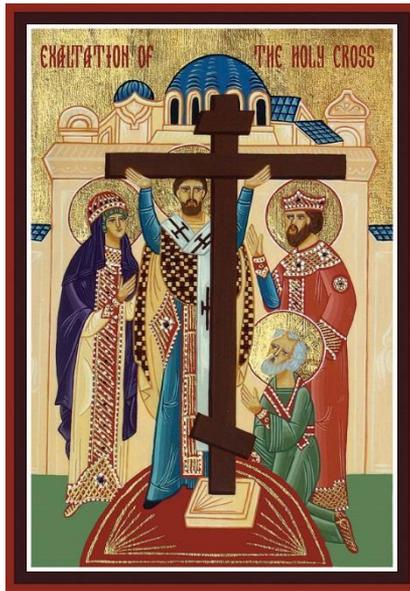


DIocese of EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA + WILKES-BARRÉ DEANERY

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



**AFTERFEAST OF THE ELEVATION  
OF THE HOLY CROSS  
SEPTEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>, 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 Warden  
Mr. Dan Thetford, Asst Warden

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

*Epistle:* 1 Corinthians 16:13-24

*Gospel:* St. Matthew 21:33-42

*Welcome to ALL of our visitors and guests this morning! Please join us over in the Parish Hall after the Liturgy for some food & fellowship!*

## **Services, Events & Announcements**

**\*Flowers for the Cross donated by Yvonne and Nathan Bohlander in memory of mother and grandmother Julia Stefanick, on the 14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of her repose.**

**++Wednesday Sept 18<sup>th</sup> – Daily Vespers @ 6pm / Set-up for Lyra**

**\*Parish Council Meeting this Thursday Sept 19<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm**

**\*Ladies W(h)ine Fest this Thursday Sept 19<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm**

**\*LYRA will be with us this Friday Sept 20<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm. Help is needed with refreshments and clean up in the Hall.**

**++Saturday Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> – Great Vespers @ 5pm**

**++Sunday Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> – Divine Liturgy @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40)**

**\*Sunday Oct 6<sup>th</sup> – Life Chain 2:30 – 3:30**

**\*Sunday Oct 13<sup>th</sup> – CROP Walk**

**+His Eminence, Archbishop MARK will be with us on Oct 27<sup>th</sup>**

**LAST SUNDAY – September 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Attendance 51 - Regular Offering - \$2752.00**

**Candles - \$55.00 / Memorials - \$275.00**

**Love Offering - \$221.00**

**NEXT SUNDAY – Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Reading of the Epistle – Anthony A.**

**\*\*Please check the bulletin board in the Hall for information on local events, Shut-ins, Parish schedules and recent Parish Council Minutes.**

*From Your Pastor . . .*

**Miss seeing anyone in Church? Please consider sending a card, making a call or visiting any of our folks who are shut-in and/or sick. I know they would enjoy hearing from us. May God Bless You All!**

**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.*** ☺**

***Mercy & Love: Where the Temporal and Eternal are Connected***

We can be rich in liturgical correctness and wealthy in traditions, but if we do not have love and mercy, we are in reality bankrupt. Our Lord Himself made love and mercy the chief criterion whereby we will be judged on the Last Day. The fulfillment of the law is love, not liturgical correctness, as was thought by the Pharisees. When we see our Orthodox Christian

faith only in the context of liturgical correctness, and the length of our services, but do not love others, we will have gained nothing of eternal value. If we do not show compassion and mercy towards everyone we meet, we will have committed a grievous crime against our Orthodox faith and will stand before God with nothing to show for our life.

Our liturgical rites and religious traditions are of no value if we have not love and mercy. When we rise to a sincere evangelical love for others, we become God's collaborators, for our Christian love and mercy is the most divine trait possible for the human being. Our mercy is the expression of our love of God, for it is in our love of God that our mercy is poured out upon those who suffer, and upon those who are ill, or helpless in body and mind. Our Christian mercy springs from love and is a concrete expression of love.

Our religious rites and practices are not ends in themselves, but vehicles by which we enter into a profound relationship with God, Who is love. The very essence of our Christian faith is love because God Himself is love (1 John 4:8). Thus, our Christian morality, our ethics, and even our liturgical services and rites, are inconceivable in the absence of love. And, this love is not merely an act that has sprung up from a sense of ethical duty, but something that binds our world, the one seen, to the heavenly world, that world unseen. One world is temporal, and the other world is eternal, yet both have been created by God. The temporal world is wherein we exercise, preparing ourselves for the eternal world. Mercy and love is the means by which both are connected.

*With Love in Christ, Abbot Tryphon*

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