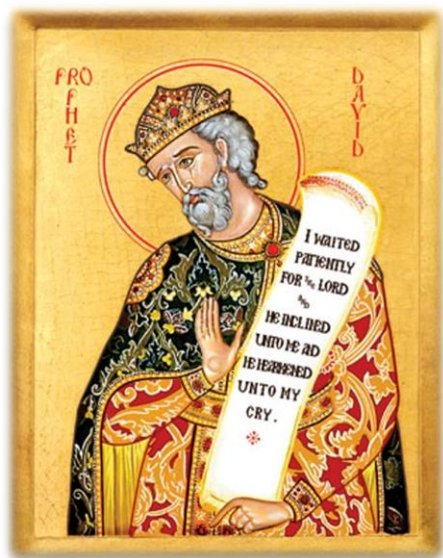


Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

Sunday After the Nativity

Righteous David the King, Joseph the Betrothed, and James the Brother of the Lord

December 31st, 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: Galatians 1:11-19

Gospel: St. Matthew 2:13-23

A warm festive welcome to EVERYONE this morning!!

Services & Announcements

+ THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD +

Great Vespers – Sunday December 31st following Fellowship

Hours, Divine Liturgy - Monday January 1st at 9:40

+ Church **CLOSED** Tuesday & **OPEN** Thursday - 7 - 9:30

+ *Compline/Bible Study* – Wednesday January 3rd at 5:30

+ THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD +

Vesperal Liturgy w/Blessing of Water – Friday January 5th at 5:30

+ *Great Vespers* – Saturday January 6th at 5

+ *Hours, Divine Liturgy* – Sunday January 7th at 9:40 – *Fellowship following in the Hall.*

+ Benevolence Fund for January: - *Discretionary*

Our Giving – December 24th & 25th 2023

Tithes/Offerings - \$1,091.50 / Online Giving - \$205.00

Candle Offerings – \$103.25

Christmas Offerings - \$150.00 / Memorial - \$200.00

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, please see Fr. Seraphim. 😊

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

THANK YOU to all of you for your gifts and cards to Mat. Mary & I! We are deeply grateful for your love & generosity toward us! May God Bless you all for your kindness. **CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!**

St. Matthew 2:13-23 (Gospel, Sunday After)

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.”

When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, “Out of Egypt I called My Son.”

Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: “A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.”

Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child’s life are dead.”

Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee.

And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

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 Andreanoff, Michael Lazorchak, Edward Hojnicky, 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 Michael Lupu +12/5, Prifteresha Elisabeth Bouteneff +11/25, & Those who have lost their lives in the wars in Ukraine, Russia, & the Middle East