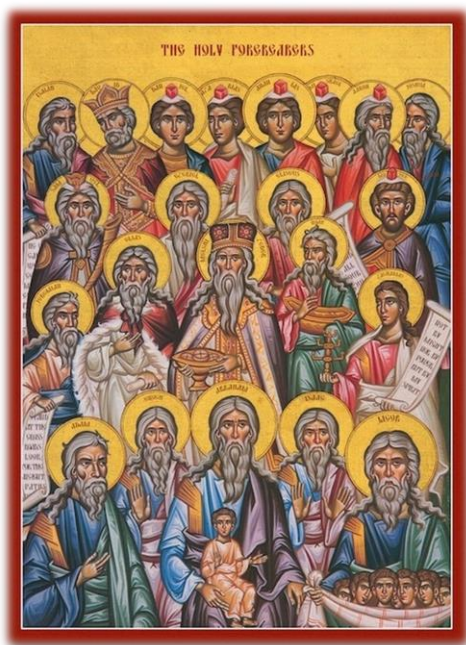


Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

26th Sunday After Pentecost

December 11th, 2022

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11

Gospel: St. Luke 14:16-24

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

Services, Events & Announcements

- + **"AN EVENING WITH FR TIMOTHY HOJNICKI"** – Tues Dec 13th @ 5:30 . . . Refreshments following in the Hall
- + *Compline / Bible Study* (Book of Acts) – Wed Dec 14th @ 5:30
- + *Parish Council Meeting* – Thurs Dec 15th @ 5:30
- + *Great Vespers* – Sat Dec 17th @ 5
- + *Divine Liturgy* - Sun Dec 18th @ 10 (Hours @ 9:40) Fellowship following in the Hall / Orthodoxy 101
- + *St Ann Food Pantry* items are being collected in the narthex.

Our Giving – December 4th, 2022

Tithes/Offerings - \$2,438.00 / Online Giving - \$145.00

Candle Offerings – \$77.00 / Benevolence - \$10.00

Memorial - \$150.00

Thank you for all that you give!

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 everyone too.* If you have any questions about Communion, please see Fr. Seraphim.

✚ *Has it been a while since your last confession? Months ago? Let us be prepared and ready for the Nativity of Our Lord.* 😊

Words from Fr Seraphim . . .

“There is a fine line I think between an “excuse” and giving an explanation - with an apology - for something. Giving an excuse always has along with it a sense of deception. There is no sincerity, honesty or genuineness involved. Mother Pelagia (+1884) once said, “. . . *give an explanation if it is helpful; certainly, always make apology for what you have done wrong, but avoid excuses like the plague!*”

The ironic thing about all this is that we may think we can fool our spouse, our children, and our friends. BUT, in the end we are truly hurting ourselves, because God KNOWS the intent of our hearts, and this IS the most important thing for us to remember.

So, my friends, what are we going to do about this? The very sobering part in today’s Gospel is the last verse when Jesus says, “. . . I say to you, that none of these men who were invited shall taste my supper.” Let us pray fervently, that we will not be like these men in our lives.

Just because we confess Holy Orthodoxy, this is not a guarantee of the Kingdom. In fact, it makes us more accountable and responsible for the things expected of us. To whom much is given, much will be required.

We are now two weeks away from the Feast of the Nativity, and that means we have 12 days left to prepare our hearts for the Newborn Christ. If you are on track, keep going. If you are struggling, hang in there. If you have not started, start today. But above all else, do not make excuses. Because, when our life comes to an end, and we stand in judgment before God, excuses are not going to work.”

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), Paul Beard, Evelyn Chabal, Phoebe Davis, Michael Kuzmiak, Juliana Matusiak, Elias Ciaccio, Elizabeth Wadsworth, Gary Larson, Sebastian Fillar, Infant John, Isaac Bannister & those suffering in Ukraine

Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!
Protodeacon Paul Erickson +11/8, Matushka Mary Perove +11/24, Matushka Emily Shuga +12/7, Richard Schneider +11/11 & Those who have given their lives in Ukraine

Looking for a unique gift or need to buy groceries (or maybe gas)? See Mat. Mary and pick up some Giant gift cards! Our Parish receives 5% of the sales of these cards, and it's a simple way to generate a little income for our Parish. Available in denominations of \$25 or \$100. Stocking stuffers??

