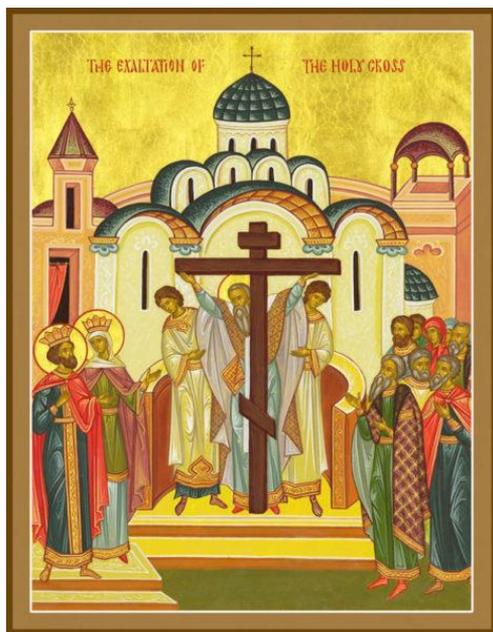


Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



*Afterfeast of the Elevation of
the Holy Cross*

September 18th, 2022

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

1725 Holy Cross Ln
Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701-2749
www.holycrosswilliamsport.org

Rev. Fr. Seraphim Reynolds, Pastor
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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4; Galatians 2:16-20
Gospel: St. Matthew 22:1-14; St. Mark 8:34-9:1

JOYOUS FEAST!!

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

Services, Events & Announcements

+ THANK YOU TO FR. LEONID SCHMIDT FOR SERVING AND BEING WITH US THIS WEEKEND!

+ *NO Compline and Bible Study this week*

+ *Great Vespers – Saturday September 24th @ 5*

+ *Divine Liturgy - Sunday September 25th @ 10 (Hours @ 9:40)*
Fellowship following in the Hall

+ *Deanery Parish Retreat at Holy Trinity Wilkes-Barre – Oct 1st*
Please let Fr know if you want to go by Sept 24.

+ *Do you know someone who does not attend Church? Invite them to come with you! 😊*

Our Giving – September 11th, 2022

Tithes/Offerings - \$619.00 / Online Giving - \$925.00

Candle Offerings – \$81.00 / Love Offerings – \$170.00

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 SPIRITUAL EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

From: **Letters on the Spiritual Life**

The Exaltation of the Lord's Cross has arrived. Then the Cross was erected on a high place, so that the people could see it and render honor to it. Now, the cross is raised in the churches and monasteries. But this is all external. There is a spiritual exaltation of the cross in the heart. It happens when one firmly resolves to crucify himself, or to mortify his passions—something so essential in Christians that, according to the Apostle, they only are Christ's who have crucified their flesh with its passions and lusts (cf. Gal. 5:24). Having raised this cross in themselves, Christians hold it exalted all their lives. Let every Christian soul ask himself if this is how it is, and let him hearken to the answer that his conscience gives him in his heart. Oh, may we not hear, "You only please your flesh in the passions; your cross is not exalted—it is thrown into the pit of the passions, and is rotting there in negligence and contempt!"

When the Lord was taken down from the Cross, the Cross remained on Golgotha, and then it was thrown into the pit that was in that place, where this instrument of execution was usually thrown, together with other refuse. Soon Jerusalem was razed

and all of its edifices were leveled to the ground. The pit containing the Cross of Christ was also filled over. When the pagans rebuilt the city (the Jews were forbidden to come near the place where it was), it happened that on the place where the Cross of Christ was hidden, they placed an idol of Venus, the pagan Goddess of fornication and all manner of lusts. This is what the enemy suggested to them. This is how it is with our inner cross. When the enemy destroys the spiritual order in the soul, this is our mental Jerusalem, and then the spiritual cross is thrown down from the Golgotha of the heart and is covered over with the garbage of the affections and lusts. Lustful self-pleasure then rises like a tower over all our inner peace, and everything in us bows down to it and fulfills its commands until grace shines upon us, inspiring us to cast down the idol and lift up the cross of self-crucifixion.

St. Theophan the Recluse

Translated by Pravoslavie.ru/OrthoChristian.com

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

Archbishop Melchisedek, 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, Elias Ciaccio & those suffering in Ukraine

Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!

Met. Herman +9/6, Met. Kallistos +8/24, Archpriest John Reeves +8/22, Sophia Cohen +9/7 & those who have lost their lives in Ukraine