

Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



Martyrs Galaction and his wife,
Epistemis, at Emesa

Steward Sunday

November 5th, 2023

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18

Gospel: St. Luke 8:41-56

***A warm welcome to EVERYONE this morning!!
Please join us for some fellowship after in the Parish Hall!***

Services & Announcements

- + Church **closed** for prayer Tuesday & Thursday this week.
- + *Compline/Bible Study* – Wednesday November 8th at 5:30
- + *Great Vespers* – Saturday November 11th at 5
- + *Hours, Divine Liturgy* – Sunday November 12th at 9:40 –
Fellowship following in the Hal.
- + **3RD OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT** - *Parish Annual Meeting –
TODAY after Fellowship*
- + *THANK YOU to all who helped in serving lunches for the Roof
Crew!*
- + Collection this morning for *the Stewards of the Orthodox Church*
- + Benevolence for November:

- *St George Orthodox Mission, Edenton, NC.*

Our Giving – October 29th, 2023

Tithes/Offerings - \$220.00 / Online Giving - \$205.00

Candle Offerings – \$75.00

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 must be at peace with everyone too.* If you have any questions about Holy Communion, please see Fr. Seraphim. 😊

The Dark Night of the Soul

Sometimes we enter a dark night of the soul, where God seems distant from us. This is only an illusion, for God is closer to us than our own breath. These times are allowed by God to bring us closer to Him, much like the loving parent who stands her child on his feet, walks a few feet away holding out her arms, and waits for the child to take his first steps. She is ever ready to reach out and lift the child up should he start to fall, but she knows she must distance herself for a few moments if the child is going to learn to stand on his own two feet. We are like that.

When you find it difficult to pray, light your lampada before your icons and sit silently before them. Say to God, I am hurting and sad, and am unable to speak to You, so I need You to speak to my heart. Sometimes the most profitable spiritual growth can take place in such periods of brokenness because we see in these moments how very much we need God and depend upon Him.

Be not fearful, dear ones, for God is near, and will not leave you. The Lord is allowing these dry moments, where you are fearing He has left you, as the way of making you reach out to Him. When we are struggling, or even suffering, we grow stronger in our faith. Prayer will return as long as you give God moments in your life when you avail yourself in silence and listen for His voice.

The parent who constantly does his child's homework, does him no favor, for the child never learns to stand on his own, and will forever

remain dependent on his parent. The Lord wants us to grow strong in our faith, while entering into a mature relationship with Him. If we do not learn to stand on our own, we will forever be like the codependent child, never having the skills to reach high places, and forever remaining weak and fearful.

Love In Christ,

Abbot Tryphon - All Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA.

“...as God is ever-flowing, infinite goodness, he desires and ever seeks to impart His goodness to His creatures, if only they turn to Him with faith, hope, and love, like children to their father, recognizing their sinfulness, poverty, need, blindness, and infirmity without Him.”

St. John of Kronstadt My Life in Christ p.440

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), Archpriest Michael (Evans), Pres. Eva (Koutroulelis), Pres. Rosy (Tanveer), Mat. Mary Lynn (Henry), Mat. Deborah (Belonick), Mat. Barbara (Matusiak), Alexa Yonkin & infant Eleanor, Xenia Crews, Anastasia Linnehan & the children to be born of them, Paul Beard, Evelyn Chabal, Phoebe Davis, Michael Kuzmiak, Juliana Matusiak, Elias Ciaccio, Elizabeth Wadsworth, Sebastian Fillar, Isaac Bannister, Paisios Sundin, Christine Perrin, Agnes Andreanoff, Michael Lazorchak, Edward Hojnicki, Brian Gunter, Vladimir Kerkendall, Jason Brown, Alec Litchard & those suffering from the war in Ukraine, Russia, & the Middle East

Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!

Protopresbyter Arthur Liolin +9/28, Kim Maymon +10/9 & Those who have lost their lives in the war in Ukraine, Russia, & the Middle East