

DIocese of EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA + WILKES-BARRE DEANERY

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



THE FEAST OF  
ALL SAINTS  
JUNE 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2019

# ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701-2749

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## *Today's Scripture Readings:*

*Epistle:* Hebrews 11:33-12:2

*Gospel:* St. Matthew 10:32-33; 37-38; 19:27-30

*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

**\*\*Sts Peter & Paul Fast begins Monday June 24<sup>th</sup>**

**\*\*Wednesday June 26<sup>th</sup> Vespers @ 6pm**

**\*\*Friday June 28<sup>th</sup> Great Vespers @ 6pm**

**\*\*Feast of Sts. Peter & Paul - Saturday June 29<sup>th</sup> Divine Liturgy @  
10am**

**\*\*Saturday June 29<sup>th</sup> Great Vespers @ 5pm**

**\*\*Sunday June 30<sup>th</sup> Divine Liturgy @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40)**

**\*\*Tuesday July 2<sup>nd</sup> Baseball & Picnic to see the Reading Fighin Phils  
in Reading, PA, an all-U-can-eat Buffet served from 6pm to 8:30  
during the game. Fireworks after the game.**

**\*\*Sunday July 14<sup>th</sup>, 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.**

**LAST SUNDAY – June 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Attendance 55 - Regular Offering - \$766.00**

**Candles - \$50.00 / Benevolence - \$5**

**Missions - \$35.00**

**NEXT SUNDAY – June 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Reading of the Epistle – Jason F.**

*A Word from Your Pastor . . .*

*“Orthodoxy 101” – Out of respect for holy objects, please refrain from venerating the Icons or receiving Communion while wearing any lipstick or lip balms (guys included). Also, the proper way to approach the Chalice for Communion is to come with your arms crossed, mouth open wide enough, and receive Our Lord from the Spoon. The reason for this is very practical, as to avoid any accident of the precious Body and Blood of Our Lord falling to the floor. Please allow the servers to hold the cloth and wipe your lips, and if you do make the Sign of the Cross, do so after moving away from the Chalice. The less arm movement at the Chalice the better.*

*As always, I invite anyone with questions or concerns about these things (or anything else) to please come see me.*

*With Love & God's Blessing,*

*+ Fr. Seraphim*

### **The Power and Influence of Good Deeds**

“For it is the will of God, that with well-doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men (1 Peter 2:15).

Bishop Nikolai Velimirovic tells us in *The Prologue from Ochrid* that we are better off if we do not engage others in lengthy debates and fruitless discussions, but that we can better change

their hearts by our love and good deeds. Arguing with others, even over matters of faith, is usually a fruitless venture, rarely leading the other to ponder the truth of your words. Better to demonstrate truth by holiness of life, patience, and kindness in our response. Entering into heated words most often leads to a standoff, where only the demons win in the end.

“It is difficult, my brethren, to dispute with an atheist; it is difficult to converse with a stupid man; it is difficult to change an embittered man. It is only with the greatest difficulty that you will convince an atheist, a stupid man, or an embittered man, with words.”

“If you argue with an atheist on his own diabolical terms, you simply strengthen the demon of atheism. If you converse with a stupid man in a spirit of derision, the darkness of stupidity will be made the greater. If you think to change a bitter man by anger, you will merely add more fuel to the fire of bitterness.”

Responding to the embittered man, the angry man, or the stupid man, while hoping to win him over, does nothing for him, and eventually gives power to the demon who would devour the man’s soul, and consume your own. Thinking you have to prove the correctness of your point of view does nothing for truth, but only gives power to the demons of pride, anger, and stupidity. The power and influence of good deeds always wins out in the end.

*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 [i.e. *Prayers Before Communion*], 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.* ☺**