

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

# Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



**Palm Sunday**  
**Entry into Jerusalem**  
**April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

# Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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## ***Today's Scripture Readings:***

*Epistle:* Philippians 4:4-9

*Gospel:* St. John 12:1-18

*Welcome to ALL our visitors and guests this morning via our live streaming! You are most welcome to be with us anytime!*

## **Services, Events & Announcements**

**\*\*Services are being streamed live on our website homepage & Facebook page - Schedule is subject to change\*\***

## **Holy Week & Pascha Schedule**

- 4/14 - Tuesday - Bridegroom Matins @ 6pm
- 4/16 - Thursday - Passion Gospels @ 6pm
- 4/17 - Burial Vespers/Lamentations @ 3pm
- 4/18 - Holy Saturday - Vespereal Liturgy @ 10am
- 4/18 - Paschal Matins @ 8pm
- 4/19 - Paschal Liturgy @ 9am

**\*\*In accordance with Archbishop Mark's directive, ALL Services and gatherings (Church School, Council, etc . . .) and Fellowship Hours are suspended until further notice. As soon as any schedule changes happen, they will be posted.**

***Our Giving –Apr 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020***  
**Tithes/Offerings - \$3,775.00**  
**Candles - \$30.00 / Love Offering - \$70.00**

*From Your Pastor . . .*

*April's Love Offerings will be used for the flowers for Pascha.*

*If you would like to mail in your tithes/offerings and candle donations, please do so. I can lite the candles for you.*

*May the Lord bless y'all for the good things that you are doing for those around you.*

**+ Fr. Seraphim**

***None Can Be Saved Without Compassion for Others***

We must not be so self-consumed as to have no compassion for others. Saint Basil the Great tells us that a man who has two coats or two pairs of shoes, when his neighbor has none, is a thief. In the Holy Scriptures we read, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell in it (Psalm 24:1)."

No one can be saved, according to Saint John Chrysostom, without giving alms and without caring for the poor. We are but stewards of what belongs to God, and must share the gifts of God's creation with one another as much as we can. To store up earthly possessions, according to Christ, is the epitome of foolishness, and a rich man shall hardly be saved (Luke 12:15-21).

When we turn our attention towards the needs of others we cease to be consumed with self. In this turning of the heart towards those in need, we are turning our hearts to God. "Verily I say unto you, Since you have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me (Matthew 25:40)." In our

fasting, increased time spent in prayer, and acts of alms giving (charity), we are energized in our battle against the passions, and our hearts become at rest in Christ.

This Covid-19 pandemic is giving all of humanity an opportunity to learn the importance of expressing compassion for others. This pandemic is clearly offering all of us the opportunity to learn that this life is not just about me, but about all of us. If my neighbor is suffering, I must offer my love and support, that they not be left alone in their suffering. When my neighbor is grieving the loss of a loved one, I too must feel that loss. When another is without food, it is my responsibility to share some of my own. When another has reached the point of despair, it is I who must offer encouragement.

This pandemic should be for all of humanity a wakeup call, for in our collective selfishness, we've disposed of our unborn, turned a blind eye to our homeless and the poor, marginalized religion, destroyed the environment, and made idols of ourselves. This is our moment of reckoning, our time for repentance. Let us collectively, as the human race, turn to the God of all, and seek His forgiveness. Let this be a time of enlightenment, where we turn our attention on the things of eternal importance, and put aside all worldly things. Let us collectively seek out our Creator and God, asking for His mercy, and submit to His eternal love and mercy.

*Love in Christ,  
Abbot Tryphon*

*All Merciful Saviour Monastery – Vashon Island, WA.*