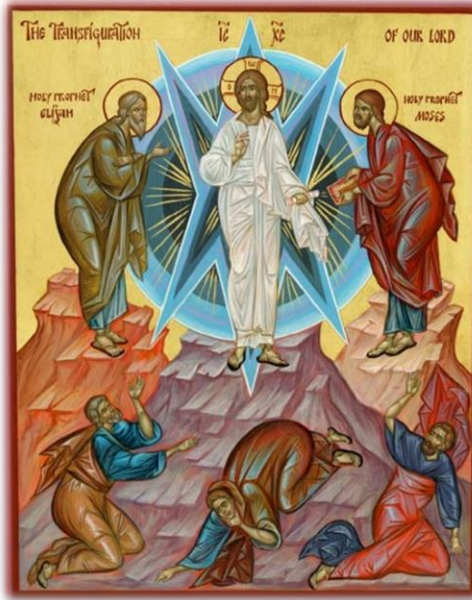


Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

# Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



## Leavetaking of the Transfiguration

St. Tikhon of Zadonsk

August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023

# Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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## ***Today's Scripture Readings:***

*Epistle:* Hebrews 7:26-8:2; 1 Corinthians 4:9-16  
*Gospel:* St. Matthew 5:14-19; St. Matthew 17:14-23

## ***Joyous Feast!***

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

## **Services & Announcements**

**+ *Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos - Vesperal Liturgy  
w/Blessing of the Flowers & Herbs*** - Monday August 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30

**+ The Church will *not* be open for prayer this Tuesday morning  
August 15<sup>th</sup> . . . *Joyous Feast!***

**+ NO Compline/Bible Study – Wednesday August 16<sup>th</sup>**

**+ *Parish Council Meeting* – Thursday August 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30**

**+ *Great Vespers* – Saturday August 19<sup>th</sup> at 5**

**+ *Hours, Divine Liturgy* – Sunday August 20<sup>th</sup>, at 9:40 – Fellowship  
following in the Hall.**

**+ If you would like to donate toward our *Iconography* project,  
please use the “Designated” envelopes at the Candle Counter.**

**+ If you have interest in being buried at Wildwood Cemetery  
(Orthodox section) in Williamsport, please let Fr Seraphim know.**

**+ Benevolence collections for August will go to the purchase of a  
traditional Orthodox coffin for the Parish to have on hand.**

+ *Volunteers needed at St Ann's Food Pantry, every 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday and Saturday of the month. See the bulletin board for details.*

**Our Giving – August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Tithes/Offerings - \$2,081.00 / Online Giving - \$208.58

Candle Offerings – \$70.00 / Memorial - \$10.00

*Thank you all for your 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. 😊

***The Three Antiphons***

At the beginning of the Orthodox Divine Liturgy, three hymns called *antiphons* follow the Great Litany and precede the Little Entrance. Traditionally, antiphonal singing in the Orthodox Church consisted of two choirs singing, alternately, one or more verses from the Psalms. In modern Orthodox practice, especially in the Russian tradition, one choir generally sings the three Antiphons, with *Little Litanies* between them. The first two antiphons, “Bless the Lord, O My Soul” and “Praise the Lord, O My Soul” are taken from the Psalms (Psalm 102[103] and Psalm 145[146], respectively). As we will see below, the Psalms, of great importance to the life of the Church and to all Orthodox Christians, became the hymnbook of the Church, inherited from Judaism. The third antiphon consists of the Beatitudes, taken from the Gospels (Matt 5:2–12; Luke 6:20–26). The Beatitudes are considered to be the most concise form of the teachings of Christ, and have a prominent place in the Divine Liturgy, right before the procession of the Gospel book, called the Little Entrance.

In addition to the succession of antiphons and litanies, the “Hymn of Justinian” is sung after the second antiphon. Many know this hymn as “Only Begotten Son,” after its first three words. It was composed sometime in the 4th or 5th century and was spread and popularized by the Emperor Justinian (527-565 A.D.), who recognized its importance. The significance of this beautiful hymn is its affirmation of the Christological formula developed during the First Ecumenical Council (325 A.D.), including its description of Christ as the Only Begotten Son of the Father, taken from the Gospel of John (John 1:14, 1:18, and 3:16). The text of the hymn is very specific, with each word rendering deep theological truths which are necessary to correctly ascribe to Jesus his identity, attributes and actions in the world:

*Only Begotten Son and Immortal Word of God, Who for our salvation didst will to be incarnate of the holy Theotokos and ever virgin Mary, Who without change didst become man and wast crucified, O Christ our God, trampling down death by death, Who art one of the Holy Trinity, Glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit, save us!*

(Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs, Chp.3, pg.36)

### **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), Priest James (Chuta), Mat. Mary (Reynolds), Pres. Eva (Koutroulelis), Pres. Rosy (Tanveer), Mat. Mary Lynn (Henry), Mat. Deborah (Belonick), Mat. Barbara (Matusiak), Mat. Seraphima (Hunter), Xenia Crews Alexa Yonkin & the children to be born of them, Paul Beard, Evelyn Chabal, Phoebe Davis, Michael Kuzmiak, Juliana Matusiak, Elias Ciaccio, Elizabeth Wadsworth, Sebastian Fillar, Infant John, Isaac Bannister, Vera Christopher, Paisios Sundin, Christine Perrin, Agnes Andreanoff, Michael Lazorchak, Edward Hojnicky, Basil Evick & those suffering from the war in Ukraine.

### **Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!**

Archpriest John Sidor +7/3, Mat. Delores Donlick +7/28, & Those who have lost their lives in the war in Ukraine & Russia, & the Fire in Hawaii