

ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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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: Acts 20:16-16, 28-36

Gospel: St. John 17:1-13

*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 June 13th Vespers @ 6pm (NO Orthodoxy 101)**

****Saturday June 15th Great Vespers @ 5pm**

****Holy Pentecost - Sunday June 16th Divine Liturgy @ 10am
(Hours @ 9:40) Kneeling Prayers immediately following**

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

****CONGRATULATIONS to our High School graduates: Molly
Jenkins & Nathanael Almasy! May God Grant You Both Many
Blessed Years!**

LAST SUNDAY – June 2nd

Attendance 72 - Regular Offering - \$4,701.00

Candles - \$104.00 / Love Offerings - \$70.00

Education Fund – \$1,560.00 / Memorial - \$60.00

NEXT SUNDAY – June 16th

Reading of the Epistle – Anthony A.

***Fellowship Hour List is available in the Hall or you can contact
Beth Yonkin for any information.***

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

A Word from Your Pastor . . .

***As we are now entering summertime weather, please
consider what you wear to Church and Who you are coming
into the presence of. Besides, it may be cooler inside the
Church. ☺***

***While many of you will be traveling on vacation in the
coming months, our prayers go with you for your safe travels.***

With Love & God's Blessing,

† Fr. Seraphim

Do We Think Ourselves Wiser Than the Church?

In an age of unbelief, it can be a struggle to submit to the laws of the Church. When the society around us regards the Church's laws and traditions unfavorably, we can easily give in to thinking the same thing and disregard the canons and statutes of the Church of Christ. If our work associates and friends, or even family members, think our adherence to the periods of fasting is extreme, we can find ourselves giving in to peer pressure, just as

children are known to do. If our taking time out from work to attend special feast day services is criticized by co-workers as being excessive, do we decline to ask for the day off for the next feast day?

If we allow ourselves to choose the traditions and societal structures of those around us, in preference to the Church's traditions, canons and laws, we will soon find ourselves betraying our Christian faith. Christianity was not meant to be easy but is by nature compared to doing battle. If we desire the easy comforts and pleasures of this world, we will eventually lose the battle, and we will perish. If we prefer the laws of this world over the laws of the Church, in the end we will have lost that which is most essential and eternal in value.

In times of turmoil and earthly hardship will we find we have not built up the spiritual strength and fortitude to stand strong against the winds of destruction that lay hold our lives, and we will have lost the battle. Submitting to mere human traditions and authority, we will find that a thief will have taken the very treasure that is the Kingdom of God, and we will be left by the wayside, the Gates of Heaven having been closed to us.

If we revile the laws of the Church, we will have reviled Christ Himself, Who is the Head of the Church. This is true because the laws of the Church were given by the Holy Spirit through the Apostles and are therefore not simply the traditions of man.

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.* ☺