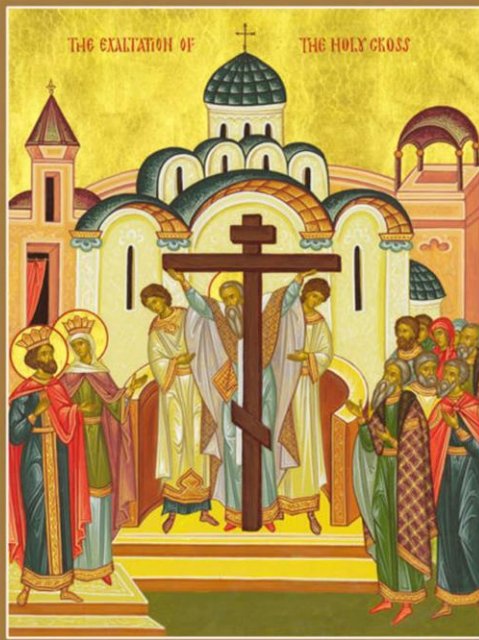


Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Elevation of the Holy Cross

Orthodox Church

Williamsport, PA.



**Martyr Trophimus and 14
Others in Lycia**

July 23rd, 2023

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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

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

Epistle: Romans 15:1-7

Gospel: St. Matthew 9:27-35

***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 open for prayer this Tuesday morning July 25th from 7:30 – 9:30
- + *Compline / Bible Study* - Wednesday July 26th at 5:30
- + *Great Vespers* – Saturday July 29th at 5
- + *Hours, Divine Liturgy* – Sunday July 30th, at 9:40 – **Potluck** 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 any questions about these projects, please see Fr Seraphim or members of the Parish Council.
- + 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 3rd Friday and Saturday of the month. See any Council member for details.*

Our Giving – July 16th, 2023

Tithes/Offerings - \$1,295.00 / Online Giving - \$268.05

Candle Offerings – \$77.00 / Icon Project - \$400.00

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 Orthodox Temple: Returning to Paradise

The Orthodox temple is in continuity with Eden, the tabernacle of the desert revealed to Moses, and the Temple built by Solomon. It is where God “dwells and walks about” as St. Germanus tells us. It is within the temples of the Orthodox Church that Jesus Christ, crucified, buried, and resurrected, is revealed to God’s people. The Temple of Israel has not been abrogated but fulfilled in the advent of Jesus Christ. Our return to the paradise Adam and Eve had with God is made possible to Jesus Christ, who has made his presence and grace known to us specifically within the temple and rites of the Orthodox Church.

Not every Orthodox space of worship meets the ideal architectural form of an Orthodox temple. However, the ideal to be built and maintained by faithful Orthodox Christians is based around these deep biblical forms we have encountered. Rather than detailed lines of exegesis, we will explore how Christ has restored us to paradise by walking through a typical Orthodox church and pointing out different ways in which the temple fulfills Israel’s Temple and Law. As we walk through the church, we will also discuss significant liturgical actions and high points of the Divine Liturgy, the eucharistic rite of the Orthodox Church.

We enter an Orthodox church through the narthex. An Orthodox temple is built in a three-tiered manner. There is the narthex, which is the outer court, the nave, also called the inner court, and the altar, which is the holy of holies. This is an echo of the pattern of Israel's Temple. The narthex is an in-between space. It is where the Church meets the world and provides a space for transitioning from the world into the depths of paradise. This is where the faithful take a moment to lay aside earthly cares, greet and venerate the friends of God, the saints, and light a few candles as they petition the saints or God Himself.

Because this space is a transitional space, there are other significant liturgical actions held here. Catechumens, those who are enrolled to prepare for reception into the Orthodox Church, are enrolled within the narthex. This is where catechumens will receive prayers of exorcism, denounce Satan and all his pomp, and adhere to Jesus Christ by confessing faith in Him as "King and God". The baptisms and application of Holy Chrism will be done within the nave. Another significant liturgical act is the rite of betrothal, wherein a man and woman are promised before God to be wed. The rite of crowning will, like the baptisms and chrismations, occur within the nave.

(Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs, 16-17)

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, 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, & Those who have lost their life in the war in Ukraine.