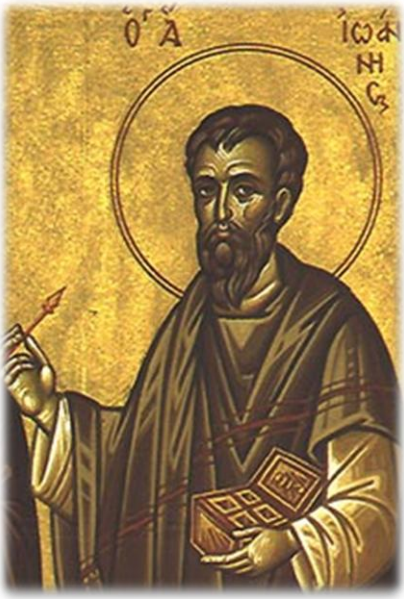
Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

Williamsport, PA.



Translation of the Relics of the holy and wonderworking Unmercenaries Cyrus and John

June 28th, 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: Romans 6:18-23
Gospel: St. Matthew 8:5-13

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

This Week at Holy Cross

✝ ***Great Vespers w/Litya*** – Sunday June 28th * 2pm ***(Ss Peter & Paul)***

✝ ***Hours & Divine Liturgy*** – Monday June 29th * 9:30am

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

✝ ***Compline / Bible Study*** – Wednesday July 1st * 5:30pm

✝ ***Great Vespers*** – Saturday July 4th * 5pm

✝ ***Hours & Divine Liturgy*** – Sunday July 5th * 9:40am Fellowship following in the Hall.

✝ July Benevolence – *Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry*

* THANK YOU for remembering me on my birthday! ❤ *Fr Seraphim*

June 20 & 21, 2026

Attendance: Vespers – 30 / Divine Liturgy - 79
Collection - $746.25 / Online Giving - $240.00
Candle Offerings – $89.00 / Benevolence - $100.00
Memorial (Ted Federoff) - $50.00

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. 😊

✝ *Sermon on Sts. Peter & Paul by St. Gregory Palamas*

Given that Paul made the same confession of faith as Peter, and had the same zeal, humility and love, surely they received the same rewards from Him Who measures everything with completely just scales, yardstick and plumbline. Anything else would be unreasonable. That is why the Lord told Peter, "Thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my church" (Matt. 16:18), whereas He said to Ananias of Paul, "He is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles and kings" (Acts 9:15). Which name? Clearly the name we have been given, the name of Christ's Church, which rests on the foundation stone of Peter. . .. As we consider the outcome of their lives, let us imitate how they lived, or at least how they were restored through humility and repentance, even if we cannot attain to their other great and exalted achievements, which are appropriate to great men and fitting for great men to emulate. In fact, some aspects of their lives are probably impossible for anyone to imitate. Amendment through repentance, however, is more appropriate for us than for the great, since we all sin many times every day, and unless we lay hold of salvation through continuous repentance, we have no hope of it from any other source.

Repentance is preceded by awareness of our sins, which is a strong incentive to mercy. "Have mercy upon me", said the Psalmist and Prophet to God, "for I acknowledge my transgressions" (Ps. 5 1:1, 3). Through his recognition of sin he attracted God's compassion, and through his confession and self-condemnation he obtained complete forgiveness. "I said", the Psalmist tells us, "I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my heart" (cf. Ps. 32:5), because acknowledgment of our sins is followed by condemnation of ourselves, which in turn is followed by that sorrow for our sins which Paul calls "godly sorrow" (2 Cor. 7:10). After godly sorrow confession and prayer to God with a contrite heart come naturally (Ps. 51:17), as does the promise to keep away from evil from now on. This is repentance.

This is how Manasseh escaped being punished for his sins, even though he had fallen into many great and serious transgressions and wallowed in them for years on end (2 Chr. 33:1-20). As for David, the Lord set aside his sin because of his repentance, nor did he deprive him of his Prophetic gift. When Peter resorted to repentance, he not only recovered from his fall and obtained forgiveness but was also appointed to protect Christ's Church. As you see, Paul too was rewarded with this role after his conversion, once he had made progress and become more closely God's own than the others. Repentance which is true and truly from the heart persuades the penitent not to sin any more, not to mix with corrupt people, and not to gape in curiosity at evil pleasures, but to despise things present, cling to things to come, struggle against passions, seek after virtues, be self-controlled in every respect, keep vigil with prayers to God, and shun dishonest gain. It convinces him to be merciful to those who wrong him, gracious to those who ask something of him, ready with all his heart to bend down and help in any way he can, whether by words, actions or money, all who seek his assistance, that through kindness to his fellow-man he might gain God's love in return for loving his neighbour, draw the divine favour to himself, and attain to eternal mercy and God's everlasting blessing and grace. (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 & 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, 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.