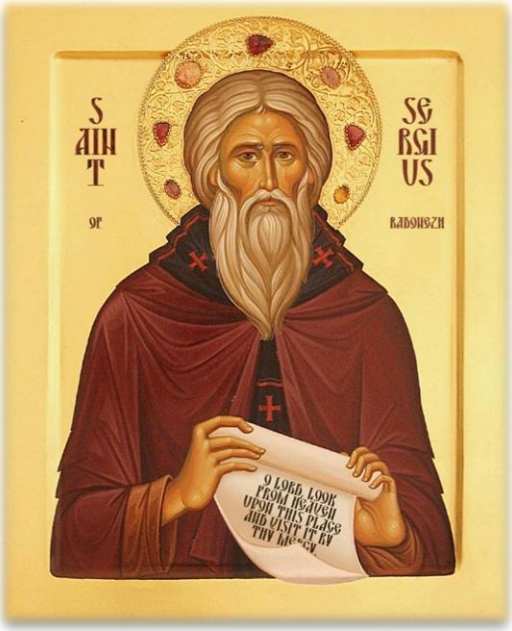
Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

Williamsport, PA.



Uncovering of the relics of Venerable Sergius of Radonezh

July 5th, 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: Galatians 5:22-6:2; Romans 10:1-10
Gospel: St. Luke 6:17-23; St. Matthew 8:28-9:1

A very WARM welcome to everyone this holiday weekend!
Please join us for lunch & fellowship after Liturgy in the Parish Hall!

This Week at Holy Cross

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

✝ ***Compline / Bible Study*** – Wednesday July 8th * 5:30pm

✝ ***Great Vespers*** – Saturday July 11th * 5pm

✝ ***Hours & Divine Liturgy*** – Sunday July 12th * 9:40am - Fellowship following in the Hall.

✝ July Benevolence – *Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry*

June 27 & 28, 2026

Attendance: Vespers – 21 / Divine Liturgy - 75

Collection - $1,082.00 / Online Giving - $575.45

Candle Offerings – $76.00 / Benevolence - $20.00

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

✝ ***St. Sergius the Wonderworker, Abbot of Radonezh***

Saint Sergius of Radonezh was born in the village of Varnitsa, near Rostov, on May 3, 1314. His parents were the pious and illustrious nobles Cyril and Maria (September 28). The Lord chose him while still in his mother's womb. In the Life of Saint Sergius it is reported that even before the birth of her son, Saint Maria and those praying heard the thrice-repeated cry of the infant at the Divine Liturgy: before the reading of the Holy Gospel, during the Cherubic hymn, and when the priest pronounced: "Holy Things are for the Holy."

God gave Cyril and Maria a son whom they named Bartholomew. From his very first days of life the infant amazed everyone by his fasting. On Wednesdays and Fridays he would not accept milk from his mother, and on other days, if Maria used oil in the food, the infant also refused the milk of his mother. Noticing this, Maria refrained altogether from food with oil.

Once, his father sent Bartholomew out after the horses in the field. Along the way he met an angel sent by God under the appearance of a monk. The Elder stood at prayer beneath an oak in a field. Bartholomew approached him, and bowing, waited for the Elder to finish praying. The monk blessed him, gave him a kiss and asked what he wanted.

Bartholomew answered, "With all my soul I want to learn reading and writing. Holy Father, pray for me to God, that He may help me to become literate." The monk fulfilled Bartholomew's request, offering up his prayer to God. In blessing the child he said to him: "Henceforth, my child, God gives you to understand reading and writing, and in this you will surpass your brothers and peers" (See the famous M. Nesterov painting "Vision of Bartholomew").

For his angelic manner of life Saint Sergius was granted a heavenly vision by God. One time by night Abba Sergius was reading the rule of

prayer beneath an icon of the Most Holy Theotokos. Having completed the reading of the canon to the Mother of God, he sat down to rest, but suddenly he said to his disciple, Saint Mikhei (May 6), that there awaited them a wondrous visitation. After a moment the Mother of God appeared accompanied by the holy Apostles Peter and John the Theologian. Due to the extraordinary bright light Saint Sergius fell down, but the Most Holy Theotokos touched Her hands to him, and in blessing him promised always to be Protectress of his holy monastery.

Having reached old age, and foreseeing his own end six months beforehand, Saint Sergius summoned the brethren to him and designated his disciple Saint Nikon (November 17), who was experienced in the spiritual life and obedience, to be igumen. In tranquil solitude Saint Sergius fell asleep in the Lord on September 25, 1392. On the night before, the great saint of God summoned the brethren a final time to give them his final instruction: "Brethren, be attentive to yourselves. Have first the fear of God, purity of soul and unhypocritical love...."

(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 & 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 Alexis (Lisenko) +6/12, Deacon Christopher N. Meholick +6/24 Preoteasa Teodora Nicoleta Stoleru +6/10, Theodore Federoff + 6/18 and All those who have lost their lives in the wars & unrest in Ukraine, Russia, the Middle East and around the world.