

Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



Afterfeast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple

February 4th, 2024

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Colossians 3:12-16
Gospel: St. Matthew 22:14-30

A warm welcome to EVERYONE this morning!!

UPCOMING SERVICES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- + Church **OPEN** for prayer/Confession – Tuesday Feb 6th - 7 to 9:30am
- + *Compline/Bible Study* – Wednesday February 7th at 5:30pm
- + Church **OPEN** for prayer/Confession – Thursday Feb 8th - 7 to 9:30am
- + *Great Vespers* – Saturday February 10th at 5pm
- + *Hours, Divine Liturgy* – Sunday February 11th at 9:40am – Potluck WING Fellowship following in the Hall.
- + *Confessions on Saturdays before Vespers or by appointment.*
- + Benevolence Fund for February: - 3rd Saturday Luncheon
- + House Blessings are now happening! Please contact Fr. Seraphim to set up a day and time. 😊

OUR GIVING — JANUARY 28TH, 2024

Tithes/Offerings - \$240.00 / Online Giving - \$255.00

Candle Offerings – \$49.00

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.**

Colossians 3:12-16

“Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful. Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts” (NLT).

Fertile Ground

A Grateful Heart is Fertile Ground by Abbot Tryphon

When we strive to interact with members of our family, our friends, our coworkers, and all others, with respect, humility, and dignity, we lay the groundwork for the abundance of Grace needed to quicken our heart for the things of God.

When you open your heart to others, with gratitude, the path is prepared for a relationship with Jesus Christ, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit will fill you with the power to live a life that is transformed by God’s Grace. You will be filled with heartfelt gratitude for all God’s gifts, and inner peace will be yours.

The preparation for sowing the seeds of the love of God begins with responsive gratefulness. The Apostle Paul writes, “Remember, it is not you that holds up the root, but the root that holds you up (Rom. 11:18).” Any relationship with God, must begin with a grateful heart, and is cultivated by kindness, and goodwill towards others. When you are grateful you respond toward God and others by enacting other virtues.

The constant and cultivated feeling of deep appreciation and heartfelt gratitude for others quickens the soul to feel the inner need to freely and thankfully respond to God’s invitation to commune with Him. The soil is prepared for the planting of seeds that allow us to respond to God’s grace, for a grateful heart is fertile ground for the things of God.

All Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA.

“The opposite of gratitude is bitterness and complaining; it is bemoaning one’s lot in life because of pride and covetousness. It is caused by the absence of humble trust in the Lord” (+ Fr. Thomas Hopko).

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

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), Mat. Daria Pelesh, Xenia Crews (child Odette), Anastasia Linnehan & Sarah Gunter (children to be born of them), 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!

Archpriest Moses Berry +1/12, Archpriest Robert Stephen Kennaugh +1/12, Deacon Horia Roscanu +1/19, Deacon Joseph Rabickow, Jr +1/22, Matushka Rosemary Mariamna Soot +1/16, Mother Elizabeth Lutz +1/6, & Those who have lost their lives in the wars in Ukraine, Russia, & Middle East