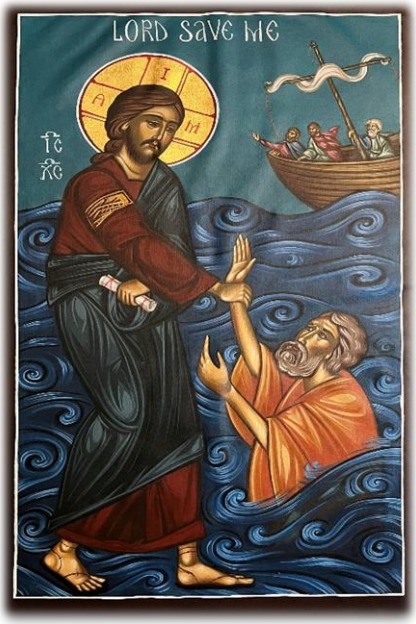
Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

Williamsport, PA.



Relics Protomartyr Stephen Righteous Nikodemus & Gamaliel

August 2nd, 2026

ORTHODOX CHURCH in AMERICA

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Very Rev. Fr. Seraphim Reynolds, Rector/Pastor
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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 3:9-17
Gospel: St. Matthew 14:22-34

A warm welcome to everyone this morning! Please join us for lunch & fellowship after Liturgy in the Parish Hall!

This Week at Holy Cross

✝ ***Dormition Fast - Aug 1st – Aug 15th***

✝ *Church open for prayer/Confession* on Tuesday * 7-9:30am. Please let Fr Seraphim know if you are coming for Confession.

✝ ***Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord*** – Vesperal Liturgy *w/ Blessing of Fruits* - Wednesday August 5th * 5:30pm

✝ ***Great Vespers*** – Saturday August 8th * 5pm

✝ ***Hours & Divine Liturgy*** – Sunday August 9th * 9:40am – Lunch Fellowship following in the Hall.

✝ August Benevolence – *OCF – State College*

July 25 / 26, 2026

Attendance: Vespers – 21 / Divine Liturgy - 59

Collection - $622.00 / Online Giving - $575.45

Candle Offerings – $45.00

". . . for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Cor. 9:7

***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 should all be at peace with everyone too*. If you have any questions about Communion, please see Fr. Seraphim. 😊

✝ *Relics of Ss Nikodemus and Gamaliel*

Saint Nikódēmos was a prominent Pharisee who believed in Christ. The Savior explained to him how man is regenerated through Baptism, but he did not understand how a man could be born again. When the Lord reproved him for his ignorance, he accepted it with humility (John 3:1-21). Nikódēmos came back to Christ from time to time, defended Him to the Pharisees (John 7:50-52), and brought spices to anoint His body (John 19:39). After being cast out of the synagogue for his belief in Christ, Saint Nikódēmos went to live with Saint Gamaliel at his country house, remaining there until his death. The relics of Saints Stephen, Gamaliel, Abibas, and Nikódēmos were transferred from Jerusalem to Constantinople in 428 and placed in the church of the holy deacon Laurence (August 10).

Saint Gamaliel was a Pharisee, a doctor of the Law (Acts 5:34), and the teacher of Saint Paul (Acts 22:3). In the year 415, Saint Gamaliel appeared to a priest named Lucian. He was a tall, venerable man with a long white beard. He was dressed in white clothing which was edged with gold and marked with crosses and held a gold wand in his hand. Gamaliel called Father Lucian by name three times, then told him to go to Jerusalem and inform Bishop John to open the tomb where his relics and those of other saints were resting. The priest asked the stranger who he was.

"I am Gamaliel, who instructed the apostle Paul in the Law," he replied. Then he told the priest where to find the relics of Saint Stephen. He also revealed that he had taken Saint Stephen's body and laid it in his own tomb after it had been lying exposed for a day and a night.

Saint Gamaliel also mentioned that Saint Nikódēmos was buried at the same spot. “I received him into my house in the country,” he said, “and maintained him there until the end of his life. After his death, I buried him honorably near Stephen.”

Saint Gamaliel informed the priest that he and his twenty-year-old son Abibas were also buried there. Father Lucian was afraid to believe this vision right away, lest it be a temptation from the Evil One. However, when Saint Gamaliel appeared again and commanded him to obey his instructions, he did so. A monk named Migetius also had a vision of Saint Gamaliel and told Father Lucian to search for the relics in a place called Debatalia. When the relics were uncovered, an ineffable fragrance was noticed. The relics of Saints Stephen, Gamaliel, Abibas, and Nikódēmos were transferred from Jerusalem to Constantinople in 428 and placed in the church of the holy deacon Laurence (August 10).

(www.oca.org)

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

His Eminence Archbishop Alexander, Hieroschemamonk Ambrose (Young), Abbot Tryphon, Abbot Sergius. Mitred-Archpriest Nicholas (Harris), Mitred-Archpriest Daniel (Kovalak), Mat. Myra (Kovalak), Pres. Eva (Koutroulelis), Mat. Mary Reynolds, Paul Beard, Harry Hiras, Evelyn Chabal, Amelia Kuzmiak, Juliana Matusiak, Isaac Bannister, Michael Lazorchak, Brian Gunter, Joanna Bohlander, John Dykes, Mary Fish, Innocent Sam, Chris Gehret, Bridget Youmans, Stephanie Raptis, Hannah Conover, Anthony Arroyo, child Odette Crews, James & Elizabeth Larson, Xenia Crews & those suffering from the wars and unrest in Ukraine, Russia, & the Middle East. ***Our Catechumens*:** Jiselle Macari, Spencer Leoutsakos, Benjamin Zachariah (Military), Garette, Morgan, Charlotte & Nathaniel Fallon, Rick Lucas, Dean Johnson, Jennifer Benick, Joseph Fazio, Dallas Compton, Jonathan, Madison (& infant Livinia), Felicity & Edmund Race, Mason Hall, Andrew Gehret, Robert, Ana, Donald & Alyssa Rubino & Michael Remick

Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal

Hieromonk Basil (Castillo) +7/28, Deacon Christopher Meholick +6/24, Matushka Louise Hill +7/19 and All those who have lost their lives in the wars & unrest in Ukraine, Russia, the Middle East and around the world.