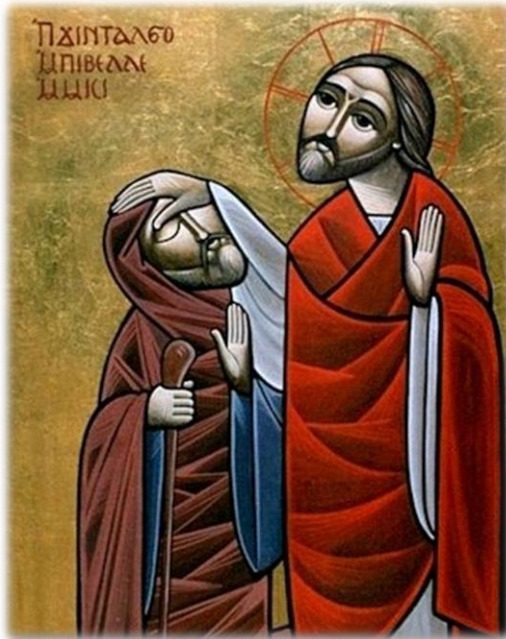


Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Elevation of the Holy Cross
Orthodox Church
Williamsport, PA.



6th Sunday of Pascha

The Blind Man

May 21st, 2023

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

1725 Holy Cross Ln
Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701-2749
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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Acts 26:1-5, 12-20; Acts 16:16-34

Gospel: St. John 10:1-9; St. John 9:1-38

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!
Christos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!
Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!

A Paschal 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

+ ***Ascension of Lord Jesus Christ*** – *Vesperal Divine Liturgy* -
Wednesday May 24th at 5:30

+ *Great Vespers* – Saturday May 27th at 5

+ *Hours & Divine Liturgy* – Sunday May 28th at 9:40 - Fellowship following in the Hall.

+ *The Moms of the Parish say Thank You to all the men for the Fellowship Brunch they provided last Sunday! Great job fellas!* 😊

Our Giving – May 14th, 2023

Tithes/Offerings - \$2,421.00 / Online Giving - \$211.00

Candle Offerings – \$52.00 / Benevolence - \$200.00

Memorial Gift - \$50.00

Thank you all for your giving for the work of Church!

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. 😊

† *Why We Reject Christ* by Fr. James Guirguis

“When Christ is not the light of your world, everything is darkness. But when Jesus Christ is the light of your world, you begin to see clearly. Everything takes on a new look, everything is exposed and healed by the light of Christ. As Christians, it is very important that we take this seriously. Our guiding principle in life and in our interaction with the world around us is not our political leanings or our “personal opinions” or feelings. If you are guided by your personal feelings, you might as well create an image of yourself, pray before it and offer it sacrifices. Be honest with yourself and choose whom you will follow, yourself or the Lord Jesus Christ, His life and His teachings.

You may be thinking “I would like to follow Jesus, but how can I be sure that I am following Him and not my own opinions?” The answer is to take seriously the work of studying the Bible and especially the four gospels. Our serious study of the gospels requires a small sacrifice of our time, and a big sacrifice of our own thoughts and opinions. If you study the words of the Lord, His light will expose your deficiencies and your inner darkness. Sometimes this is painful, it is like laser surgery. But sometimes surgery is necessary for healing to begin.

Although their physical eyes worked quite well, the Pharisees struggled to see the spiritual light. They were quite confident in their ways and according to the Lord, this way of rejection of the light was in

actuality, darkness. Why? Because of their pride. St. Tikhon of Zadonsk once said “When pride retreats from a man, humility begins to dwell in him, and the more pride is diminished, so much more does humility grow. The one gives way to the other as to its opposite. Darkness departs and light appears. Pride is darkness, but humility is light.”

“Lest we seem to only be picking on the Pharisees, we should recognize that within each of us there are aspects of the pride of the Pharisees. We each have hidden, secret pride that we carry and treasure deep within us.”

“This light was offered to the Pharisees, but they rejected it. They were full of pride in themselves and in their knowledge and they lacked love. Like recognizes like. Only the one who struggles for love and humility can recognize the humble and loving hand of the Savior in their lives. Without love for God, we won’t recognize His light but will reject it as darkness.” *(Out of Egypt.. June 2nd, 2019)*

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), Pres. Eva (Koutroulelis), Pres. Rosy (Tanveer), Mat. Mary Lynn (Henry), Mat. Deborah (Belonick), 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, Infant Wyatt, Isaac Bannister, Vera Christopher, Paisios Sundin, Christine Perrin, Agnes Andreanoff, Michael Juran, Edward Hojnicky, & those suffering from the war in Ukraine.

Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!

Mat. Carol Steffaro +4/14, Barbara Shatto +4/14, Phillip Kundis +4/28, Ian Young +5/10 & Those who have lost their life in the war in Ukraine.