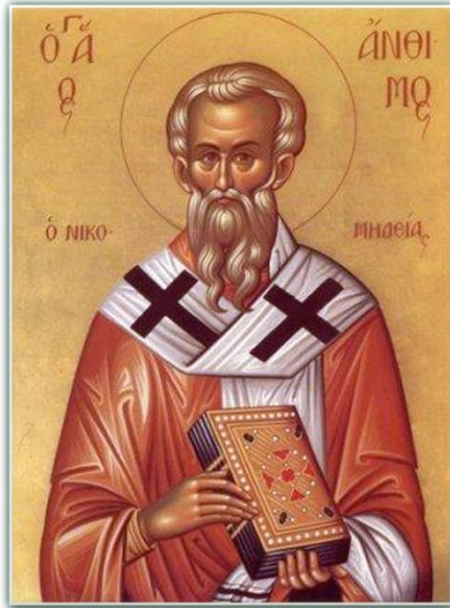


Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Elevation of the Holy Cross

Orthodox Church

Williamsport, PA.



Hieromartyr Anthimus, Bishop of Nicomedia

Venerable Theoctistus

September 3rd, 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
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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 16:13-24

Gospel: St. Matthew 21:33-42

Blessed Church New Year to Everyone!

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

Services & Announcements

- + Compline/Bible Study – Wednesday September 6th at 5:30
- + Church open for private prayer this **Tuesday & Thursday** mornings September 5th & 7th from 7:30-9:30am
- + ***Feast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos*** - Vespersal Liturgy – Thursday September 7th at 5:30
- + *Great Vespers* – Saturday September 9th at 5
- + *Hours, Divine Liturgy* – Sunday September 10th, 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 – August 27th, 2023

Tithes/Offerings - \$2,651.00 / Online Giving - \$206.00

Candle Offerings – \$54.00

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. 😊

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

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, pgs. 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), Mat. Mary (Reynolds), Pres. Eva (Koutroulelis), Pres. Rosy (Tanveer), Mat. Mary Lynn (Henry), Mat. Deborah (Belonick), Mat. Barbara (Matusiak), Mat. Seraphima (Hunter), 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 Andreanoff, 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, & Those who have lost their lives in the war in Ukraine & Russia, & the Fire in Hawaii