

Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Elevation of the Holy Cross

Orthodox Church

Williamsport, PA.



St. Thomas Sunday

Greatmartyr George

April 23rd, 2023

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Acts 12:1-11; Acts 5:12-20

Gospel: St. John 15:17-16:2; St. John 20:19-31

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Christos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!

Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!

A festive welcome to everyone, and especially to our visitors and guests this joyous morning! Please join us for some fellowship after in the Parish Hall!

Services, Events & Announcements

- + *Compline / Bible Study – Wednesday April 26th at 5:30*
- + *Great Vespers – Saturday April 29th at 5*
- + *Hours & Divine Liturgy – Sunday April 30th at 9:40 - Fellowship following in the Hall*
- + *Matushka Mary says “thank you” to the members of the choir for their gifts at Pascha, for the work she has done for the choir!*

Our Giving – PASCHA April 16th, 2023

Tithes/Offerings - \$1,812.00 / Online Giving - \$200.00

Candle Offerings – \$217.00 / Memorial - \$50.00

PASCHA Gifts - \$470.00

Thank you all for your generosity!

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. 😊

† *Holy Glorious Great-martyr, Victory-bearer and Wonderworker George (303)*

"George, this truly great and glorious Martyr of Christ, was born of a father from Cappadocia and a mother from Palestine. Being a military tribune, or chiliarch (that is, a commander of a thousand troops), he was illustrious in battle and highly honored for his courage. When he learned that the Emperor Diocletian was preparing a persecution of the Christians, Saint George presented himself publicly before the Emperor and denounced him. Saint George, when he heard the decision of the emperor, distributed all his wealth to the poor, freed his servants, and then appeared in the Senate. The brave soldier of Christ spoke out openly against the emperor's designs. He confessed himself a Christian and appealed to all to acknowledge Christ: "I am a servant of Christ, my God, and trusting in Him, I have come among you voluntarily, to bear witness concerning the Truth."

"What is Truth?" one of the dignitaries asked, echoing the question of Pontius Pilate. The saint replied, "Christ Himself, Whom you persecuted, is Truth." Stunned by the bold speech of the valiant warrior, the emperor, who had loved and promoted George, attempted to persuade him not to throw away his youth and glory and honors, but rather to offer sacrifice to the gods as was the Roman custom. The confessor

replied, "Nothing in this inconstant life can weaken my resolve to serve God."

When threats and promises could not move him from his steadfast confession, he was put to unheard-of tortures, which he endured with great bravery, overcoming them by his faith and love towards Christ. By the wondrous signs that took place in his contest, he guided many to the knowledge of the truth, including Queen Alexandra, wife of Diocletian, and was finally beheaded in 296 in Nicomedia." (*Great Horologion*)

The Empress Alexandra, along with a pagan priest who confessed Christ due to George's witness, were executed together with the Great Martyr. St Alexandra is commemorated on April 21/May 4. Neither the Great Horologion nor the Prologue, nor the Church's services to St George, mention the most popular story of St George, his slaying of a dragon. Though many icons of the Saint show him mounted on horseback, slaying a dragon with a spear, the story is thought by many to be legendary, and the dragon in the icon symbolic." (www.abbamoses.com & www.oca.org)

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

Priestmonk Ambrose (Young), Abbot Tryphon, Mitred-Archpriest Nicholas (Harris), Mitred-Archpriest Daniel & Mat. Myra (Kovalak), Archpriest Moses (Berry), Pres. Eva (Koutroulelis), Pres. Rosy (Tanveer), Mat. Mary Lynn Henry, Mat. Deborah Belonick, Paul Beard, Evelyn Chabal, Phoebe Davis, Michael Kuzmiak, Juliana Matusiak, Elias Ciaccio, Elizabeth Wadsworth, Sebastian Fillar, Infant John, Infant Wyatt, Isaac Bannister, Barbara Cain, Vera Christopher, Paisios Sundin, Christine Perrin, & those suffering in Ukraine

Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!

Protopresbyter Srboljub Jockovic +3/13, Mat. Carol Steffaro +4/14, Barbara Shatto +4/14 & Those who have lost their lives in Ukraine