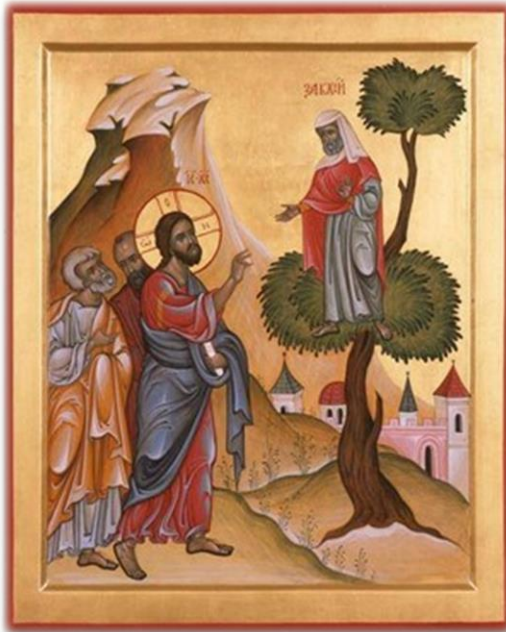


Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Elevation of the Holy Cross
Orthodox Church
Williamsport, PA.



Zacchaeus Sunday

St Ignatius the God Bearer

January 29th, 2023

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

1725 Holy Cross Ln
Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701-2749
www.holycrosswilliamsport.org

Rev. Fr. Seraphim Reynolds, Pastor
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Scripture Readings:

Epistle: 1 Timothy 4:9-15

Gospel: St. Luke 19:1-10

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

+ **MEETING OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE** - *Vesperal Liturgy* -
Wednesday February 1st at 5:30 – Potluck following

+ *Great Vespers* – Saturday February 4th at 5pm

+ *Divine Liturgy* - Sunday February 5th at 10am (Hours @ 9:40),
fellowship following in the Hall. Church School / Orthodoxy 101

+ *House Blessings* are now going on! Please see Fr. Seraphim to set
up a day and time to have your home blessed (*before Lent*). Having
our homes blessed each year is part of our Orthodox tradition. 😊

+ **THANK YOU ALL** for your gifts, and for remembering Mat Mary
& I at Christmas and my 5 yr. anniversary of my Priesthood. May
God bless you all!!

Our Giving – January 22nd, 2023

Tithes/Offerings - \$2,715.00 / Online Offerings - \$150.00

Candle Offerings – \$35.50 / Benevolence - \$40.00

Thank you all for your generosity!

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. 😊

Sunday of Zacchaeus

The paschal season of the Church is preceded by the season of Great Lent, which is also preceded by its own liturgical preparation. The first sign of the approach of Great Lent comes five Sundays before its beginning. On this Sunday the Gospel reading is about Zacchaeus the tax-collector. It tells how Christ brought salvation to the sinful man, and how his life was changed simply because he “sought to see who Jesus was” (Luke 19:3). The desire and effort to see Jesus begins the entire movement through Lent towards Pascha. It is the first movement of salvation.

Our Lenten journey begins with a recognition of our own sinfulness, just as Zacchaeus recognized his. He promised to make restitution by giving half of his wealth to the poor, and by paying to those he had falsely accused four times as much as they had lost. In this, he went beyond the requirements of the Law (Ex. 22:3-12).

The example of Zacchaeus teaches us that we should turn away from our sins and atone for them. The real proof of our sorrow and repentance is not just a verbal apology, but when we correct ourselves and try to make amends for the consequences of our evil actions.

We are also assured of God's mercy and compassion by Christ's words to Zacchaeus, "Today salvation is come to this house" (Luke 19:9). After the Great Doxology and Trisagion at Sunday Matins (when the Tone of the week is in Tone 1, 3, 5, or 7) we sing the Troparion of the Resurrection: "Today salvation is come to the world, let us sing praises to Him Who arose from the tomb, and is the Author of our life. For having destroyed death by death, He has given us the victory and great mercy."

Zacchaeus was short, so he climbed a tree in order to see the Lord. All of us have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). We are also short in our spiritual stature; therefore, we must climb the ladder of the virtues. In other words, we must prepare for spiritual effort and growth. (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 & Karen Larson, Sebastian Fillar, Infant John, Isaac Bannister, & those suffering in Ukraine

Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!

His Grace, Bishop TIKHON +1/22, Mitred-Archpriest Sergius Kuharsky +1/5, Archpriest Eugene Tarris +1/13, Archpriest Theodore Panchak +12/30, Priest John Bernardi +1/25, Matushka Theodora Davis +12/26, Joseph Wojtkielewicz +1/9 & Those who have given their lives in Ukraine