseny +7/30, Matushka Helen Ziatyk +7/10, Matushka Patricia Bohush +8/2, Matushka Anne Hopko +8/4, & those who have lost their lives in Ukraine