

DIocese of EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA + WILKES-BARRÉ DIOCESE

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



**ST. GREGORY THE
WONDERWORKER**

VEN. NIKON OF RADNESHCH

NOVEMBER 17TH, 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 President
Mr. Dan Thetford, Vice President

Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18

Gospel: St. Luke 12:16-21

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

Services, Events & Announcements

++Wed. Nov 20th – NO Daily Vespers this week (Mt. Carmel)

++Sat. Nov 23rd – Great Vespers @ 5pm (Confessions after)

++Sun. Nov 24th – Divine Liturgy @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40)

****Thurs. Nov 21st - Men's Group- 6pm @ Moon & Raven**

Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos - Nov 21st

++Wed. Nov 20th – Great Vespers w/Litya @ 6pm at St. Michael's, Mt Carmel – Baptism of Elizabeth Eugenia Hunter – Our Parish is invited to attend!

++Thurs. Nov 21st – Divine Liturgy @ 10am (Holy Cross)

++Thurs. Dec 5th – Great Vespers @ 6pm – St. Nicholas

++Fri. Dec 6th – Divine Liturgy @ 10am – St. Nicholas

****Sat. Dec 7th – Church decoration/Children's Activities – 9am**

LAST SUNDAY – Nov 10th

Attendance 65 - Regular Offering - \$1617.00
Candles - \$66.00 / Landscape Project - \$150.00
Love Offering – \$150.00 / Benevolence - \$150.00
Missions - \$36.00

NEXT SUNDAY – Nov 24th

Reading of the Epistle – Jason F.

From Your Pastor . . .

During this Advent season, let us consider our spiritual state. The times of fasting that the Church offers is an excellent time to visit Our Lord in confession. We have heard that this is a time of preparation, a time to prepare the “cave of our hearts” as we await the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us prepare and be ready for His arrival!

Please look at the bulletin board in the Hall for other news and events of the Parish. You can also visit our Parish website www.holycrosswilliamsport.org.

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.*** ☺

Tending to Our Own Soul

Whenever we hear of problems in the Church it is our natural inclination to want to read all about it and root out all the details. Yet if we really want to benefit our soul, we should take the advice of the Saint Paisios of Mt. Athos. His advice: “If you wish to be calm do not read rebellious books or pamphlets that mention Church matters, since you are not responsible for such serious affairs. You have need of books that will assist you in your

repentance. If you want to help the Church, correct yourself and immediately amendment is made to a small part of the Church. Naturally, if everyone did this, then the Church would be put in order.”

As long as we struggle against the passions and sins of this world, there will be problems in the Church. Just as nations and all human institutions suffer because of the passions of people, so does the Church. Although divinely instituted by Christ Himself, the Church is made up of sinful men and women who bring in the baggage of their sinful nature. This very place of healing, like all hospitals, houses both the healthy and the sick. If we desire to become numbered among the healthy, we must remain aloof from the din of Church politics and leave the governance of the Body to the hierarchs.

When we witness the fallen side of human nature within the walls of the Church, we must not respond like news reporters seeking out all the details. Nor should we think knowing the inner workings of the Church will make a difference. Better that we concentrate on the nurturing of our own soul and remaining above the fray. Let those who have been called to service in the Church, the bishops, do their job. If we trust God and pray for our bishops, the Holy Spirit will guide them in their roll as our shepherds, the Church will stay the course, and the “gates of hell shall not prevail against her (Matthew 16:18)”.

With Love in Christ, Abbot Tryphon

All Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA.

You can visit & sign up for Abbot Tryphon’s daily blog “The Morning Offering” at www.blogs.ancientfaith.com/morningoffering/