

Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



Saint John the Merciful
Patriarch of Alexandria

November 12th, 2023

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10

Gospel: St. Luke 10:25-37

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

Services & Announcements

- + Church **closed** for prayer Tuesday & Thursday this week.
- + *Nativity Fast begins Wednesday November 15th*
- + *Compline/Bible Study – Wednesday November 15th at 5:30*
- + *Parish Council Meeting - Thursday November 16th at 5:30*
- + *Great Vespers – Saturday November 18th at 5*
- + *Hours, Divine Liturgy – Sunday November 19th at 9:40 –
Fellowship following in the Hall.*
- + If you are interested in reading the Hours, and/or helping with Fellowship Hour, please see Matushka Mary.
- + Benevolence for November: - *St George Orthodox Mission, Edenton, NC.*

Our Giving – November 5th, 2023

Tithes/Offerings - \$2,970.00 / Online Giving - \$20.00

Candle Offerings – \$63.00 / Benevolence - \$40.00

Stewards of the Orthodox Church - \$785.00

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 about Holy Communion, please see Fr. Seraphim. 😊

Bearing One Another's Burdens

When we gather together, we see or hear about the needs of our brethren and find opportunities to love one another indeed. . . . As Christians, we freely choose to love our brethren despite their weaknesses and sins, and despite whatever they may do that irritates us. Love is not a feeling, but an action.

As paradoxical as it may seem, this is one of the reasons we must remain in communion with one another in the Church in order to be deified in Christ. God has made the very brothers and sisters with whom we have difficulty the means of our salvation. Without them, we could never share in the fullness of his love and become like him in all things. And lest we be blind to our own faults, each one of us is prone to weakness and sin. Each of us can be irritating, exasperating, or hurtful to others at times.

Our unity in the Church is a gift of God and a witness to the exceeding greatness of his love for mankind that our adversary the devil, filled with bitter envy of the dignity that God has bestowed on us, takes pleasure in disrupting. And though he knows that the Church cannot be destroyed, (Matt 16:18) he will nevertheless seize any opportunity to inflame our passions and thereby manipulate us into fostering schism in the Body of Christ.

There are times when we will become angry with one another – sometimes with good reason. Be angry but choose not to sin against the Body of Christ, and do not let anger take root and become bitterness. Some will offend us at times. Choose to take no offence.

Some will exasperate us at times. Choose to be patient. Some will be harsh at times. Choose to be gentle. Some will lack faith at times. Choose to Have faith for their sake. All will have weaknesses. Choose to bear their burdens. Some may sin against us – even seriously so. Forgive them.

Having this attitude of Christ is the foolishness of God that is wiser than men and the weakness of God that is stronger than men. It is the power of participation in the obedience and love of Christ Himself. These are the weapons of righteousness (2 Cor 6:7) that put our adversary the devil to shame. It is the power of the Cross of Christ that we take up daily — the very Life-bearing Cross that is “...a weapon that cannot be vanquished, the adversary of demons, the glory of the martyrs, the true adornment of saints, and the haven of salvation.”

Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs – Chap. 16, pgs. 239-240

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), Alexa Yonkin & infant Eleanor, 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, Isaac Bannister, Paisios Sundin, Christine Perrin, Agnes Andreanoff, Michael Lazorchak, Edward Hojnicky, Brian Gunter, Vladimir Kerkendall, Alec Litchard & those suffering from the war in Ukraine, Russia, & the Middle East

Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!

Kim Maymon +10/9, Phoebe Davis +11/9, Jason Brown +11/10 & Those who have lost their lives in the war in Ukraine, Russia, & the Middle East