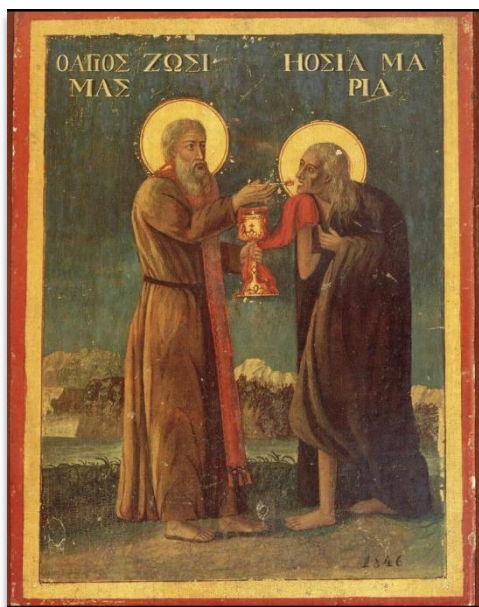


Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross
Orthodox Church
Williamsport, PA.



St. Mary of Egypt

5th Sunday of Great Lent

April 10th, 2022

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

1725 Holy Cross Ln
Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701-2749
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Rev. Fr. Seraphim Reynolds, Pastor
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Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14; Galatians 3:23-29
Gospel: St. Mark 10:32-45; St. Luke 7:36-50

A warm welcome to everyone this morning! Please join us for some fellowship after in the Parish Hall!

Services, Events & Announcements

- + **Presanctified Liturgy** – Wednesday April 13th @ 5:30 (9th Hour @ 5:20) Lenten potluck following
- + **Matins of Lazarus Saturday** – Friday April 15th @ 5:30
- + **Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy** – Saturday April 16th @ 9am (Hours @ 8:40),
- + **Palm Sunday Great Vespers** w/*Litya & Blessing of Palms & Willows* – Saturday April 16th @ 5pm
- + **Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy** w/*Procession of Palms & Willows* – Sunday April 17th @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40), a Lenten fellowship following in the Hall.
- + Please pickup a copy of the Holy Week & Pascha schedule at the candle counter. ☺

Our Giving – April 3rd, 2022

Tithes/Offerings - \$3,637.00 / Online Giving - \$175.00
Candle Offerings – \$97.00 / Love Offerings - \$42.00

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 everyone too.*** If you have any questions about Communion, please see Fr. Seraphim. 😊

++ **BE THE BEE AND NOT THE FLY - From St. Paisios** ++

Some people tell me that they are scandalized because they see many things wrong in the Church. I tell them that if you ask a fly, “Are there any flowers in this area?” it will say, “I don’t know about flowers, but over there in that heap of rubbish you can find all the filth you want.” And it will go on to list all the unclean things it has been to.

Now, if you ask a honeybee, “Have you seen any unclean things in this area?” it will reply, “Unclean things? No, I have not seen any; the place here is full of the most fragrant flowers.” And it will go on to name all the flowers of the garden or the meadow.

You see, the fly only knows where the unclean things are, while the honeybee knows where the beautiful iris or hyacinth is.

As I have come to understand, some people resemble the honeybee and some resemble the fly. Those who resemble the fly seek to find evil in every circumstance and are preoccupied with it; they see no good anywhere. But those who resemble the honeybee only see the good in everything they see. The stupid person thinks stupidly and takes everything in the wrong way, whereas the person who has

good thoughts, no matter what he sees, no matter what you tell him, maintains a positive and good thought.

+ St. Paisios of Mt. Athos, *“Good and Evil Thoughts” Spiritual Counsels III: Spiritual Struggle*

“Faith brings peace to the intellect and, in bringing it, uproots rebellious thoughts. Sin is the source of restlessness and strife in the thoughts and is also the source of man's struggle against heaven and with other men.”

+ St. Isaac the Syrian, *“Orthodox Faith and Life in Christ”* p.126

“Here is what the Holy Fathers say about thoughts: “If thoughts that take away our peace assail us, know that they are from hell.” Such thoughts must not be accepted. They must be banished immediately. We must struggle for our own good and strive for peace to take root in our souls—peace, joy, and Divine love.”

+ Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica, *“Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives: The Life and Teachings of Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica”* p.71

Prayers For the Health and Salvation of those in need: Many Years!

His Eminence Archbishop Mark, Priestmonk Ambrose (Young), Abbot Tryphon, Mitred-Archpriest Nicholas (Harris), Mitred-Archpriest Daniel & Mat. Myra (Kovalak), Archpriest Moses (Berry), Pres. Eva (Koutroulelis), Presbytera Rosy (Tanveer), Helen Maybo, Paul Beard, Evelyn Chabal, Phoebe Davis, Michael Kuzmiak, Juliana Matusiak, & those suffering in the Ukraine.

Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!

Protodeacon Sergius Miller +3/16 & those who have lost their lives in the Ukraine.