

Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania
Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross
Orthodox Church
Williamsport, PA.



Venerable Paul of Thebes
Saint Ita, Hermitess of Killeedy

January 15th, 2023

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Scripture Readings:
Epistle: 1 Timothy 1:15-17
Gospel: St. Luke 18:18-27

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

- + *Compline/Bible Study* - Wednesday January 18th at 5:30
- + *Parish Council* – Thursday January 19th at 5:30
- + *Great Vespers* – Saturday January 21st at 5pm
- + *Divine Liturgy* - Sunday January 22nd at 10am (Hours @ 9:40), fellowship following in the Hall. Church School / Orthodox 101
- + *House Blessings* are now going on! If you would like to have your home blessed (*before Lent*), please see Fr. Seraphim to set up a day and time. 😊

Our Giving – January 8th, 2023

Tithes/Offerings - \$2,018.00 / Online Giving - \$145.00
Candle Offerings – \$87.00 / Benevolence - \$200.00

Thank you all for your generosity!

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. 😊

Saint Ita, Hermitess of Killeedy

Saint Ita, “the Foster Mother of the Irish Saints,” was born in the fifth century. She, like many of the Irish saints, was of the nobility. Her parents were devout Christians who lived in County Waterford. She founded a school and convent at Killeedy (Cille Ide) which still bears her name near Newcastle West in Co. Limerick. A holy well still marks the site of her church.

When she decided to settle in Killeedy, a local chieftain offered her a grant of land for the support of the convent, which Saint Ita accepted and cultivated. The convent became known as a training ground for young boys, many of whom became famous churchmen. She received Saint Brendan the Voyager (May 16) when he was only a year old, and kept him until he was six. She also cared for her nephew Saint Mochaemhoch (March 13) in his infancy. She called him “Pulcherius,” because he was such a handsome child.

Many people sought her spiritual counsels, and she also seems to have practiced medicine to some degree. Her life was spent in repentance and asceticism.

Saint Ita once told Saint Brendan that the three things most displeasing to God are: A face that hates mankind, a will that clings

to the love of evil, and placing one's entire trust in riches (Compare Proverbs 6:16-19).

The three things most pleasing to God are: The firm belief of a pure heart in God, the simple religious life, and liberality with charity.

Saint Ita fell asleep in the Lord in 570. Her Feast Day is a local holiday in the district, and her name is a popular one for Irish girls. (www.oca.org)

"If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world." James 1:26-27

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!

Mitred-Archpriest Sergius Kuharsky +1/5, Archpriest Theodore Panchak +12/30, Matushka Theodora Davis +12/26, Matushka Emily Shuga +12/7, Joseph Wojtkielewicz +1/9 & Those who have given their lives in Ukraine