

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



Sunday of Cheesefare Expulsion of Adam from Paradise

March 1st, 2020

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 President
Dr. Theodore Federoff, Vice President

Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Romans 3:11-14-4

Gospel: St. Matthew 6:14-21

Welcome to ALL our visitors and guests this morning! Please, come over to the Hall after Liturgy for some food & fellowship!!

Services, Events & Announcements

++Forgiveness Vespers – Sun. Mar 1st @ 5pm++

++ Great Canon of St Andrew – Mon. Mar 2nd – Thurs. Mar 5th @ 6pm

++Pre-Sanctified Liturgy – Friday Mar 6th @ 6pm

++Sat. Mar 7th – Great Vespers @ 5pm (Confessions)

++Sun. Mar 8th – Divine Liturgy (Hours @ 9:40)

****Pierogi Week – Weds. Mar 4th – Fri. Mar 6th**

****Choir Practice – Sat. Mar 7th @ 3:30pm**

Our Giving – Feb 23rd

Attendance 62 - Regular Offering - \$559.00

Candles - \$59.00 / Auxiliary Gift - \$1000.00

From Your Pastor . . .

As we begin our Lenten journey, let us pray and ask the Lord to reveal to us, those things that we should be doing as Christians. Lent is not only about giving things up (although we should be giving up sin), but also finding things that we should begin to do or do better. Anytime you would like to chat with me concerning our Lenten journey (Confession or anything else), just let me know. I will be more than happy to meet with you.

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.*** If you have any questions about this, please see Fr. Seraphim.



Transformation Through the Lenten Journey

The Byzantine Court was filled with sycophants, busying themselves with building alliances that would help them rise in status and influence. During the thousand years of the empire, a few emperors were tricked into believing these sycophants were truly their friends, and could be trusted, when in actuality they were being played, and these flatterers were not their friends. These sycophants were quick to change allegiances should a better opportunity arise, and many an emperor was, in the end, betrayed by those whom they'd thought could be trusted.

These flatterers lacked courage, and in their dishonesty faked loyalty to the Emperor, and in the end, the whole of the Empire would suffer. Had these people been true citizens of the Empire, and not focused on their own advancement, the Emperor would have enjoyed the loyalty of a citizen who put the Empire

before self. In the end, the Emperor would be betrayed, and the Empire would have suffered yet another round of intrigue.

As we prepare to enter into the Lenten journey, let us reexamine our own relationships. Are we sycophants, or do we speak from the heart, without thought for self-promotion? Are we true friends to those with whom we share our lives, or are we always thinking only of ourselves? Do we really desire to serve those who are over us, or do we think only of our own advancement? Do we really desire to grow in the Faith, or are we only focused on the here and now? Are we like the emperor, only surrounding ourselves with flatterers, people who tell us what we want to hear, or are we ready to receive the feedback that would actually help us grown spiritually?

Let us in all humility beseech the Lord, during this Great and Holy Fast, seeking the transformation that is ours through His grace, offering ourselves as a living sacrifice, expecting, because of His loving kindness, to be made whole. Finally, let us not be flatters and betrayers of others, but true friends, always putting ourselves last. Let us love God above all else and let us love others as ourselves. With God's help, this Lenten journey will be the most spiritually profitable of them all.

*With Love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon,
All Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA.*

“Therefore, my children, let us fall down with our hearts before the Lord, let us pray to Him that He might teach us how to be good, as good as His angels and saints are. How excellent it is to dwell among the good, among those who lead a life of holiness!”

Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica
[Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives: The Life and Teachings of Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica p.187](#)