

DIocese of EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA + WILKES-BARRE DEANERY

**ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS  
ORTHODOX CHURCH  
WILLIAMSPORT, PA.**



**35<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
TRANSLATION OF THE RELICS OF  
ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM  
JANUARY 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2015**

# **ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS ORTHODOX CHURCH**

1725 Holy Cross Ln  
Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701-2749

*Rev. Fr. Seraphim Reynolds, Pastor*  
*Office: 570.322.3020*  
*(c) 717.576.3503*  
*priestserafim@gmail.com*

*Mr. Eric Affsprung, Parish Warden - 570-412-4438*  
*Mr. Dan Thetford, Asst Warden - 724-544-5029*

***Today's Scripture Readings:***  
*Epistle: Colossians 3:12-16*  
*Gospel: St. Matthew 25:14-30*

*Welcome to EVERYONE this morning to our visitors and guests! Please join us over in the Parish Hall after the Liturgy for some fellowship!*

## **Services, Events & Announcements**

***\*\*Daily Vespers - Wednesday, Jan 30<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm (Orthodoxy 101 after Vespers)***

***Feast of the Meeting of Our Lord in the Temple***

***\*\*Great Vespers - Friday, Feb 1<sup>st</sup> @ 5:30pm***

***\*\*Divine Liturgy – Saturday, Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 10am***

***\*\*Great Vespers – Saturday, Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 5pm***

***\*\*Divine Liturgy – Sunday, Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 10am***

***\*\*Today is our Annual Parish Meeting, to take place in the Hall after Liturgy (during Fellowship Hour). Please come over and be a part of this most important work in our Parish life.***

***\*\*Souper Bowl of Caring next Sunday Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>! Please bring an item for a local food pantry and we will also take up a collection for IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities).***

***\*\*Pierogi making will be happening this week! Anyone who would like to help, please see Chris Sinatra or any of the Pierogi team.***

***\*\*If you have not already, please pick up your Offering/Tithe envelopes for 2019 in the Parish Hall.***

***\*\*The weekly Parish bulletin can now be accessed on the Parish website homepage. [www.holycrosswilliamsport.org](http://www.holycrosswilliamsport.org)***

***LAST SUNDAY – Jan 20 (Winter Storm)***

***Attendance 18 - Regular Offering –  
Candles – Monthly Special –***

***NEXT SUNDAY – Feb 3***

***Reading of the Hours – Nicholas O.  
Reading of the Epistle – Jason F.***

***Fellowship Hour***

***Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> – Armstrong / Lamprino***

***Feb 10<sup>th</sup> – Strayer & Gavlock***

***Feb 17<sup>th</sup> – Almsy & Beard***

***A Word from Your Pastor . . .***

***House Blessings are still happening! If you would like to have your home blessed for this new year, please see the calendar sign-up sheets on the candle counter. Also, please make sure that you pick up a copy of “You Want to Bless My House?” Please consider this wonderful opportunity to get to know your Pastor better. If you have any questions, please see me.***

***With Love and God’s Blessing,***

***✠ Fr. Seraphim***

*The Salvific Role of Suffering in Our Lives . . . by Abbot Tryphon*

I received words of encouragement from a brother priest in our diocese and wanted to share it with my readers. Father Alexander quoted the words of Saint John of Kronstadt, who wrote: “Rejoice, O Christian when you feel the weight of your cross! That means that you have one, for a Christian without a cross is not a Christian.”

These words of Saint John were especially meaningful to me, for I’ve been struggling for more than a year with a cross that has sometimes seemed too overwhelming for me to bear in my weakness, leaving me with temptations to walk away, and head to some remote place on the Oregon coast, where I could live out the remainder of my life as a hermit. This too often has seemed to be the only solution for a certain sadness that has sometimes overtaken me.

Elder John of Valaam once counseled a spiritual child who was suffering, not to try and come up with reasons on his own why suffering befell him. The Elder John said it is all too easy to ascribe things “to our sins” or even worse because “we are suffering for the truth”. Instead we are to humble ourselves beneath what God’s Providence sends our way and respond as best we can with gratitude, diving beneath the waves of life in humility, as the Psalmist teaches.

The words of these great saints are a reminder that I am where God has placed me, and the suffering that has befallen me is, indeed, my cross, and has been permitted by God. And, I am reminded of the words of Mother Gavrilia, who said, “Not knowledge you learn, but knowledge you suffer. That’s Orthodox spirituality.” So, I remain where I am, and rest on the knowledge that God is with me in my suffering, and that I have in Christ, a Co-Suffering Saviour.

Even a monk of forty years can give in to the temptation of despair, but my faith tells me to stay the course, and trust that whatever suffering comes my way, is for my salvation.

*Love in Christ,  
Abbot Tryphon*

*All Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA*