

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross
Orthodox Church
Williamsport, PA.



Greatmartyr Barbara

Venerable John of Damascus

December 4th, 2022

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Ephesians 4:1-6

Gospel: St. Luke 17:12-19

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

Services, Events & Announcements

- + **FEAST OF ST NICHOLAS** - Vespers Liturgy - Mon Dec 5th @ 5:30
- + *Compline / Bible Study* (Book of Acts) - Wed Dec 7th @ 5:30
- + *Parish Open House* - Fri Dec 9th from 5 - 7
- + *Great Vespers* - Sat Dec 10th @ 5
- + *Divine Liturgy* - Sun Dec 11th @ 10 (Hours @ 9:40) Fellowship following in the Hall / Orthodoxy 101
- + *St Ann Food Pantry* items are being collected in the narthex.
- + *Has it been a while since your last confession? Let us be prepared and ready for the Nativity of Our Lord.* 😊

Our Giving - November 27th, 2022

Tithes/Offerings - \$1,141.00 / Online Giving - \$145.00

Candle Offerings - \$75.00

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

† **Holy Great Martyr Barbara (290)**

“Saint Barbara was from Heliopolis of Phoenicia and lived during the reign of Maximian. She was the daughter of a certain idolater named Dioscorus. When Barbara came of age, she was enlightened in her pure heart and secretly believed in the Holy Trinity. About this time Dioscorus began building a bath-house; before it was finished he was required to go away to attend to certain matters, and in his absence Barbara directed the workmen to build a third window in addition to the two her father had commanded. She also inscribed the sign of the Cross with her finger upon the marble of the bath-house, leaving the saving sign cut as deeply into the marble as if it had been done with an iron tool.

When the Synaxarion of Saint Barbara was written, the marble of the bath-house and the cross inscribed by Saint Barbara were still preserved, and many healings were worked there. When Dioscorus returned, he asked why the third window had been added; Barbara began to declare to him the mystery of the Trinity. Because she refused to renounce her faith, Dioscorus tortured Barbara inhumanly, and after subjecting her to many

sufferings he beheaded her with his own hands, in the year 290.”

(source www.abbamoses.com)

“Here on earth we are given the chance to conquer all evil with peace and stillness. We can have peace when we live in surroundings that are peaceful and quiet, but that peace is not as stable and as permanent as the peace we acquire while living in chaotic conditions.”

Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica

Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives: The Life and Teachings of Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica, p.154

“Though we may live in the midst of the world with all its noise and distractions, it is not primarily our surroundings that dictate whether or not we live in quietude, but our inner approach and behavior. If we respond to the noise of the world with a quiet mouth and gentle spirit, quiet stillness is created in our heart.”

Bishop Irenei Steenberg

The Beginnings of a Life of Prayer p.96

(Source www.orthodoxquoteoftheday.com)

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 & those suffering in Ukraine

Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!
Igumen Victorin (Torrez Martinez) +10/23, Protodeacon Paul Erickson +11/8 & those who have lost their lives in Ukraine