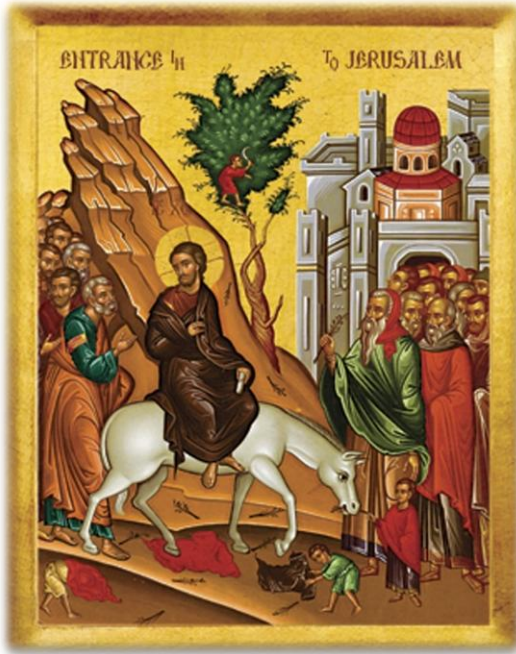


Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



+ Palm Sunday +

*Our Lord's Entrance into
Jerusalem*

April 13th, 2025

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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

Very Rev. Fr. Seraphim Reynolds, Pastor/Rector
Office: 570.322.3020
(c) 717.576.3503
email: archpriestserafim@gmail.com

Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: *Philippians 4:4-9*

Gospel: *St. John 12:1-18*

*Welcome to everyone! Please join us for some fellowship in the
Parish Hall after the Liturgy!*

**** Parish Announcements ****

+ Holy Week +

Bridegroom Matins – Sunday, Monday and Tuesday - 5:30pm

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts - Tuesday April 15th - 9am

Holy Unction – Wednesday April 16th - 5:30pm

+ Holy Thursday – April 17th +

Vesperal Divine Liturgy - 9am

Matins w/12 Passion Gospels - 5:30pm

+ Holy Friday – April 18th +

Burial Vespers - 3pm

Matins w/Lamentations - 6pm

+ Holy Saturday – April 19th +

Vesperal Divine Liturgy - 9am

Reading of the Book of Acts / Nocturnes - 10pm

+ Holy PASCHA – The Feast of Feasts +

April 20: Sunday Midnight 12am

Procession, Paschal Matins, Hours, Festal Divine Liturgy,

Basket Blessing & Agape Meal
PASCHA Afternoon - Agape Vespers at 3pm

**** April Benevolence – *Shepherd of the Streets* (Williamsport)**

Our Stewardship – April 6th, 2025

Tithes/Offerings - \$2,518.00 / Online Giving - \$423.50

Candle Offerings – \$86.00 / Benevolence - \$40.00

God loves a cheerful giver (1 Cor 9:7)

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 😊

✝ Palm Sunday – Our Lord’s Entry into Jerusalem ✝

Palm Sunday is the celebration of the triumphant entrance of Christ into the royal city of Jerusalem. He rode on a colt for which He Himself had sent, and He permitted the people to hail Him publicly as a king. A large crowd met Him in a manner befitting royalty, waving palm branches and placing their garments in His path. They greeted Him with these words: “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel! (John 12:13).

This day together with the raising of Lazarus are signs pointing beyond themselves to the mighty deeds and events which consummate Christ’s earthly ministry. The time of fulfillment was at hand. Christ’s raising of Lazarus points to the destruction of death and the joy of resurrection which will be accessible to all through His own death and resurrection. His entrance into Jerusalem is a fulfillment of the messianic prophecies about the king who will enter his holy city to establish a final kingdom. “Behold, your king is coming to you,

humble, and mounted on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of an ass”
(Zech 9:9).

Finally, the events of these triumphant two days are but the passage to Holy Week: the “hour” of suffering and death for which Christ came. Thus, the triumph in a earthly sense is extremely short-lived. Jesus enters openly into the midst of His enemies, publicly saying and doing those things which mostly enrage them. The people themselves will soon reject Him. They misread His brief earthly triumph as a sign of something else: His emergence as a political messiah who will lead them to the glories of an earthly kingdom.

The liturgy of the Church is more than meditation or praise concerning past events. It communicates to us the eternal presence and power of the events being celebrated and makes us participants in those events. Thus, the services of Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday bring us to our own moment of life and death and entrance into the Kingdom of God: a Kingdom not of this world, a Kingdom accessible in the Church through repentance and baptism. (www.oca.org)

Prayers For the Health and Salvation of those in need: *Many Years!*

His Eminence Archbishop Alexander, Hieroschemamonk Ambrose (Young), Abbot Tryphon, Abbot Seraphim, Mitred-Archpriest Nicholas (Harris), Mitred-Archpriest Daniel & Mat. Myra (Kovalak), Pres. Eva (Koutroulelis), Alexa Stover & Morgan Fallon (children to be born of them), Catharine Mann, Paul Beard, Harry Hiras, Evelyn Chabal, Michael & Amelia Kuzmiak, Juliana Matusiak, Isaac Bannister, Michael Lazorchak, Elizabeth & Paula Davis, Larissa Chapin, Brian Gunter, Parker Fox & those suffering from the wars in Ukraine, Russia, & the Middle East ***Our Catechumens:*** Garrett Payer, Shyanne Vance, Melissa Czock, Kurt Schmitt (Military), & Jiselle Macari

Prayers for the Newly Departed: *Memory Eternal*

Archpriest Paul Harrilchak +3/12, Archpriest Daniel Skvir +3/23, Priest Jonas Worsham +3/8, Matushka Sophia Daniels +3/29, Matushka Mary Shafran +3/31, All those who have lost their lives in the wars in Ukraine, Russia, & the Middle East