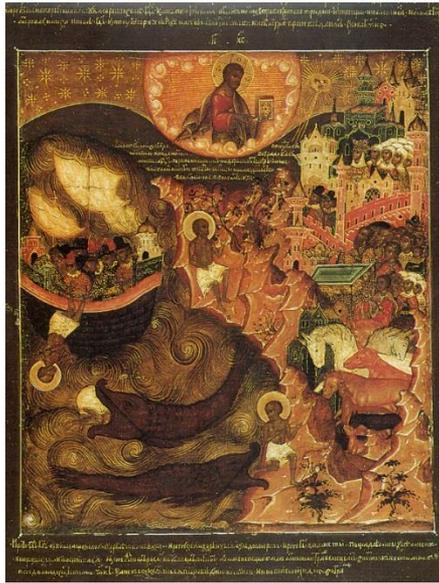


DIocese of EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA + WILKES-BARRÉ DIOCESE

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



HIEROMARTYR PHOENAS

PROPHET ISAIAH

SEPTEMBER 22ND, 2019

ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS ORTHODOX CHURCH

1725 Holy Cross Ln
Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701-2749

Rev. Fr. Seraphim Reynolds, Pastor
Office: 570.322.3020
(c) 717.576.3503
priestserafim@gmail.com

Mr. Michael (Cory) Chelko, Parish Warden
Mr. Dan Thetford, Asst Warden

Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4

Gospel: St. Luke 5:1-11

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

***Special Parish Meeting on Sunday Oct 6th to discuss landscape proposal of Church Property. (1st Announcement)**

++ NO Daily Vespers this week

++Saturday Sept 28th – Great Vespers @ 5pm – Panikhida for Julia Stefanick following

++Sunday Sept 29th – Divine Liturgy @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40)

***Pierogi Week Oct 2-4**

***Sunday Oct 6th – Life Chain 2:30 – 3:30**

***Sunday Oct 13th – CROP Walk**

+His Eminence, Archbishop MARK will be with us on Oct 27th

LAST SUNDAY – September 15th
Attendance 58 - Regular Offering - \$1976.00
Candles - \$72.30 / Memorials - \$200.00
Auxiliary Gift - \$1,000.00 / Benevolence - \$5.00

NEXT SUNDAY – Sept 28th
Reading of the Epistle – Jason F.

****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 . . .

Sincere THANKS to everyone who supported LYRA this past Friday evening! 75 folks attended. To ALL who helped with setup, clean-up and taking care of them, God Bless Y'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.* ☺

Me First: We must avoid centering on our own needs and desires

Self-centeredness keeps us from focusing on the needs and interests of others, and obscures our true nature, as God intended. Pride keeps us from embracing Christ's way of selfless service to others, even to those who especially need our love and support.

Children of such people are deprived of the nurturing love that equips them for a happy and fulfilling life, and they are left crippled by the selfishness of parents who have surrendered to their own egos.

We must embrace Christ's way of selfless sacrifice to those we encounter. In this day when so many people put their own needs before others, it is imperative we fight against the temptation to enslave ourselves to our own desires and goals, grounded, as they are, in the ego.

The Church has all the tools, and the grace, needed for the spiritual and moral progress that ultimately will lead to eternity with God. It is the Church that helps us fill our minds and hearts with holy things, and keeps us from surrendering to a self-centeredness that will only strengthen unholy passions. If we truly want God to heal our souls, we must fight against every desire and temptation that keeps us focused on self.

The Great High Priest offered Himself on the Cross, embraced death, and rose on the third day, in order to restore us to His image and likeness. If we truly wish to become like Him, we must focus on selfless service, humble prayer, love for others, and genuine repentance.

Putting ourselves first, makes us like the little child who demands his way, while ignoring the needs of his little siblings, all the while moving ever more swiftly toward the abyss that awaits those who do not love God and neighbor.

With Love in Christ, Abbot Tryphon

All Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA.