

Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes,
and Euphrasius, of Alexandria

December 10th, 2023

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Rev. Fr. Seraphim Reynolds, *Pastor*
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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Ephesians 6:10-17

Gospel: St. Luke 17:12-19

A warm Advent welcome to EVERYONE this morning!!

Services & Announcements

- + Church **OPEN** for prayer Tuesday & Thursday 7:30 – 9:30am
- + *Compline/Bible Study* – Wednesday December 13th at 5:30
- + *Great Vespers* – Saturday December 16th at 5
- + *Hours, Divine Liturgy* – Sunday December 17th at 9:40 –
Fellowship following in the Hall.
- + Choir practice every Saturday at 4 through Advent. Interested in joining the Choir??
- + *Food items (non-perishable) being collected for the St. Ann Food Pantry through Advent. You can leave them in the Hall.*
- + Benevolence for December: - *Diocesan Seminarian Fr. Dn. Kirill & Mat. Olivia Zawatski*

Our Giving – December 3rd, 2023

Tithes/Offerings - \$2,764.00 / Online Giving - \$200.00

Candle Offerings – \$73.00 / Christmas Flowers - \$50.00

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 must be at peace with everyone too.*** If you have any questions about Holy Communion, please see Fr. Seraphim. 😊

**** Please remain (quietly) for the *Prayers of Thanksgiving* after the Liturgy, before going over to the Hall for Fellowship.**

Giving Thanks Frequently – *The Morning Offering*

“We thank thee, O Christ our God, that thou hast satisfied us with thy earthly gifts, deprive us not of thy Heavenly Kingdom; but as thou entered into the midst of thy disciples, O Saviour, and gave them peace, enter also among us and save us. Amen.”

This prayer is one of my personal favorites, for it recognizes in concise words my need to remember to give thanks to God for all He has given me. It connects me to the ancient Church, for it allows me to recount the Lord’s coming in the midst of His disciples and granting them the peace I so desire. It keeps me focused on the goal, and remembering, throughout my day, that the Lord is to be my focus.

This is the prayer many Orthodox Christians pray at the end of meals, yet also a prayer that can be offered whenever we are feeling a certain gratefulness of heart, or desiring God’s loving mercy.

Prayers like this are easily memorized, allowing us to express our gratitude to God without being wordy. The Lord knows our needs, and there is no need to “spell it out” for God. What is necessary is that we remember to give thanks to God, and let the Lord hear from us throughout the day. These short little prayers are perfect for keeping ourselves spiritually focused, as they express our desire to make communion with God the central part of our day.

This is a wonderful prayer to say with children, just before tucking them in for the night, ending their waking hours by calling down God's peace into their hearts. It is a wonderful prayer to offer, as we've arrived safely to our destination, following the morning commute.

Our prayers need not be long, but they should be frequent. Just as an old couple who've shared a long life together don't need to say a lot of words in order to demonstrate their love for one another, so too, our prayers don't need to be long and formal, in order to let God know we love Him, but they do need to be frequent.

With love in Christ,

Abbot Tryphon, All Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA.

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), Archpriest Michael (Evans), Pres. Eva (Koutroulelis), Pres. Rosy (Tanveer), Mat. Mary Lynn (Henry), Mat. Deborah (Belonick), Mat. Barbara (Matusiak), Mat. Nancy Chuta, Mat. Daria Pelesh, Xenia Crews, Anastasia Linnehan & the children to be born of them, Paul Beard, Evelyn Chabal, Michael Kuzmiak, Juliana Matusiak, Elias Ciaccio, Elizabeth Wadsworth, Sebastian Fillar, Anna Conrad, Isaac Bannister, Christine Perrin, Agnes Andeanoff, Michael Lazorchak, Edward Hojnicki, Brian Gunter, Vladimir Kerkendall, Alec Litchard & those suffering from the wars in Ukraine, Russia, & the Middle East

Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!

Archpriest Michael Oleksa +11/29, Archpriest Sergius Clark +11/22
Archpriest William Clark +11/14, Archpriest Michael Lupu +12/5, Priest Antony Gori +11/13 Protodeacon Nicholas Jannakos +11/18, Prifteresha Elisabeth Bouteneff +11/25, Phoebe Davis +11/9, Jason Brown +11/10 & Those who have lost their lives in the wars in Ukraine, Russia, & the Middle East