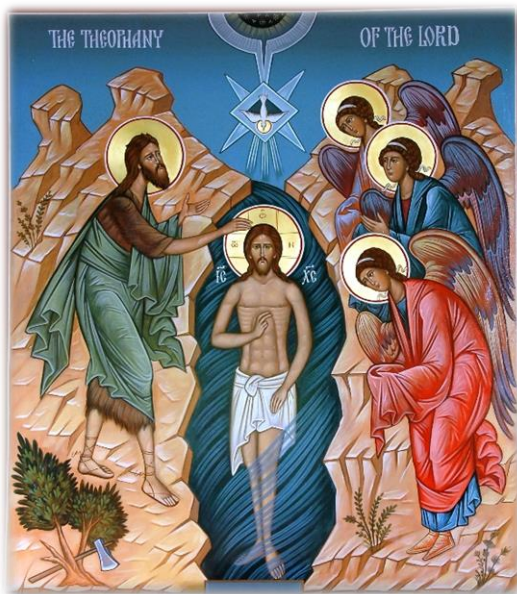


Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



Afterfeast of Theophany

*Holy Monastic Fathers slain at Sinai and
Raithu*

January 14th, 2024

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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

Rev. Fr. Seraphim Reynolds, *Pastor*
Office: 570.322.3020
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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Ephesians 6:10-17

Gospel: St. Luke 18:35-43

A warm festive welcome to EVERYONE this morning!!

UPCOMING SERVICES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- + Church **OPEN** for prayer/Confession/Talk to Fr. - Tuesday & Thursday - 7 to 9:30am
- + *Compline/Bible Study* – Wednesday January 17th at 5:30pm
- + *Great Vespers* – Saturday January 20th at 5pm
- + *Hours, Divine Liturgy* – Sunday January 21st at 9:40am –
Fellowship following in the Hall.
- + *Confessions heard Saturdays before Vespers or by appointment.*
- + Benevolence Fund for January: - *Priest's Discretionary*
- + House Blessings are now happening! Please contact Fr. Seraphim to set up a day and time. 😊
- + *NEXT* Saturday January 20th free luncheon in the Parish Hall from 10-Noon. Please let Fr know if you can help.

OUR GIVING — JANUARY 7TH, 2024

Tithes/Offerings - \$1,236.00 / Online Giving - \$205.00

Candle Offerings – \$35.00

Thank you all for your generous giving to our Parish!

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.**

Excerpt from a homily by Fr. George Calciu (+2006) to youth . . .

“Where then is the Church of Christ to which you are called? She is everywhere. She holds within her all human life, and more, she contains all heavenly beings too. For the Church knows no history; her history is the spiritual present. Family and society bear within them the tragic fate of their own limitations through the cir-cumscription of history. History is, by definition, the chronology of unhappiness, yet the road to salvation. But you, my young friend, are called to the Church of Christ which was conceived in God’s eternity and which bears within her perfection, just as the world bears within her her own limited nature. Society considers you as a simple constituting element, one brick lined up alongside other bricks. Your freedom is to function as a brick fixed once, for all time. Your freedom in society is the freedom of constraint and in this lies your drama. For your true freedom lies within you, but you do not know how to discover it in its true meaning, nor how to use it if you could discover it. You have been told that you are not free, that your freedom is the understanding of necessity and that necessity is imposed upon you from the outside by a foreign element. You are just like a lifeless construction.”

“In contrast, the Church of Christ is alive and free. In her we move and have our being, through Christ Who is her head. In Him we have full freedom. In the Church we learn of truth and the truth will set us free (John 8:32). You are in Christ’s Church whenever you uplift

some-one bent down in sorrow, or when you give alms to the poor and visit the sick. You are in Christ's Church when you cry out: "Lord, help me". You are in Christ's Church when you are good and patient, when you refuse to get angry at your brother, even if he has wounded your feelings. You are in Christ's Church when you pray: "Lord, forgive him". When you work honestly at your job, returning home weary in the evenings but with a smile upon your lips, when you repay evil with love—you are in Christ's Church."

"Do you not see, therefore, young friend, how close the Church of Christ is? You are Peter and God is building His Church upon you. You are the rock of His Church against which nothing can prevail. You are a liberated rock, a soul that is fulfilled within His Church, and not one condemned to stagnation. Let us build churches with our faith. Churches which no human power can pull down. A church whose foundation is Christ. Let us build churches in our enlightened hearts where there shines the bright Sun of Righteousness, Who is Christ Himself, He Who has told us that by faith we are free from sin."

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 Michael (Evans), Pres. Eva (Koutroulelis), Pres. Rosy (Tanveer), Mat. Mary Lynn (Henry), Mat. Deborah (Belonick), Mat. Barbara (Matusiak), Mat. Daria Pelesh, Xenia Crews (child Odette), Anastasia Linnehan & Sarah Gunter (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 Hojnicky, 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 Lupu +12/5, Archpriest Moses Berry +1/12, Mother Elizabeth (Lutz) +1/6 & Those who have lost their lives in the wars in Ukraine, Russia, & the Middle East