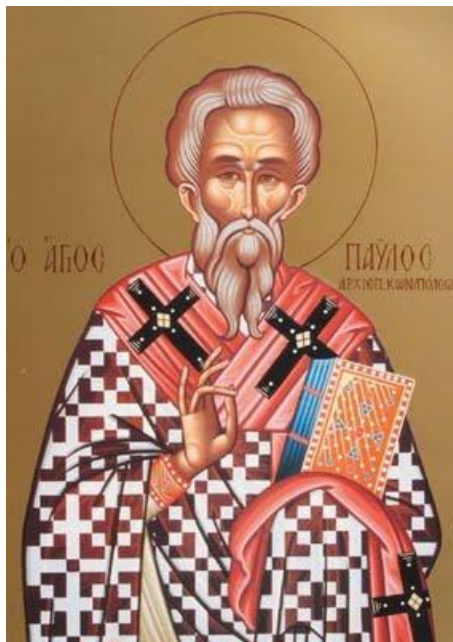


Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

# Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



*Saint Paul the Confessor,  
Archbishop of Constantinople*

November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

# Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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## ***Today's Scripture Readings:***

*Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20*

*Gospel: St. Luke 8:41-56*

***A very warm welcome to our visitors this morning!  
Please join us after in the Fellowship Hall!***

## **Services, Events & Announcements**

+ *Compline and Bible Study* – November 9<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30 We are studying the Book of Acts . . . please join us!

+ *Great Vespers* – Saturday November 12<sup>th</sup> @ 5

+ *Divine Liturgy* - Sunday November 13<sup>th</sup> @ 10 (Hours @ 9:40)  
Fellowship following in the Hall / Orthodoxy 101

+ **3<sup>RD</sup> OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT** - *Parish Annual Meeting – TODAY November 6<sup>th</sup>*

+ *Please remember and thank all our Veterans this Friday Nov 11<sup>th</sup>!*

## **Our Giving – October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

Tithes/Offerings - \$1,061.00 / Online Giving - \$150.00

Candle Offerings – \$52.00

Memorial Fund - \$250.00 (Helen Maybo)

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

### ***Theosis: The Meaning of Salvation in the Ancient Church***

According to Protopresbyter George Metallinos, Dean of the Athens University School of Theology, "For we Orthodox the unique and absolute goal of life in Christ is theosis, our union with God, so that man - through his participation in God's uncreated energy - may become "by the Grace of God" that which God is by nature (without beginning and without end). This is what "salvation" means, in Christianity."

As Christians we know that salvation is an ongoing process that, as believers, we are called to cooperate in. We are instructed to "Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17). The Apostle Paul made clear the necessity of human cooperation when he told us to "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure (Philippians 2:1-13)".

Our salvation is a process by which we become more and more like Christ. Our faith is a free gift from God, not dependent upon anything we can do, but this life long process of salvation requires that we cooperate with God's grace, that we might be transformed by the Holy Spirit, and made holy. If we are to spend eternity with God, transformation must take place.

The sole purpose of the Church is the salvation of every human person, whereby we are united to Christ, and transformed by Him in all holiness, and prepared for eternal life. Through the Church we hear the Good News, that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, and that he rose from the dead, and because of this we have eternal life. This work of salvation is a gradual, life-long process by which Christians become more and more like Christ. Our salvation begins the moment we commit ourselves to Christ, and within the abounding grace of the Holy Spirit, we are ever drawn closer in communion with God.

Theosis goes far beyond the simple restoration of people to their state before the Fall. Because Christ united the human and divine natures in his person, it is now possible for us to experience closer fellowship with God than Adam and Eve initially experienced in the Garden of Eden. Some Orthodox theologians go so far as to say that Jesus would have become incarnate for this reason alone, even if Adam and Eve had never sinned.

*With love in Christ, Abbot Tryphon, All-Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA.*

***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, Catherine Mann, Elias Ciaccio, Elizabeth Wadsworth, Gary Larson, & those suffering in Ukraine*

***Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!***

*Igumen Victorin (Torrez Martinez) +10/23, Priest Andrew Diehl +10/15, Helen Maybo +10/11 & those who have lost their lives in Ukraine*