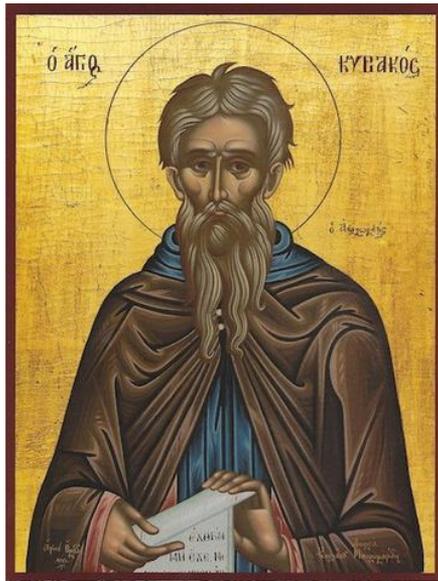


DIocese of EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA + WILKES-BARRS DEACONY

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



VEN. SYRIACUS OF PALESTINE

VEN. THEOPHAN OF GAZA

SEPTEMBER 29TH, 2019

ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS ORTHODOX CHURCH

1725 Holy Cross Ln
Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701-2749

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

Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15

Gospel: St. Luke 6:31-36

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. (2nd Announcement)**

++Wednesday Oct 2nd Daily Vespers @ 6pm

++Saturday Oct 5th – Great Vespers @ 5pm

++Sunday Oct 6th – Divine Liturgy @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40)

***Pierogi Work 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 22nd**
Attendance 39 - Regular Offering - \$944.00
Candles - \$30.55 / Benevolence - \$25.00

NEXT SUNDAY – **Oct 6th**
Reading of the Epistle – Herman 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 . . .

When was the last time you invited someone to come to Church with you? Your neighbor, a co-worker, or a classmate? Dr. Thom Rainer author of *The Unchurched Next Door* says, “Eighty-two percent of the unchurched are at least somewhat likely to attend church if invited.” If we are filled with the joy that comes from being an Orthodox Christian, this will be evident to those we meet. Make someone thirsty for your faith in Jesus Christ.

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.*** ☺

Poustinia: The importance of the desert to the inner life

The Russian word, “Poustinia”, means “desert”, and the importance of the poustinia to the inner life cannot be dismissed. If we are to hear the voice of God speaking to us, we must listen to His silence. If we are to learn to hear His voice, we must learn to be silent. Without recollection and silence, the inner life is impossible, and we will not make spiritual progress.

The desert must be a part of our daily living, for without entering into the desert of the heart, nothing can be gained. With the noise of the Internet, and the world of computers, iPods, laptops, and iPhones, the noise of the world threatens our soul like nothing in the previous history of humanity. The world of cybernetics has its place, but we must not allow it to overwhelm the spiritual dimension of our humanity.

Quick to Forgive: We must forgive others even if they are not repentant

A desert father was told by one of his monks that he'd forgiven his brother who had wronged him. However, his brother would not admit to his own actions against him. The abbot told him that in having forgiven his brother it was he himself who would walk away justified before God. Therefore, we must never demand someone ask our forgiveness, but we ourselves must be quick to forgive them. If we expect God to forgive us, we must be quick to forgive others, even if they are not repentant.

The Beauty of God: Being the Beauty of God in a Darkened World

When others see how we negotiate our life, how we treat our fellow workers, our neighbors, and our family, they should witness in us devotion and praise of God. Our deeds and our speech must reveal the love of God to all those who come in contact with us. Our whole being must be an ever-increasing glorification of the Lord. Like roses in a garden full of weeds, we must be the beauty of God in a darkened world.

With Love in Christ, Abbot Tryphon

All Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA.