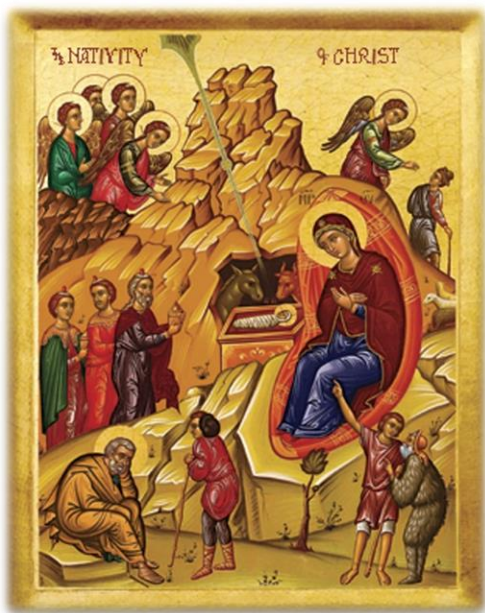


Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



Sunday Before the Nativity

Of Our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ

December 24th, 2023

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

1725 Holy Cross Ln
Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701-2749
www.holycrosswilliamsport.org

Rev. Fr. Seraphim Reynolds, *Pastor*
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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40

Gospel: St. Matthew 1:1-25

A warm Nativity Eve welcome to EVERYONE this morning!!

Services & Announcements

+ THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST +

Holy Supper – Sunday December 24th at 4pm

Nativity Vigil - Sunday December 24th at 6pm

Divine Liturgy - Monday December 25th at 9:30

+ Church **CLOSED** for prayer Tuesday & Thursday

+ *NO Compline/Bible Study* – Wednesday December 27th

+ *Great Vespers* – Saturday December 30th at 5

+ *Hours, Divine Liturgy* – Sunday December 31st at 9:40 – *Fellowship following in the Hall.*

+ Benevolence for December: - *Diocesan Seminarian Fr. Dn. Kirill & Mat. Olivia Zawatski*

Our Giving – December 17th, 2023

Tithes/Offerings - \$1,402.00 / Online Giving - \$200.00

Candle Offerings – \$84.00 / Christmas Flowers - \$200.00

Christmas Offerings - \$100.00 / Memorial - \$100.00

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 must be at peace with everyone too.*** If you have any questions, please see Fr. Seraphim. 😊

**** Please remain (quietly) for the *Prayers of Thanksgiving* after the Liturgy, before going over to the Hall for Fellowship.**

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, ‘God with us.’”

St. Matthew 1:18-23

December 25, 2023

Feast of the Nativity of our Lord

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Dear Rev. Frs., Matushki and Faithful,

“Come, let us rejoice in the Lord, proclaiming the present mystery; for He has broken the middle wall of partition, and the flaming spear will turn about, and the cherubim will admit all to the tree of life. As for me, I

will return to enjoy the bliss of Paradise from which I was driven away before, by reason of iniquity; for the likeness of the Father, and the Person of His Eternity, which it is impossible to change has taken the likeness of a Servant, coming from a Mother who has not known wedlock; free from transubstantiation, since He remained as He was, true God, and took what had not been, having become Man for His love of mankind. Wherefore, let us lift our voices unto Him crying, O Thou Who was born of the Virgin, O God, have mercy upon us.” (*Idiomelon By Germanus from Great Vespers on the Eve of the Nativity*)

Have a blessed Feast of the Nativity and a Joyous New Year! May our Lord bless you with good health, length of days and a happy and peaceful New Year!

Yours in Christ,

✙ *Mark*, Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

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), Archpriest Michael (Evans), Pres. Eva (Koutroulelis), Pres. Rosy (Tanveer), Mat. Mary Lynn (Henry), Mat. Deborah (Belonick), Mat. Barbara (Matusiak), Mat. Nancy Chuta, Mat. Daria Pelesh, Xenia Crews, Anastasia Linnehan & the children to be born of them, Paul Beard, Evelyn Chabal, Michael Kuzmiak, Juliana Matusiak, Elias Ciaccio, Elizabeth Wadsworth, Sebastian Fillar, Anna Conrad, Isaac Bannister, Christine Perrin, Agnes Andreanoff, Michael Lazorchak, Edward Hojnicki, Brian Gunter, Vladimir Kerkendall, Alec Litchard & those suffering from the wars in Ukraine, Russia, & the Middle East

Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!

Archpriest Michael Oleksa +11/29, Archpriest Sergius Clark +11/22
Archpriest William Clark +11/14, Archpriest Michael Lupu +12/5,
Protodeacon Nicholas Jannakos +11/18, Prifteresha Elisabeth Bouteneff +11/25, & Those who have lost their lives in the wars in Ukraine, Russia, & the Middle East