

Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



**Apostles Silas & Silvanus
of the 70 & Companions**

July 30th, 2023

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Gospel: St. Matthew 14:14-22

***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 August 1st from 7:30 – 9:30

+ *Compline / Bible Study* - Wednesday August 2nd at 5:30

++ TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD ++

+ *Great Vespers* – Saturday August 5th at 5

+ *Hours, Divine Liturgy* – Sunday August 6th, at 9:40 – 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 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 23rd, 2023

Tithes/Offerings - \$2,800.00 / Online Giving - \$200.50

Candle Offerings – \$78.00 / Icon Project - \$500.00

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 (con't)

The nave of the Church is where the people of God gather for the rites of the faithful. This space is where the faithful lift up their prayers to God, attend to the hymns of the Church, prostrate before the saints and holy things of God, receive the various blessings of the priest, confess their sins to Almighty God, receive the absolution of their sins, and where the prophetic word of God is given to them via the preaching and teaching of the bishop. This is where Jesus Christ meets his people in their initiation into the Church via baptism and chrismation. It is within the nave that the priest will bring out the divine gifts, the holy Body and Blood of our Lord, to be given for the illumination and healing of the faithful. It is where Jesus Christ weds a man and woman, making them kings and queens of their homes in order to have a fruitful life of service to his creation.

Within the holy of holies is the altar upon which Jesus Christ is enthroned. The altar of an Orthodox Church has placed upon it many different items of great significance. The Temple of old centered and radiated from the ark of the covenant upon which God appeared to his people from between the two angels. If we recall, within the ark there lay the ten commandments, a jar of manna, the budding rod of Aaron, and

the further works of Moses. Since the advent of Christ, all these things have found their fullness on the altar of Orthodox churches.

The ten commandments and the works of Moses are fulfilled within the Gospel book which lays upon the altar. Here, the fullness of God's Law is revealed in the life and work of Jesus Christ as given to us by the four evangelists. It is in the reading of the Gospels and the subsequent preaching which make our Lord's royal, priestly, and prophetic word known to us.

It is through the proclamation of the Gospel, the reading as well as the preaching, that the royal, prophetic, and priestly ministry of our Lord is made clear and accessible to God's people.

(Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs, 17-18)

“Do not be discouraged when you see no improvement. One thing is needful: try to live according to the Gospel commandments. Fight and defend yourself against every sin through deeds, words or thoughts, and do not voluntarily succumb to bad influences. If you do succumb, repent before the Lord, ask forgiveness, and rise to fight again. And so until death.” Abbot Nikon Vorobiev, Letters to Spiritual Children p.148

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 (Koutrouelis), 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 Andrianoff, 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, Mat. Delores Donlick +7/28 & Those who have lost their life in the war in Ukraine.