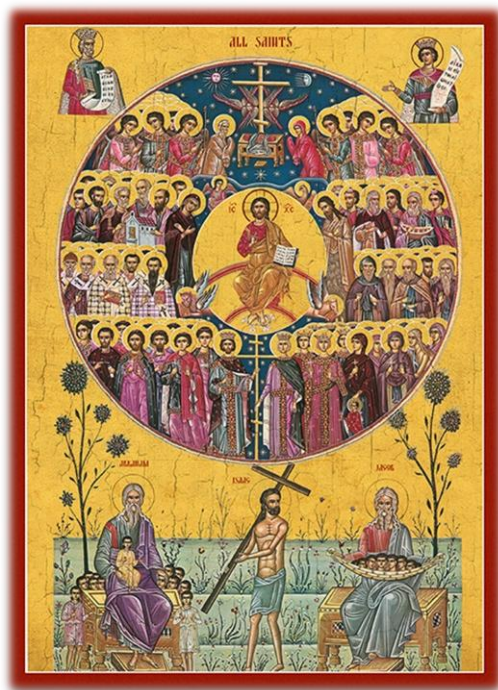


Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



The Feast of All Saints

June 15th, 2025

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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

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

Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Gospel: St. Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38, 19:27-30

Happy & Blessed Father's Day!

A warm welcome to all 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 June 17th * 7-9:30am
- + **Compline / Bible Study** – Thursday June 19th * 5:30pm
- + Church open for prayer/confession – Thursday June 19th * 7-9:30am
- ** Free Community Luncheon – Saturday June 21st – 10 'til Noon

+ SAINTS OF AMERICA +

Great Vespers – Saturday June 21st * 5pm

Hours & Divine Liturgy - Sunday June 22nd * 9:40 – fellowship following in the Hall

+ June Benevolence – St Nicholas Orthodox Church – McKees Rocks, PA

Our Giving – June 8th, 2025

Tithes/Offerings - \$1,908.00 / Online Giving - \$255.00

Candle Offerings – \$73.00 / Benevolence - \$250.00

Thank you for your support of our Parish!

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 Feast of All Saints*

The Sunday following Pentecost is dedicated to All Saints, both those who are known to us, and those who are known only to God. There have been saints at all times, and they have come from every corner of the earth. They were Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, Monastics, and Righteous, yet all were perfected by the same Holy Spirit. The Descent of the Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to rise above our fallen state and to attain sainthood, thereby fulfilling God's directive to "be holy, for I am holy" (Lev. 11:44, 1 Peter 1:16, etc.). Therefore, it is fitting to commemorate All Saints on the first Sunday after Pentecost.

This feast may have originated at an early date, perhaps as a celebration of all martyrs, then it was broadened to include all men and women who had borne witness to Christ by their virtuous lives, even if they did not shed their blood for Him. The hymnology for the feast of All Saints also lists six categories: "Rejoice, assembly of the Apostles, Prophets of the Lord, loyal choirs of the Martyrs, divine Hierarchs, Monastic Fathers, and the Righteous...."

Some of the saints are described as Confessors, a category which does not appear in the above lists. Since they are similar in spirit to the martyrs, they are regarded as belonging to the category of Martyrs. They were not put to death as the Martyrs were, but they boldly confessed Christ and came close to being executed for their faith. Saint Maximus the Confessor (January 21) is such a saint. The order of these six types of saints seems to be based on their importance to the Church. **The Apostles** are listed first, because they were the first to spread the Gospel throughout the world. **The Martyrs** come next because of their example of courage in professing their faith before the enemies and persecutors of

the Church, which encouraged other Christians to remain faithful to Christ even unto death. Although they come first chronologically, **the Prophets** are listed after the Apostles and Martyrs. This is because the Old Testament Prophets saw only the shadows of things to come, whereas the Apostles and Martyrs experienced them firsthand. **The holy Hierarchs** comprise the fourth category. They are the leaders of their flocks, teaching them by their word and their example.

The Monastic Saints are those who withdrew from this world to live in monasteries, or in seclusion. They did not do this out of hatred for the world, but in order to devote themselves to unceasing prayer, and to do battle against the power of the demons. Although some people erroneously believe that monks and nuns are useless and unproductive, Saint John Climacus had a high regard for them: “Angels are a light for monks, and the monastic life is a light for all men” (LADDER, Step 26:31). The last category, **the Righteous**, are those who attained holiness of life while living “in the world.” Examples include Abraham and his wife Sarah, Job, Saints Joachim and Anna, Saint Joseph the Betrothed, Saint Juliana of Lazarevo, and others. (oca.org)

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 (child to be born of her), Morgan Fallon (infant Nathaniel) 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, Patti Brown, 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, Spencer Leoutsakos & Benjamin Zachariah (Military)

Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal

Protodeacon Stephen Sweet +5/30, Deacon Mark Sauskojus, Irene Sumple +5/15, Seraphim Fair +5/30 Gabriel Johnson +5/6, Ian Bachle +5/25 & All those who have lost their lives in the wars in Ukraine, Russia, & the Middle East