

Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



Rest of St John of Shanghai & San Francisco

July 2nd, 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: Romans 6:18-23; Hebrews 7:26-8:2 (*St. John*)
Gospel: St. Matthew 8:5-13; St. John 10:9-16 (*St. John*)

***A warm welcome to everyone, and especially to all our visitors
this morning!***

Please join us for some fellowship after in the Parish Hall!

Services, Events & Announcements

+ The Church will be closed for prayer this Tuesday morning and will resume next Tuesday July 11th. ***A Happy and Safe 4th to Everyone!***

+ *Compline / Bible Study* - Wednesday July 5th, at 5:30

+ *Great Vespers* – Saturday July 8th, at 5

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

+ If you would like to donate toward our ongoing *Iconography* or *Church Floor* projects, please use the “Designated” envelopes at the Candle Counter. If you have any questions about these projects, please see Fr Seraphim or members of the Parish Council.

+ In the coming weeks and months, the Parish Council will be sharing more information concerning the projects happening here at Holy Cross: *Church Iconography*, *Church Flooring Project*, and the possibility of an Orthodox burial section at Wildwood Cemetery here in Williamsport.

Our Giving – June 25th, 2023

Tithes/Offerings - \$2,149.00 / Online Giving - \$199.00

Candle Offerings – \$81.00 / Icon Fund \$50.00

Church Floor - \$6,000.00

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. 😊

† *Saint John [Maximovitch], Archbishop of Shanghai and San Francisco*

Our Father among the Saints John (Maximovitch), Archbishop of Shanghai and San Francisco (1896-1966), was a diocesan bishop of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia (ROCOR) who served widely from China to France to the United States. Hieromonk John was consecrated bishop on May 28, 1934, with Metropolitan Anthony serving as principal consecrator, after which he was assigned to the Diocese of Shanghai. Twelve years later he was named Archbishop of China. Upon his arrival in Shanghai, Bishop John began working to restore unity among the various Orthodox nationalities. In time, he worked to build a large cathedral church that was dedicated to Surety of Sinners Icon to the Mother of God, with a bell tower and large parish house. Additionally, he inspired many activities: building of churches, hospitals, and orphanages among the Orthodox and Russians of Shanghai. He was intensely active, constantly praying and serving the daily cycle of services, while also visiting the sick with the Holy Gifts. He often would walk barefooted even in the coldest days. Yet to avoid the appearance of secular glory, he would pretend to act the fool.

With the end of World War II and the coming to power of the communists in China, Bishop John led the exodus of his community from Shanghai in 1949. Initially, he helped some 5,000 refugees to a camp on the island of Tubabao in the Philippines, while he travelled successfully to Washington, D.C., to lobby to amend the law to allow these refugees to enter the United States. It was while on this trip that Bishop John took time to establish a parish in Washington dedicated to Saint John the Forerunner.

In 1962, Archbishop John was assigned to the Diocese of San Francisco, succeeding his long time friend Archbishop Tikhon. Archbishop John's days in San Francisco were to prove sorrowful as he attempted to heal the great disunity in his community. He was able to bring peace such that the new cathedral, dedicated to the Joy of all Who Sorrow Icon of the Mother of God, was completed. Deeply revering Saint John of Kronstadt, Archbishop John played an active role in preparation of his canonization. He reposed during a visit to Seattle on July 2, 1966, while accompanying a tour of the Kursk-Root Icon of the Mother of God. He was laid to rest in a crypt chapel under the main altar of the new cathedral. (www.monasteryofstjohn.org)

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 & 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, & those suffering from the war in Ukraine.

Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!

Protopresbyter Alexander Veronis +6/26, Archpriest Benjamin Henderson +5/30, Mat. Helen Pogrebniak +5/29 & Those who have lost their life in the war in Ukraine.