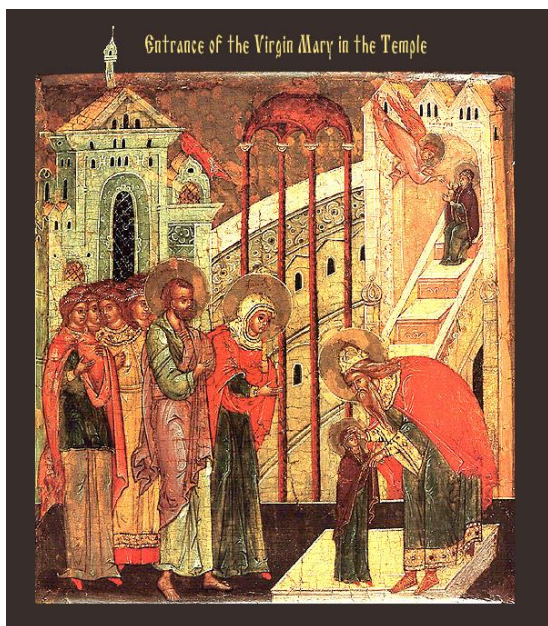


Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



*Forefeast of the Entry into
the Temple of the Most Holy
Theotokos*

November 20th, 2022

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10

Gospel: St. Luke 12:16-21

***A very warm welcome to our visitors this morning!
Please join us after in the Fellowship Hall!***

Services, Events & Announcements

- + **FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS** – Divine Liturgy – Monday Nov 21st @ 9
- + **No** Compline or Bible Study this week.
- + *Great Vespers* – Saturday November 26th @ 5
- + *Divine Liturgy* - Sunday November 27th @ 10 (Hours @ 9:40)
Fellowship following in the Hall / Orthodoxy 101
- + *Invite a friend, neighbor, or co-worker to Church with you!*
- + *May All of you have a safe and blessed Thanksgiving!*

Our Giving – November 13th, 2022

Tithes/Offerings - \$421.00 / Online Giving - \$240.00

Love Offerings - \$170.00 / Candle Offerings – \$105.00

Thank you for all that you give!

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 each other too.* If you have any questions about Communion, please see Fr. Seraphim. 😊

The Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple in Jerusalem.

When the holy and most pure child Mary (Mariam or Miriam in Hebrew) reached the age of three, her parents, the righteous Joachim and Anna, fulfilled the vow they had made to dedicate her to God. Going in procession with a company of maidens carrying torches, they presented their child at the Temple in Jerusalem, where Zecharias the High Priest took her under his care, blessing her with these words: "The Lord has glorified thy name in every generation; it is in thee that He will reveal the Redemption that he has prepared for his people in the last days." He then brought the child into the Holy of Holies — something completely unheard-of, for under the Law only the High Priest was allowed to enter the Holy Place, and he only once a year on the Day of Atonement.

(In the icon of the feast, the maidens who accompany the Theotokos are shown bare-headed, as was customary for unmarried girls; but the Theotokos herself, though only three years old, wears the head-covering of a married woman to show her consecration to God.)

The holy Virgin lived in the Temple for the next nine years, devoting herself entirely to prayer. In this time, she attained the utter purity of heart befitting the destined Bearer of the Most High;

she became in her own person the fulfilment and condensation of all of Israel's faithfulness. Saint Gregory Palamas says that, when the Theotokos entered the Holy of Holies, the time of preparation and testing of the Old Covenant came to an end for Israel, which was now ready, in the blessed Virgin, to bring forth the Savior.

When Mary approached marriageable age, she was entrusted to the chaste widower Joseph to guard her. (The Prologue says that a life of intentional virginity was unknown among the Hebrews, so the righteous Joseph undertook the forms of marriage so as not to cause scandal among the people.)

"Wherefore the Church rejoices and exhorts all the friends of God for their part to enter into the temple of their heart, there to make ready for the coming of the Lord by silence and prayer, withdrawing from the pleasures and cares of this world."

(Synaxarion)

(www.abbamoses.com)

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, Catherine Mann, Elias Ciaccio, Elizabeth Wadsworth, Gary Larson, Infant John & those suffering in Ukraine

Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!
Igumen Victorin (Torrez Martinez) +10/23, Priest Andrew Diehl +10/15, Protodeacon Paul Erickson +11/8, Helen Maybo +10/11 & those who have lost their lives in Ukraine