

Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

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



The Transfiguration of Our  
Lord Jesus Christ

August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

# Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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

Rev. Fr. Seraphim Reynolds, Pastor  
Office: 570.322.3020  
(c) 717.576.3503  
Email: priestseraphim@protonmail.com

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

*Epistle:* 1 Corinthians 3:9-17; 2 Peter 1:10-19  
*Gospel:* St. Matthew 14:22-34; St. Matthew 17:1-9

## ***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, Events & Announcements**

- + The Church will be open for prayer this Tuesday morning August 8<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 – 9:30
- + ***Paraklesis to the Most Theotokos*** - Wednesday August 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30
- + *Great Vespers* – Saturday August 12<sup>th</sup> at 5
- + *Hours, Divine Liturgy* – Sunday August 13<sup>th</sup>, at 9:40 – Fellowship following in the Hall.
- + If you would like to donate toward our *Iconography* or *Church Floor* projects, 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 July & 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 – July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

Tithes/Offerings - \$3,097.00 / Online Giving - \$200.00

Candle Offerings – \$56.00 / Icon Project - \$600.00

Benevolence - \$25.00

*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. 😊

### **The Great Litany**

The first petition in the Great Litany asks for salvation for those who are assembled in peace. The deacon bids the faithful, “For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.” This again reveals the eschatological nature of the Kingdom of God, of our salvation, and of the peace which constitutes that saving kingdom. It is not a peace coming from the world, having its power and origin in political agreements, treaties, and the strength of armies to enforce them. Peace from below is indeed a political peace, and therefore is as fragile as human politics. The second of the Liturgy’s antiphons (from Psalm 146) warns us to “put not your trust in princes”, since as fragile human beings the peace they establish is as fragile as they are.

When his spirit departs, he returns to the earth and on that very day his plans—his agendas, his treaties, his peace—all perish. But the peace that we experience is from God above, and the peace and salvation that He gives to us can never perish or suffer diminution. In praying for the peace from above, the Church confesses that it belongs to a kingdom which can never perish, and which can never be troubled by the tribulation which reigns in this world. This petition confesses and exults in the unbreakable union that exists between Christ and His Church,

between the Head and the Body. Wherever the Church sojourns on the earth, and under whatever political system, and in whatever trouble it may find itself, its peace remains serene and unbreakable, for it comes from above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

If the first petition of the Great Litany reveals the eschatological nature and eternal safety of the Church in this world, the next petition reveals the Church's concern for the world in which it lives and sojourns. In this petition, the deacon bids the faithful to pray "for the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, and for the union [i.e., the unity] of all." Though the Church remains safe and secure in God's peace, it is not unconcerned for the world or for the plight of its neighbours and fellow men. The Church's lot in this age is tied up with its fellow men, and the disasters which strike the world affect the Church as well.

The Church therefore begins by asking God to extend the peace that the Church experiences in saving fullness to the world as well, insofar as the world can receive it.

(Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs, Chp. 2, 24-25)

### **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), 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!**

Protopresbyter Alexander Veronis +6/26, Archpriest John Sidor +7/3, Mat. Delores Donlick +7/28 & Those who have lost their life in the war in Ukraine.