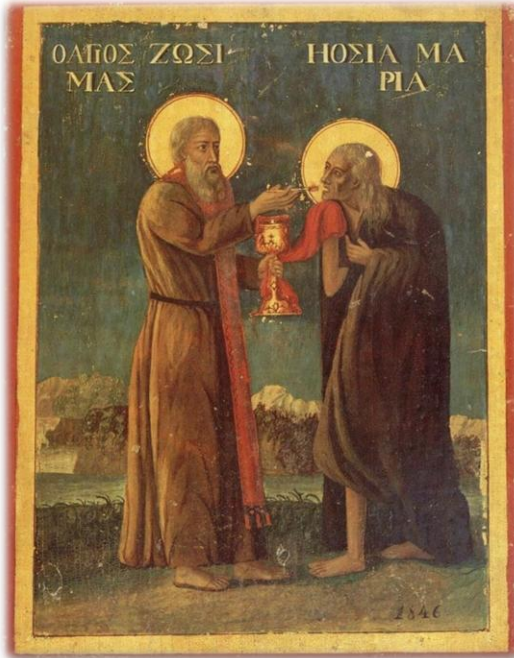


Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Elevation of the Holy Cross

Orthodox Church

Williamsport, PA.



5th Sunday of Great Lent

Venerable Mary of Egypt

April 6th, 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
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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Galatians 3:23-29; Hebrews 9:11-14

Gospel: St. Luke 7:36-50; Mark 10:32-45

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

**** Parish Announcements ****

- + The Church will be open Tuesday & Thursday from 7:00 – 10:00am for private prayer and/or Confession.
- + ***Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts - Lenten potluck following -*** Wednesday April 9th at 5:20pm
- + ***Matins of Lazarus Saturday –*** Friday April 11th at 5:30pm
- + ***Divine Liturgy Lazarus Saturday –*** Saturday April 12th at 9am Lenten potluck breakfast following. 😊

+ Palm Sunday +

- + ***Great Vespers w/Blessing of Palms -*** Saturday April 12th at 5pm
- + ***Hours, Divine Liturgy, Procession –*** Sunday April 13th at 9:40 - Lenten Fellowship following in the Hall.
- ** **April Benevolence – Shepherd of the Streets (Williamsport)**

Our Stewardship – March 30th, 2025

Tithes/Offerings - \$225.00 / Online Giving - \$459.70

Candle Offerings – \$83.00

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 😊

✝️ ***“Living the Traditional Orthodox Life”*** by Archpriest John Moses +

What is traditional Orthodoxy? Almost every Orthodox spiritual writer that I have read emphasizes that true Orthodoxy is a matter of the heart. Without warmth of heart towards God and neighbor, there can be no true faith. Fr. Seraphim Rose wrote,

“Orthodoxy is not merely a ritual, or belief, or a pattern of behavior, or anything else that a man may possess, thinking that he is thereby a Christian, and be spiritually dead; it is rather an elemental reality of power which transforms a man and gives him strength to live in the most difficult and tormenting conditions, and prepares him to depart with peace into eternal life.”

This elemental reality of power of which Fr. Seraphim speaks is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, that living and eternal flame of love within the regenerated heart. It is the seal and the promise of our baptism waiting to be fully realized in our lives. Walking in the Spirit is Orthodoxy in its most fundamental reality. St. Seraphim of Sarov told us that the only true purpose, the only real goal of any Orthodox life is the acquisition of the Holy Spirit.

Traditional Orthodox life is also a life of suffering love, and this is most difficult for North Americans to accept. Even though we are familiar with suffering, we do all that we can to avoid it. Yet, the Lord said that if we were to follow him, we had to take up our cross. The cross cannot be embraced without suffering. A non-suffering Orthodox Christian is a

contradiction of terms. A non-suffering Orthodox Christian is on the road to hell.
November 8, 2003

“Orthodoxy is life. If we don’t live Orthodoxy, we simply are not Orthodox, no matter what formal beliefs we might hold.”

Bl. Fr. Seraphim Rose

“Be careful with your mouth, but primarily with your mind; do not let evil thoughts start talking to you. Do not let your mouth say words that could perhaps wound your brother. Let your mouth put forth words which are fragrant: words of consolation, courage and hope. It is a person's mouth that reveals his interior, inner man.”

Elder Ephraim of Philitheou and St. Anthony's Orthodox

“Bound up with this is a disease of today's Orthodox Christians which can be deadly: the 'correctness disease.' . . . If you are critical of others, self-confident about your correctness, eager to quote canons to prove someone else is wrong, constantly 'knowing better' than others--you have the germs of the 'correctness disease.' These are signs of immaturity in spiritual life . . .”

Bl. Fr. Seraphim Rose

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