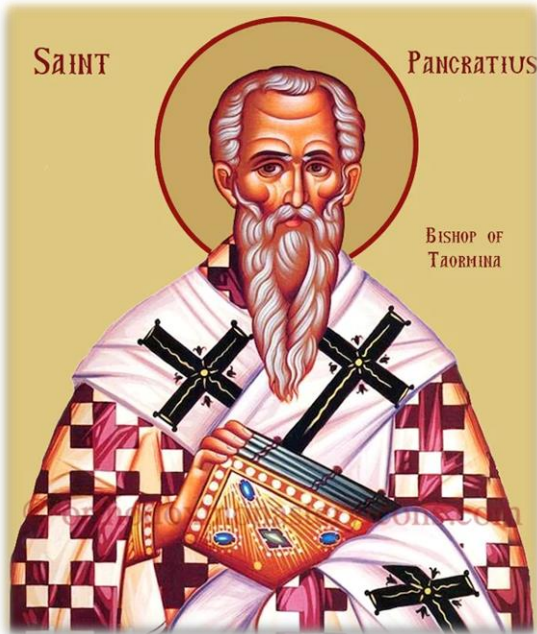


Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



**Hieromartyr Pancratius,
Bishop of Taormina in Sicily**

July 9th, 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 10:1-10

Gospel: St. Matthew 8:28-9:1

***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 11th from 7:30 – 9:30
- + *Compline / Bible Study* - Wednesday July 12th, at 5:30
- + *Great Vespers* – Saturday July 15th, at 5
- + *Hours, Divine Liturgy & Blessing of the Vehicles* – Sunday July 16th, at 9:40 – Fellowship following in the Hall.
- + If you would like to make a donation 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.
- + 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.
- + Benevolence collections for July & August will go to the purchase of a traditional Orthodox coffin for the Parish to have on hand.

Our Giving – July 2nd, 2023

Tithes/Offerings - \$3,093.00 / Online Giving - \$205.00

Candle Offerings – \$74.00

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 Twelve Great Feasts

In Orthodoxy today, there are feasts of the Lord and feasts of the Theotokos.

The feasts of the Lord are: the Elevation of the Cross (commemorating the finding of the true Cross in the fourth century), Nativity (celebrating his birth), Theophany (celebrating his baptism), Palm Sunday (celebrating his final entry into Jerusalem), the Ascension (celebrating his glorification in heaven 40 days after his Resurrection), Pentecost (celebrating his pouring out the Spirit upon his Church 50 days after his Resurrection), and his Transfiguration.

The feasts of the Theotokos are: the Nativity of the Theotokos (celebrating her birth), the Entrance (celebrating the first time she entered the Temple as a small child), the Meeting (celebrating the encounter with Simeon and Anna in the after Jesus was born), the Annunciation (celebrating the announcement of Gabriel to her that she was chosen to be the mother of the Messiah), and the Dormition (celebrating her “falling asleep” in death).

These feasts are twelve in total. There are other feasts as well, but these are especially important to the Church’s liturgical life. A close reading will reveal that some of the feasts are attached to the solar calendar (and therefore are celebrated on the same date every year), while some are part of the Paschal cycle, which is dependent upon the date of the full moon after the spring equinox.

The names and dates for the twelve great feasts are:

1. Theophany – January 6
2. Meeting – February 2
3. Annunciation – March 25
4. Palm Sunday – one week before Pascha
5. Ascension – 40 days after Pascha
6. Pentecost – 50 days after Pascha
7. Transfiguration – August 6
8. Dormition – August 15
9. Nativity of the Theotokos – September 8
10. Elevation of the Cross – September 14
11. Entrance of the Theotokos – November 21
12. Christmas – December 25

It will be noted that Pascha itself is not a part of the Twelve Great Feasts, since it is considered too important to be one feast among many. Rather, it is regarded as the Feast of Feasts, the source of everything else.

(Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs, 58-59)

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, Archpriest John Sidor +7/3, & Those who have lost their life in the war in Ukraine.