

Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Elevation of the Holy Cross

Orthodox Church

Williamsport, PA.



Holy Prophet Zephaniah

December 3rd, 2023

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Ephesians 5:9-19

Gospel: St. Luke 18:18-27

A warm Advent welcome to EVERYONE this morning!!

Services & Announcements

- + Church **OPEN** for prayer Tuesday & Thursday 7:30 – 9:30am
- + ***Feast of St Nicholas*** – Vesperal Liturgy - Tuesday December 5th at 5:30
- + *Compline/Bible Study* – Wednesday December 6th at 5:30
- + *Great Vespers* – Saturday December 9th at 5
- + *Hours, Divine Liturgy* – Sunday December 10th 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 – November 26th, 2023

Tithes/Offerings - \$795.00 / Online Giving - \$200.00

Candle Offerings – \$92.00 / Memorial - \$100.00

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.**

Ephesians 5:9-19 (Epistle)

(for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.

Therefore, He says: "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light." See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Therefore, do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

St. Luke 18:18-27 (Gospel)

Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'" And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth."

So, when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!”

For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” And those who heard it said, “Who then can be saved?” But He said, “The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.”

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, 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, Paisios Sundin, Christine Perrin, Agnes Andreanoff, 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, 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