

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

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



*Sunday Before the Nativity of  
Our Lord Jesus Christ*

**27<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

**December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

# Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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

*Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40*

*Gospel: St. Matthew 1:1-25*

***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**

- + *St Ann Food Pantry* items are being collected in the narthex.
- + *Ladies' Christmas Party* – Mon Dec 19<sup>th</sup> @ 6
- + *Parish Council Meeting* – Tues Dec 20<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30
- + *Compline / Bible Study* (Book of Acts) – Wed Dec 21<sup>st</sup> @ 5:30
- + **THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST** +
  - + *Holy Supper* – Sat Dec 24<sup>th</sup> @ 4 +
  - + **VIGIL FOR THE NATIVITY – DEC 24<sup>TH</sup> @ 5:30** +
  - + **DIVINE LITURGY – DEC 25<sup>TH</sup> @ 10 (HOURS @ 9:40)** +*Light Fellowship* (coffee & cookies) following in the Hall

## **Our Giving – December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

Tithes/Offerings - \$2,631.00 / Online Giving - \$245.00

Candle Offerings – \$96.00 / Benevolence - \$150.00

Memorial - \$100.00 / Flower Fund - \$50.00

Christmas Offering - \$130.00

***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 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 . . .**

“Some say that Christmas is a time for children, and it is. Do you remember what it was like as a kid as Christmas Day drew near? Little children approach Christmas with a humble yearning and with great excitement. This is EXACTLY how ALL of us are to approach this Day! If we are cynical about our Faith, and our hearts are full of sin, we will miss what Christmas is about. “Christ comes to be born not in a haughty palace decked with jewels and precious stones, but in a humble manger. So too will He not enter the hearts of the proud, but only those who are humble and “poor in spirit” Matt. 5:3”

When the time had come for the Virgin to give birth, they could find no place except a stable, a cave where animals were kept. This begs the question, have we a place for Our Lord in our lives? Or is there a “no vacancy” sign posted?

In these last days before we celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord, let us reflect on WHY He came, and WHY we need Him. My prayer for all of us is simply this: to open our hearts and

prepare for the coming of the Newborn King and to recognize the importance of WHY we need a Saviour. May we rejoice with ALL the Angelic hosts, the Shepherds, the Magi and all the others who longed for His coming. If we cannot rejoice over this, we will truly miss out on the blessings as we celebrate the birth of Our Lord God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Let us thank Him for our salvation.

*“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”*  
Isaiah 7:14

***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??

