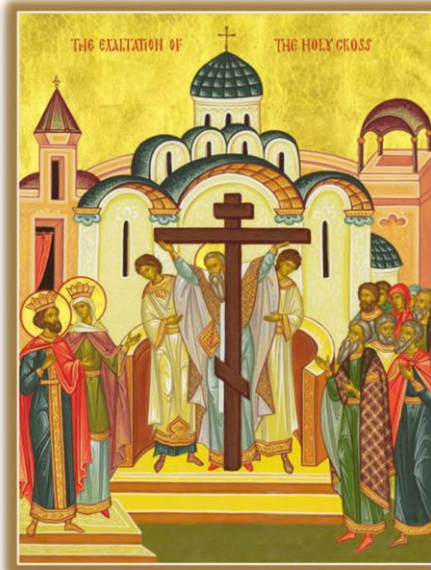


Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Elevation of the Holy Cross

Orthodox Church

Williamsport, PA.



Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross

Martyrs Sophia (Faith, Hope & Love)

September 17th, 2023

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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

Rev. Fr. Seraphim Reynolds, *Pastor*
Office: 570.322.3020
(c) 717.576.3503
Email: priestseraphim@protonmail.com

Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20; 2 Corinthians 4:6-15
Gospel: St. Mark 8:34-9:1; St. Matthew 22:35-46

JOYOUS FEAST of the CROSS!!

***Welcome to everyone, and especially to our visitors!
Please join us for some fellowship after in the Parish Hall!***

Services & Announcements

- + Church closed for private prayer Tuesday September 19th
- + *Great Vespers* – Saturday September 23rd at 5
- + *Hours, Divine Liturgy* – Sunday September 24th, at 9:40 – Fellowship following in the Hall.
- + If you would like to donate toward our *Iconography* project, 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 through September will be sent to OCPM Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry
- + *Volunteers needed at St Ann's Food Pantry, every 3rd Friday and Saturday of the month. See the bulletin board for details.*

Our Giving – September 10th, 2023

Tithes/Offerings - \$2,551.00 / Online Giving - \$210.00

Candle Offerings – \$26.00

Thank you all for your support of our Parish!

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. 😊

++ *Project Updates at Holy Cross* ++

- * **Church Roof** – Waiting on the contractor
- * **Paint/Repair Church ceiling/walls** – beginning in the next 2 weeks
- * **Iconography** – Oct 9th – 11th (Approx \$1200 needed)
- * **Church Flooring** – Nov 6th (**PAID**)
- * **Wildwood Cemetery** – 10 “yes” responses

Words from Rev. Dr. Nicholas & Pres. Dr. Roxanne Louh

“Life is short.” One moment we are here, the next, we are a memory. We know this, but we don’t always live what we know. It’s easy to move at a pace of life that doesn’t allow us to fully experience life abundantly. We worry. We juggle. We stress. We start again. All the while, we are missing important moments of our life.

It’s often not until something in life changes us, imprinting this message on our hearts in ways we wish it didn’t, that we start to live it. Choose today, not to wait on a life altering experience for that experience to change you. Contain whatever it is that is intruding upon the joy God intended for you. Let the irritation go; put your work away; let go of trying to change something only God can change, make time for yourself and the people you love. Rest. Remember work can wait, but smiles, laughter and moments of connection can’t. Make it a point to “check in”

during your typical busy routine, “reflect” on where your focus has been and “actively choose” to bring yourself back to that which matters. When we do this, we allow the joy that lives within all of us, to not only surface, but to lead us.

So stop what you are doing right now, refocus your attention, connect to what matters, let go of what doesn't. Let in laughter, let in love, and let in life.

“These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full,” John 15:11.

Rev. Dr. Nicholas and Dr. Roxanne Louh

St. John the Divine Greek Orthodox Church, Jacksonville, FL.

Authors of Renewing You: A Priest, A Psychologist, and A Plan

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), Mat. Mary (Reynolds), Pres. Eva (Koutroulelis), Pres. Rosy (Tanveer), Mat. Mary Lynn (Henry), Mat. Deborah (Belonick), Mat. Barbara (Matusiak), Mat. Seraphima (Hunter) & child born of her, Xenia Crews, Alexa Yonkin, Anastasia Linnehan & the children to be born of them, Paul & Judy 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 Andeanoff, Michael Lazorchak, Edward Hojnicky, Basil Evick, Jennifer Updegrove, those suffering from the war in Ukraine, & **the Newly Illumined** Alexis, Vladimir, Raphael, Elizabeth, James, Columba & their Godparents.

Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!

His Beatitude Met. Daniel +8/10, Protodeacon Alexis Bona +8/26, Mat. Priscilla Shipley +9/10, Andrew Stickman +9/6 & Those who have lost their lives in the war in Ukraine & Russia