

Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania
Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



Christ Is Born! Glorify Him!

*The Nativity of Our Lord God
and Saviour, Jesus Christ!*

December 25th, 2022

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Galatians 4:4-9
Gospel: St. Matthew 2:1-12

A VERY warm welcome to everyone, and especially to our visitors this morning! Please join us for some fellowship after in the Parish Hall!

Services, Events & Announcements

+ THIS COMING WEEK IS A ***FAST FREE WEEK***

+ ***NO Compline/Bible Study - Wednesday December 28th***

++ FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD ++

VESPERS — SATURDAY DECEMBER 31ST @ 5PM

DIVINE LITURGY — SUNDAY JANUARY 1ST @ 10AM) HOURS @ 9:40) POTLUCK FELLOWSHIP FOLLOWING IN THE HALL

+ ***Thank you to everyone for your gifts to our Church during the Advent & Christmas Seasons! Also, for your giving to the St Ann Food Pantry! Any gifts for our Benevolence Fund will help those who are in need.***

Our Giving – December 18th, 2022

Tithes/Offerings - \$873.00 / Online Giving - \$125.00
Candle Offerings – \$96.00 / Christmas Flowers - \$70.00
Christmas Offerings - \$145.00

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, Confession, or fasting, please see Fr. Seraphim. 😊

The Adoration of the Magi: Melchior, Caspar, and Balthasar

The Nativity of Christ was revealed to the Magi by a wondrous star. Saint John Chrysostom and Saint Theophylactus, commenting on Saint Matthew's Gospel, say that this was no ordinary star. Rather, it was "a divine and angelic power that appeared in the form of a star." Saint Demetrius of Rostov says it was a "manifestation of divine energy" (Narrative of the Adoration of the Magi). Entering the house where the Infant lay, the Magi "fell down, and worshipped Him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented Him gifts: gold, and frankincense, and myrrh" (Mt. 2:11).

The names of the three Wise Men (Magi) do not appear in the Gospels. The tradition that there were three visitors from the east is very ancient, but their names are only mentioned in the Middle Ages. Bones reputed to be the relics of the three Magi have been in the cathedral at Cologne, Germany since 1164. www.oca.org

Commemoration of the Shepherds in Bethlehem who were watching their flocks, and went to see the Lord

In the stillness of midnight (Wisdom of Solomon 18:14-15), the proclamation of the birth of the Savior of the world was heard by three shepherds watching their flocks by night.

An angel of the Lord (Saint Cyprian says this was Gabriel) came before them and said: “Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11). The humble shepherds were the first to offer worship to Him Who condescended to assume the form of a humble servant for the salvation of mankind. www.oca.org



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 Moses (Berry), Pres. Eva (Koutroulelis), Pres. Rosy (Tanveer), Paul Beard, Evelyn Chabal, Phoebe Davis, Michael Kuzmiak, Juliana Matusiak, Elias Ciaccio, Elizabeth Wadsworth, Gary Larson, Sebastian Fillar, Infant John, Isaac Bannister & those suffering in Ukraine

Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!

Matushka Mary Perove +11/24, Matushka Emily Shuga +12/7, & Those who have given their lives in Ukraine