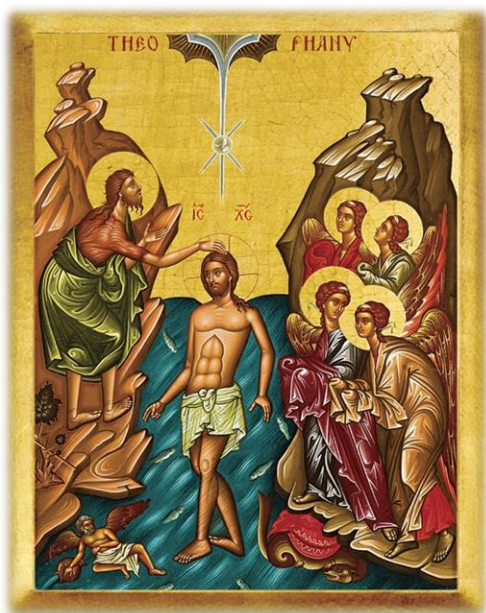


Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

# Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



## Sunday After Theophany

*Synaxis of the Holy Glorious Prophet,  
Forerunner and Baptist John*

January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

# Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

1725 Holy Cross Ln  
Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701-2749  
[www.holycrosswilliamsport.org](http://www.holycrosswilliamsport.org)

Rev. Fr. Seraphim Reynolds, *Pastor*  
Office: 570.322.3020  
(c) 717.576.3503  
Email: [priestseraphim@protonmail.com](mailto:priestseraphim@protonmail.com)

## ***Today's Scripture Readings:***

*Epistle:* Ephesians 4:7-13; Acts 19:1-8  
*Gospel:* St. Matthew 4:12-17; St. John 1:29-34

***A warm festive welcome to EVERYONE this morning!!***

## UPCOMING SERVICES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- + Church **OPEN** for prayer Tuesday & Thursday - 7 to 9:30am
- + *Compline/Bible Study* – Wednesday January 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm
- + *Great Vespers* – Saturday January 13<sup>th</sup> at 5pm
- + *Hours, Divine Liturgy* – Sunday January 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:40am –  
*Fellowship following in the Hall.*
- + Benevolence Fund for January: - *Priest's Discretionary*
- + House Blessings are now happening! Please contact Fr. Seraphim to set up a day and time. 😊
- + Saturday January 20<sup>th</sup> free luncheon in the Parish Hall from 10-Noon

## OUR GIVING — DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2023

Tithes/Offerings - \$982.00 / Online Giving - \$1,205.00

Candle Offerings – \$56.00

Christmas Offerings - \$100.00

***Thank you all for your support of 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.**

***A Blessed New Year by Abbot Tryphon***

***May the Light of Christ shine brightly in us throughout 2024!***

The Apostle Paul taught in I Timothy 3:15, the Church is the pillar and ground of Truth, and it is to this Church that the Apostles entrusted the Faith, once and for all delivered to the saint as its guardian and protector (Jude v. 3). Thus, the Church's services, Liturgies, prayers, and sacraments are all essential if we are to be authentic as people of faith.

“In accordance with the Apostolic faith delivered to us by tradition from the Fathers, I have delivered the tradition, without inventing anything extraneous to it. What I have learned, that I inscribed, comfortably with the Holy Scriptures (Saint Athanasios the Great).”

It is through this Tradition that we bind ourselves to Christ, serving only Him. All else must be secondary. When the Lord says, “You cannot serve God and mammon,” He is referring to things of a materialistic nature (mammon is the Aramaic word for “god of wealth”). He asks us all to declare whom we serve, God or mammon?

The way to determine who or what we love the most is to see where our loyalties lie. When we are faced with choices between God, and anything else, what will be our choice? Do we choose to attend church on Sunday, or do we choose to sleep in? Do we prioritize our life around our relationship with God, or do sporting events, vacations, family outings,

entertainment, or friends take center stage? Does prayer, reading the bible, serving others, financially supporting the church and its mission, and giving alms serve as our central theme, or do we choose personal gain and pleasure as central to your life?

It is my heart's desire to greet all of you as we begin the year 2024, with the words, "Glory to Jesus Christ, Glory to Him forever". May this year be one of spiritual renewal for all of us, and may we use the allotted time God gives us profitably, and for His glory. Let us love one another and remember to pray for each other. Let us pray for the world, and for the salvation of all. May the Light of Christ shine brightly in us, that the world may know the love of God, and see God's mercy and kindness in us. Happy New Year to all of you.

*With love in Christ,*

*Abbot Tryphon, All Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA.*

### **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 (child born of her), 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 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 Michael Lupu +12/5, & Those who have lost their lives in the wars in Ukraine, Russia, & the Middle East