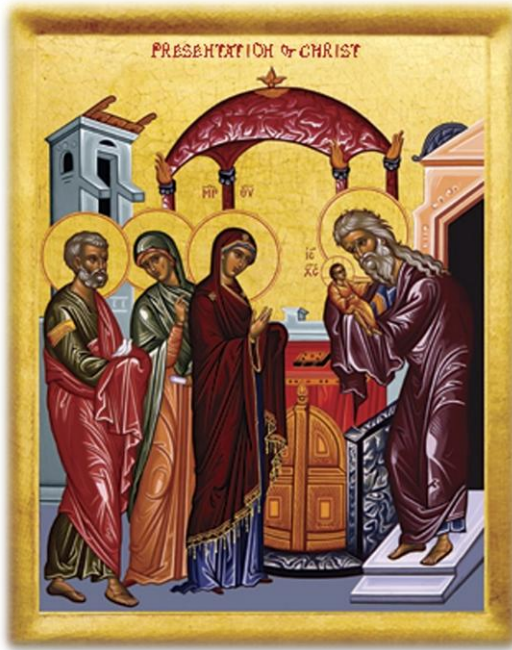


Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



*The Meeting of Our Lord
Jesus Christ in the Temple*

February 2nd, 2025

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Very Rev. Fr. Seraphim Reynolds, Pastor/Rector
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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: 1 Timothy 4:9-15; Hebrews 7:7-17
Gospel: St. Luke 19:1-10; St. Luke 2:22-40

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

**** Parish Announcements ****

+ The Church will be open this Tuesday & Thursday from 7:00 - 9:30am for private prayer and/or Confession.

+ **Compline/Bible Study** - Thursday February 5th at 5:30

+ **Great Vespers** - Saturday February 8th at 5

+ **Hours & Divine Liturgy** – Sunday February 9th at 9:40

Super Bowl "Wing Ding" Potluck Fellowship following in the Hall.

+ **House Blessings** continue . . . Please see Fr Seraphim to set up a day and time. 😊

**** February Benevolence – 50/50 - Holy Cross Saturday Luncheon - St Ann Food Pantry**

Our Giving – January 26th, 2025

Tithes/Offerings - \$1.841.00 / Online Giving - \$373.50

Candle Offerings – \$86.00 / Benevolence -\$50.00

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 Meeting (Presentation) of Our Lord God & Saviour Jesus Christ in the Temple* (oca.org)

The Meeting of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ is described in the third Gospel (Luke 2:22-40). Forty days after His birth the Divine Child was brought to the Temple at Jerusalem to be presented to the Lord. According to the Law of Moses (Lev. 12:2-8), a woman who gave birth to a male child was forbidden to enter the Temple for forty days. At the end of the time of her purification, the mother went to the Temple with the child, to offer a young lamb, two turtledoves, or pigeons to the Lord as a sacrifice. The Most Holy Virgin had no need of purification, since she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity. Out of humility, however, she fulfilled the requirements of the Law.

At this time the righteous Elder Simeon (February 3) was living in Jerusalem. It had been revealed to him that he would not die until he beheld the promised Messiah. By divine inspiration, Saint Simeon went to the Temple at the very moment when the Most Holy Theotokos and Saint Joseph had brought the Child Jesus to fulfill the Law.

Saint Simeon received the divine Child in his arms,¹ and giving thanks to God, he spoke the words repeated by the Church each evening at Vespers: “Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel” (Luke 2:29-32). Saint Simeon said to the Most Holy Virgin: “Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be spoken against. Yea, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed” (Luke 2:34-35).

At the Temple was an 84-year-old widow, Saint Anna the Prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel (February 3), “who did not leave the temple, but served God with fasting and prayers night and day.” She arrived just when Saint Simeon met the Divine Child. She also gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to all those who were looking for redemption of Jerusalem” (Luke 2:38). In the icon of the Feast she holds a scroll which reads: “This Child has established Heaven and earth.”

Before Christ was born, the righteous men and women lived by faith in the promised Messiah and awaited His coming. The Righteous Simeon and the Prophetess Anna, the last righteous persons of the Old Testament, were deemed worthy to meet Him in the Temple.

The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord is among the most ancient feasts of the Christian Church. We have sermons by the holy bishops Methodios of Patara (+ 312), Cyril of Jerusalem (+ 360), Gregory the Theologian (+ 389), Amphilokhios of Iconium (+ 394), Gregory of Nyssa (+ 400), and John Chrysostom (+ 407). Despite its early origin, this Feast was not celebrated so splendidly until the VI century.

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

His Eminence Archbishop Alexander, His Eminence Archbishop Anastasios, Priestmonk Ambrose (Young), Abbot Tryphon, Mitred-Archpriest Nicholas (Harris), Mitred-Archpriest Daniel & Mat. Myra (Kovalak), Pres. Eva (Koutroulelis), Alexa Stover (child to be born of her), Paul Beard, Harry Hiras, Evelyn Chabal, Michael Kuzmiak, Juliana Matusiak, Isaac Bannister, Elizabeth Yonkin, Michael Lazorchak, Elizabeth Davis, Lara Schmitt, Larissa Chapin, Brian Gunter & those suffering from the wars in Ukraine, Russia, & the Middle East, the California Fires, & the families of the Air disaster ***Our Catechumens:*** Garrett Payer, Shyanne Vance, Melissa Czock, Kurt Schmitt (Military), Lucas Malek & Jiselle Macari

Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal

Subd Yakov Hando +1/15, Mat Eugenia Nehrebecki +1/2, Mat Tatiana Peterson +1/13, Mat Susanne Senyo +1/18, All those who have lost their lives in the wars in Ukraine, Russia, & the Middle East, the victims of the California Fires, & the Air disaster