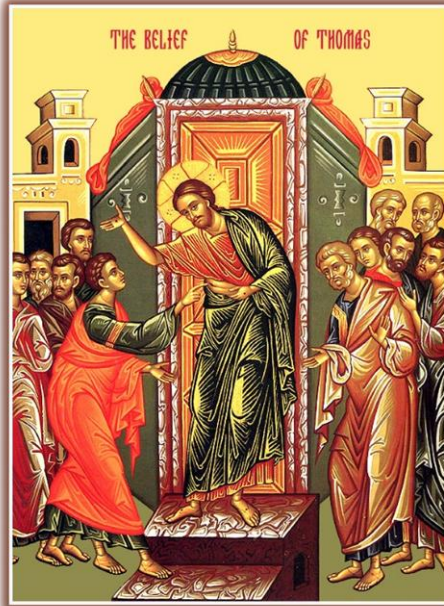


Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Elevation of the Holy Cross

Orthodox Church

Williamsport, PA.



Antipascha

Saint Thomas Sunday

April 27th, 2025

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701-2749
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Very Rev. Fr. Seraphim Reynolds, Rector/Pastor
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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Acts 5:12-20
Gospel: St. John 20:19-31

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

*A festive welcome to everyone this morning! Please join us for
some fellowship after Liturgy in the Parish Hall!*

This Week at Holy Cross

- + *Church open for prayer/confession – Tuesday April 29th * 7-9:30am*
- + *Church open for prayer/confession – Thursday May 1st * 7-9:30am*
- + *Compline / Bible Study – Thursday May 1st * 5:30pm*
- + *Great Vespers – Saturday May 3rd * 5pm*
- + *Hours & Divine Liturgy – Sunday May 4th * 9:40 - Fellowship following in the Hall.*
- + *May Benevolence – Shepherd of the Streets / Williamsport*

Our Giving – PASCHA April 20th, 2025

Tithes/Offerings - \$335.00 / Online Giving - \$373.50
Candle Offerings – \$185.00 / PASCHA Gifts - \$360.00
Pascha Flowers - \$112.00

Thank you all for your generosity!

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. 😊

† **SYNAXARION FOR THOMAS SUNDAY**

On this Sunday, the second Sunday of Pascha, we celebrate the Antipascha, that is to say the re-dedication of the Resurrection of Christ, and also commemorate the event of the Holy Apostle Thomas' touching the wounds of Christ.

Since the Resurrection of the Lord is the greatest and most important event and beyond all thought, it is rededicated not only once a year, but also on every "eighth" day. The first rededication of the Resurrection is this present Sunday, for it is truly both the "eighth" day and the "first." It is the eighth day after Pascha, and the first day, because it is the beginning of the other days. Again, it is called the "eighth" day because it prefigures the unending day of the future age to come, which will be truly the "first" day and a day that is not divided by a single night. This is why this Sunday is called the Antipascha, which interpreted means "in the place of Pascha." We should also know that due to the honor given Sunday by the Lord's Resurrection, the Holy Apostles transferred the weekly day of rest from the Jewish Sabbath (Saturday) to this most honored day.

It is also called Thomas Sunday, the reason being as follows: On the day of the Resurrection, when Christ showed himself to the Disciples in the evening, Thomas was not present, because he had not yet joined the other Disciples for fear of the Jews. When he rejoined the others, not only did he not believe what they told him about the Resurrection of Christ and the fact that they had seen Him, but he absolutely refused to believe that Christ had risen, even though he himself was one of the Twelve.

God the good Master, in His true economy, waited eight days to make His love more perfect, firmly willing to truthfully verify the Resurrection and also the events that had occurred after the Resurrection.

Thus, Thomas did not believe so that he could more truthfully proclaim to all the belief in the Resurrection. Therefore, the Lord came to the Apostles again while Thomas was among them. Though the doors were shut as before, He entered and granted them peace according to the custom. He then turned toward Thomas and said, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing" (John 20:27).

Then Christ said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:29). This was the second appearance of Christ.

(www.orthochristian.com/70216.html)

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

His Eminence Archbishop Alexander, Hieroschemamonk Ambrose (Young), Abbot Tryphon, 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, Joanna Bohlander & 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

Schema-Archimandrite Panteleimon (Voepel) +4/24, Archpriest Daniel Skvir +3/23, Archpriest Alexander Poshyvajlo +4/22, Matushka Sophia Daniels +3/29, Matushka Mary Shafran +3/31 Matushka Evangeline Zarras +4/13 & All those who have lost their lives in the wars in Ukraine, Russia, & the Middle East