

Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



Sunday of the Prodigal Son
Martyr Eutropius of Amasea
March 3rd, 2024

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Today's Scripture Readings:
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
Gospel: St. Luke 15:11-32

A warm welcome to EVERYONE this morning!!

UPCOMING SERVICES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- + Church **open** for prayer/Confession – Tuesday & Thursday March 5th & 7th - 7 to 9:30am
- + *Compline/Bible Study* – Wednesday March 6th at 5:30pm
- + Choir Practice – Saturday March 9th at 4pm
- + *Great Vespers* – Saturday March 9th at 5pm
- + *Hours, Divine Liturgy* – Sunday March 10th at 9:40am – *Meatfare Potluck Fellowship* following in the Hall.
- + *Confessions on Saturdays before Vespers or by appointment.*
- + Benevolence Fund for March – *Archbishop's Appeal for Youth*
- + *House Blessing* anyone? 😊 Please contact Fr. Seraphim to set up a day and time.

OUR GIVING — FEBRUARY 25TH, 2024

Tithes/Offerings - \$327.00 / Online Giving - \$385.00

Candle Offerings – \$58.00 / Benevolence - \$25.00

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.**

The Christian Life: Living the Beatitudes

Christ's disciples are also characterized as the meek. The English word "meek" is not a happy word. It conjures up images of spinelessness, moral timidity, cringing subservience, and pathological faint-heartedness. No sensible and responsible parent would raise their child to be meek. Meek people are not psychologically healthy or able to withstand the rigors of life. This is not, of course, what the Greek word used here means. That word is *praus*, and it was the word used in the Septuagint Greek to describe Moses in Numbers 12:3. One recalls that Moses suffered from none of the timidity or cringing subservience usually associated with the English word "meek". Moses stood defiantly before Pharaoh, head of the world's greatest power, and boldly demanded that he let Israel go. Moses, after descending Mount Sinai with the Law of God in his hands, discovered Israel indulging in an orgy of idolatry around a golden calf. He broke the tablets of the Law, ground the golden calf to powder, threw it into the local water source and made Israel drink it. He then called upon volunteers to slaughter the apostates (Num 32). This does not sound at all like pathological faint-heartedness.

The Greek word indicates self-control, and the word is used to describe wild animals which have been tamed and domesticated so that they may be useful to man. A man who is at the mercy of his passions (such as uncontrolled anger) is not *praus*; a man who can control his impulses is. Christ is described as *praus* in Matthew 11:29. St. Paul commends this characteristic as a fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:23; St. Peter praises a *praus* and quiet spirit when found in wives in 1 Peter 3:4 as something very precious in God's sight. Perhaps a better translation might be "gentle". In a rough and tumble world, one might be tempted to push back aggressively, fearing that "nice guys finish last." But Christ bids us be gentle and promises that such gentle souls will inherit the earth.

Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs, 44

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

His Eminence, Archbishop Nathaniel, Priestmonk Ambrose (Young), Abbot Tryphon, Mitred-Archpriest Nicholas (Harris), Mitred-Archpriest Daniel & Mat. Myra (Kovalak), Archpriest Michael (Evans), Priest Gregory (White), Pres. Eva (Koutroulelis), Pres. Rosy (Tanveer), Mat. Mary Lynn (Henry), Mat. Deborah (Belonick), Mat. Barbara (Matusiak), Anastasia Linnehan & Sarah Gunter (children to be born of them), Newly Illumined child Odette Crews, Paul Beard, Evelyn Chabal, Michael Kuzmiak, Juliana Matusiak, Elias Ciaccio, Elizabeth Wadsworth, Sebastian Fillar, Isaac Bannister, Christine Perrin, Elizabeth Yonkin, 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!

Protodeacon Taras Papish +2/18, Deacon Joseph Rabickow, Jr +1/22 & Those who have lost their lives in the wars in Ukraine, Russia, & Middle East