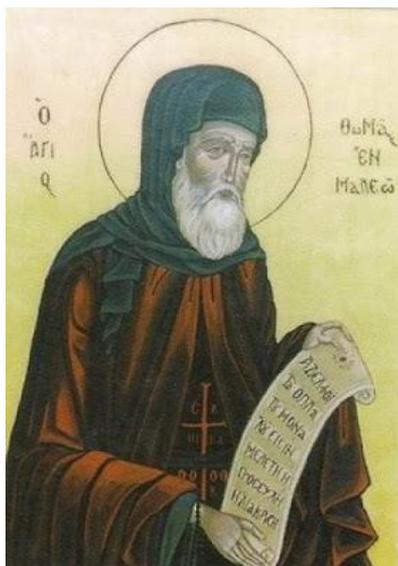


DIocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Diocese

ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS ORTHODOX CHURCH WILLIAMSPORT, PA.



VENERABLE THOMAS OF
MT. MALLESH
JULY 7TH, 2019

ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS ORTHODOX CHURCH

1725 Holy Cross Ln
Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701-2749

Rev. Fr. Seraphim Reynolds, Pastor
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Mr. Michael (Cory) Chelko, Parish Warden
Mr. Dan Thetford, Asst Warden

Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Romans 5:1-10

Gospel: St. Matthew 6:22-33

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

Services, Events & Announcements

****Wednesday July 10th Vespers @ 6pm**

****Saturday July 13th Great Vespers @ 5pm**

****Sunday July 14th Divine Liturgy @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40)**

****Sunday July 14th, The FOCA Annual Knoebel's Family Picnic -
Arrive at the Park after Liturgy, a Hamburger/ Hot Dog dinner
will be served at 6pm in Pavilion K. No need to RSVP, \$5 per
person, children under 6 FREE.**

****Parish Council Meeting - Tuesday July 16th @ 6pm**

****Anyone interested in baking *prosfora* (the breads used for
our Services) please see Fr. Seraphim for details. We need
some folks to help with this important ministry in the
Church.**

LAST SUNDAY - **June 30th**

Attendance 67 - Regular Offering - \$2817.00

Candles - \$110.025 / Love Offering - \$95.00

Benevolence - \$100.00 / Memorial - \$150.00

NEXT SUNDAY - **July 14th**

Reading of the Epistle - Anthony A.

++Please check the bulletin board in the Hall for information on local events, Parish schedules and recent Parish Council Minutes.

From Your Pastor . . .

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.** ☺

Please remember that when you go on vacation this Summer, please continue to send/bring your tithe to Church. While you are away, our Parish continues to carry on with the weekly obligations of maintaining everything.

If you are traveling and looking for an Orthodox Parish to attend, you can visit www.orthodoxyinamerica.org and locate a Parish in the area.

While the weather is getting warmer, and the temptation is to wear less, please remember that modest dress is expected in the Church. We are blessed to have air conditioning, so there is no reason to wear shorts or immodest clothing.

*With Love & God's Blessing,
+ Fr. Seraphim*

In confession we humble ourselves before another person

It is only out of delusion we believe we do not need others to see, understand, and treat our spiritual sickness. Anyone who believes that he alone can cure his spiritual diseases has isolated himself from a Mystery of the Church and will come to ruin. Only with the help of others are we saved, for within the Christian faith, salvation comes not in a self-focused void, but in the collective nature that is the Church. The Mystery of Confession, established by Our Lord, is a clear sign of the biblical truth that we need the Church, and we need the Mystery of Confession.

In confession we do not simply regret past evil but recognize the darkened vision of our own condition, in which sin, by separating us from God, has reduced us to a divided, autonomous existence, depriving us of both our natural glory and our true freedom. “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9

The Sacrament of Confession is important because on it constitutes the cure of spiritual illness. Since the goal of the Christian life is transformation in Christ, ridding ourselves of the corrupt and diseased fallen self, it must begin with the death of the ego. We humble ourselves before the priest, when we confess our sins, for it is not just that Christ hears us. Christ hears us because of our act of humility in baring our souls in front of another person. Thus, Scripture establishes confession, recounts Christ’s gift of authority to the Apostles and their successors to bestow forgiveness to penitents and exhorts us to confess even to one another (James 5:16), since through one another we achieve humility and, mystically, this joins us to Christ.

With Love in Christ, Abbot Tryph

All Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA.