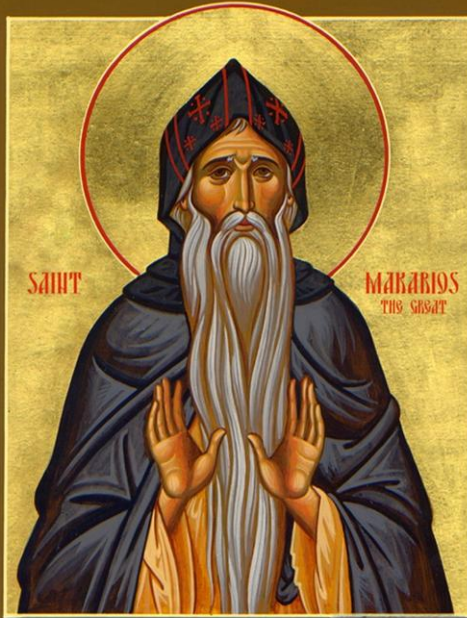


Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Elevation of the Holy Cross  
Orthodox Church  
Williamsport, PA.



*Venerable Macarius the  
Great*

January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025

# Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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## *Today's Scripture Readings:*

*Epistle: Colossians 3:12-16*

*Gospel: St. Luke 18:35-43*

*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 from 7:00 - 9:30am for private prayer and/or Confession.
- + *NO Compline/Bible Study this week* - Thursday January 23<sup>rd</sup>
- + *Diocesan Assembly* – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> & Friday 24<sup>th</sup>
- + *Great Vespers* - Saturday January 25<sup>th</sup> at 5
- + *Hours & Divine Liturgy* - Sunday January 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:40 – Fellowship following in the Hall.
- \*\* January Benevolence – *Diocese of Alaska*
- + House Blessings are now happening. Please see Fr Seraphim to set up a day and time. 😊
- \*\* **THANK YOU** to ALL who helped with the Luncheon yesterday!!!

## **Our Giving – January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Tithes/Offerings - \$305.00 / Online Giving - \$373.50  
Candle Offerings – \$59.00 / Benevolence - \$275.00

**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 😊

### ✝ *St. Macarius the Great - 4<sup>th</sup>c.* (oca.org)

Saint Macarius the Great of Egypt was born in the early fourth century in the village of Ptinapor in Egypt. At the wish of his parents, he entered into marriage but was soon widowed. After he buried his wife, Macarius told himself, “Take heed, Macarius, and have care for your soul. It is fitting that you forsake worldly life.”

The Lord rewarded the saint with a long life [90], but from that time the memory of death was constantly with him, impelling him to ascetic deeds of prayer and penitence. He began to visit the church of God more frequently and to be more deeply absorbed in Holy Scripture, but he did not leave his aged parents, thus fulfilling the commandment to honor one’s parents.

Until his parents died, Saint Macarius used his remaining substance to help them, and he began to pray fervently that the Lord might show him a guide on the way to salvation. The Lord sent him an experienced Elder, who lived in the desert not far from the village. The Elder accepted the youth with love, guided him in the spiritual science of watchfulness, fasting and prayer, and taught him the handicraft of weaving baskets.

The local bishop arrived one day at Ptinapor and, knowing of the saint’s virtuous life, ordained him to the diaconate against his will. Saint Macarius was overwhelmed by this disturbance of his silence, and so he went secretly to another place. The Enemy of our salvation began a tenacious struggle with the ascetic, trying to terrify him, shaking his cell and suggesting sinful thoughts. Saint Macarius repelled the attacks of the devil, defending himself with prayer and the Sign of the Cross.

Evil people slandered the saint, accusing him of seducing a woman from a nearby village. They dragged him out of his cell and jeered at him. Saint Macarius endured the temptation with great humility. Without a murmur, he sent the money that he got for his baskets for the support of the pregnant woman.

The innocence of Saint Macarius was manifested when the woman, who suffered torment for many days, was not able to give birth. She confessed that she had slandered the hermit and revealed the name of the real father. When her parents found out the truth, they were astonished and intended to go to the saint to ask forgiveness. Though Saint Macarius willingly accepted dishonor, he shunned the praise of men. He fled from that place by night and settled on Mt. Nitria in the Pharan desert.

Saint Macarius survived many demonic attacks against him. Once, he was carrying palm branches for weaving baskets, and a devil met him on the way and wanted to strike him with a sickle, but he was not able to do this. He said, “Macarius, I suffer great anguish from you because I am unable to vanquish you. I do everything that you do. You fast, and I eat nothing at all. You keep vigil, and I never sleep. You surpass me only in one thing: humility.”

[www.oca.org/saints/lives/2025/01/19/100226-venerable-macarius-the-great-of-egypt](http://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2025/01/19/100226-venerable-macarius-the-great-of-egypt)

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

His Eminence Archbishop Alexander, 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, George Quinn, Elizabeth Davis, Lara Schmitt, Larissa Chapin & those suffering from the wars in Ukraine, Russia, & the Middle East and the California Fires. **Our Catechumens:** Garrett Payer, Shyanne Vance, Melissa Czock, Kurt Schmitt (Military), Lucas Malek & Jiselle Micari

**Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal**

Mat. Susanne Senyo +1/18, Mat. Jeanne Ciarciaglino +12/16, Mat. Eugenia Nehrebecki +1/2, Faith Posten +12/20, All those who have lost their lives in the wars in Ukraine, Russia, & the Middle East, and the California Fires.