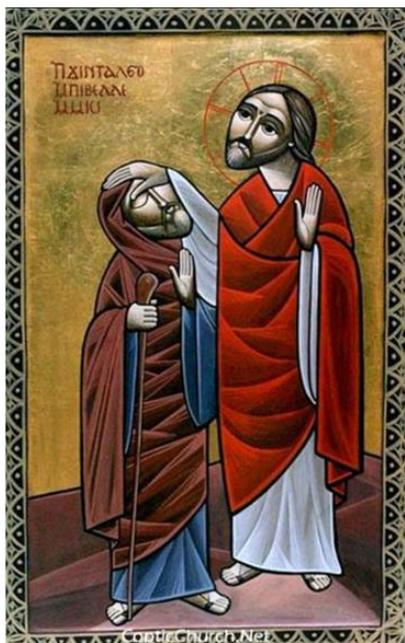


DIOCESE OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA + WILKES-BARRS DEANERY

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



**SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN
JUNE 2ND, 2019**

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. Michael (Cory) Chelko, Parish Warden
Mr. Dan Thetford, Asst Warden

Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Acts 16:16-34

Gospel: St. John 9:1-38

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

*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

****Wednesday June 5th Great Vespers @ 6pm (NO Orthodoxy 101)**

****Thursday June 6th Feast of the Ascension - Divine Liturgy @ 10am**

****Saturday June 8th Great Vespers @ 5pm**

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

****Saturday June 15th @ 12Noon - Appreciation Luncheon for ALL the Pierogi crew! Please sign up in the Hall!**

****Any youth interested in attending Summer Camp, please let Fr. Seraphim know ASAP.**

LAST SUNDAY – **May 26th**
Attendance 60 - Regular Offering - \$591.00
Candles - \$153.00 / Love Offerings - \$1.00
Auxiliary Pledge – \$2,000.00

NEXT SUNDAY – **June 9th**
Reading of the Epistle – Jason F.

Fellowship Hour
June 2nd – Almasy / Beard
June 9th – Chelko / Andrew S.
June 16th – Fish / Pelesh

Help with clean-up after our meals together is greatly appreciated, so let's ALL help each other! ☺

What to Do When We Are Broken

It is only human to become despondent when we have failed in keeping to our moral, ethical and spiritual standards, succumbing, instead, to temptation. Our Orthodox Faith teaches that we must be compassionate towards others, loving, quick to forgive, exemplar in our Christian living, and always demonstrating to the world that we belong to Christ. Yet we also know we fail, most of the time, in living up to the standards of the Gospels, appearing no different than the pagans.

We look to the example of the saints and wonder why we seem so far removed from their Christ-like example of living the Gospels. Over and over, we sink in the muck and mire of sin, becoming broken, downtrodden, and sick. In our brokenness we betray the Gospels, our own standards of behavior, and the expectations of others. We know the truth of the words, “There is none good but One, that is, God (Matthew 19:17),” because we fail, over and over, in our own seeming inability to live as we believe.

We know we have been called to holiness by Christ, and that He gives us the strength, courage, and even the ability, to live

our lives out in holiness. Yet, try as we might, we find ourselves utterly failing to live the Gospels, failing in our witness before others, and letting down our friends and family, with behavior that is anything but an example of Gospel living. We are broken, bordering on despair.

Nevertheless, even as we struggle with our sins, we must remember that we were specifically created by God for participation in His Divinity. We have been called by Him, and have become a Royal people, specifically created to participate and share fully in the life of God. The key to this life in God is to be found in repentance. Even in our brokenness, we must not give in to despondency, for our Saviour is quick to forgive. When we have found ourselves falling short of the glory of God, we must turn toward this very God in repentance, knowing that He is quick to forgive.

When we are broken, despair is the enemy, and should be seen as an emotion that has come from the Evil One. Hope and forgiveness are the gifts that come from God. During those times when we have failed in our Christian vocation, we must embrace the hope that comes with a repentant heart, and see, in our brokenness, the reminder that we are to always keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge that we have a God Who is quick to forgive. Despair is the enemy of our salvation, because in despair, the Evil One would have us believe there is no hope, and therefore no salvation. In our brokenness we must turn our gaze towards our Co-Suffering Saviour, the One Who lifts us up, out of our brokenness, making us whole, and granting us forgiveness and life.

Love in Christ,

Abbot Tryphon, All Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA.

Regarding Holy Communion: Only those faithful who are Orthodox Christians and have properly prepared themselves by fasting, prayer, 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.* 😊