Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

Williamsport, PA.

18th Sunday After Pentecost

Hieromartyr Hierotheus, Bishop of Athens

October 4th, 2026

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11
Gospel: St. Luke 6:31-36

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

This Week at Holy Cross

✝ ***Compline / Bible Study*** – Wednesday October 7th * 5:30pm

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

✝ ***Great Vespers*** – Saturday October 10th * 5pm

✝ ***Hours & Divine Liturgy*** – Sunday October 11th * 9:40am – Lunch Fellowship following in the Hall.

*October Benevolence – *Theotokos of the Life-Giving Spring Mission in Philadelphia*

September 26/27, 2026

Attendance: Vespers – / Divine Liturgy –
Collection - $ / Online Giving - $
Candle Offerings – $ / Benevolence - $

THANK YOU for your fathful 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. 😊

✝ *Martyr Sophia and her three daughters at Rome (Sept 17)*

The Holy Martyrs Saint Sophia and her Daughters Faith, Hope and Love were born in Italy. Their mother was a pious Christian widow who named her daughters for the three Christian virtues. Faith was twelve, Hope was ten, and Love was nine. Saint Sophia raised them in the love of the Lord Jesus Christ. Saint Sophia and her daughters did not hide their faith in Christ but openly confessed it before everyone.

An official named Antiochus denounced them to the emperor Hadrian (117-138), who ordered that they be brought to Rome. Realizing that they would be taken before the emperor, the holy virgins prayed fervently to the Lord Jesus Christ, asking that He give them the strength not to fear torture and death. When the holy virgins and their mother came before the emperor, everyone present was amazed at their composure. They looked as though they had been brought to some happy festival, rather than to torture. Summoning each of the sisters in turn, Hadrian urged them to offer sacrifice to the goddess Artemis. The young girls remained unyielding.

Then the emperor ordered them to be tortured. They burned the holy virgins over an iron grating, then threw them into a red-hot oven, and finally into a cauldron with boiling tar, but the Lord preserved them.

The youngest child, Love, was tied to a wheel and they beat her with rods until her body was covered all over with bloody welts. After undergoing unspeakable torments, the holy virgins glorified their Heavenly Bridegroom and remained steadfast in the Faith.

They subjected Saint Sophia to another grievous torture: the mother was forced to watch the suffering of her daughters. She displayed adamant courage and urged her daughters to endure their torments for the sake of the

Heavenly Bridegroom. All three maidens were beheaded and joyfully bent their necks beneath the sword.

In order to intensify Saint Sophia's inner suffering, the emperor permitted her to take the bodies of her daughters. She placed their remains in coffins and loaded them on a wagon. She drove beyond the city limits and reverently buried them on a high hill. Saint Sophia sat there by the graves of her daughters for three days, and finally she gave up her soul to the Lord. Even though she did not suffer for Christ in the flesh, she was not deprived of a martyr's crown. Instead, she suffered in her heart. Believers buried her body there beside her daughters.

The relics of the holy martyrs have rested at El'zasa, in the church of Esho since the year 777. (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. Katherine White, Paul Beard, Harry Hiras, Evelyn Chabal, Amelia Kuzmiak, Juliana Matusiak, Isaac Bannister, Michael Lazorchak, Brian Gunter, Joanna Bohlander, John Dykes, Mary Fish, Innocent Sam, Stephanie Raptis, Anthony Arroyo, child Odette Crews, James & Elizabeth Larson, ***Newly Illumined:*** Silouan, Emmelia, Marina, Nicholas Fallon, & Juliana Macari - Those suffering from the wars and unrest in Ukraine, Russia, & the Middle East. ***Our Catechumens*:** Spencer Leoutsakos, Benjamin Zachariah (Military), 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 & Seth Zerbe

Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal

Protodeacon Alexei Dupay +8/23, Adelina Salubayba +8/27 and All those who have lost their lives in the wars & unrest in Ukraine, Russia, the Middle East and around the world. Disaster in Nepal