

Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

# Elevation of the Holy Cross

## Orthodox Church

### Williamsport, PA.



*Icon of the Virgin & Child, 6<sup>th</sup> c. Egypt*

# *Sunday of Orthodoxy*

March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025

# Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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## *Today's Scripture Readings:*

**Epistle:** Hebrews 12:1-10; Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2

**Gospel:** St. Matthew 20:1-16; St. John 1:43-51

*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 – 10:00am for private prayer and/or Confession.

+ *Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts* - Lenten potluck following - Wednesday March 12<sup>th</sup> and Friday March 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:20pm

\*\* Saturday Luncheon – March 15<sup>th</sup> 10 'til Noon

+ *Great Vespers* - Saturday March 15<sup>th</sup> at 5pm

+ *Hours, Divine Liturgy* – Sunday March 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:40 - Lenten Fellowship following in the Hall.

\*\* **March Benevolence** – *Family Promise* (Williamsport)

### ***Our Stewardship – March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025***

Tithes/Offerings - \$2,648.00 / Online Giving - \$455.00

Candle Offerings – \$66.00 / Benevolence -\$20.00

*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 😊

### **✝ *1st Saturday of Great Lent: The Miracle of the Boiled Wheat***

We remember the miracle of Saint Theodore the Recruit and the boiled wheat. Fifty years after Saint Theodore's martyrdom, Emperor Julian the Apostate (361-363), devised a plan to corrupt the Christians during the first week of Great Lent. He knew that Christians purify themselves through fasting, especially during this week (which is why it is known as Clean Week).

Therefore, he ordered the Polemarch (military leader) of Constantinople to go secretly and sprinkle all the food in the marketplace with the blood of animals which had been offered in sacrifice to idols. Saint Theodore appeared to Archbishop Eudoxios in a dream, telling him to assemble all the Christians on Monday morning and tell them that they must not buy any food from the marketplace; instead they were to boil some kollyva and to eat it with some honey during that week. The hierarch asked Saint Theodore what he meant by kollyva. He replied, "Kollyva is what we call boiled wheat in Euchaita." Thus the scheme of the idol-worshipping emperor was thwarted and the pious people were preserved undefiled during Clean Week. (oca.org)

### **✝ *1st Sunday of Great Lent: Sunday of Orthodoxy***

The first Sunday of Great Lent is called the Sunday of Orthodoxy because it commemorates the restoration of the Holy Icons and the triumph of the Orthodox Faith against the terrible heresy of the Iconoclasts, i.e. those heretics who refused to honor

the Holy Icons. For more than a hundred years the Church was disturbed by the evil doctrine of iconoclasm.

The first Emperor to persecute the Church was Leo the Isaurian, and the last was Theophilos, the spouse of Saint Theodora (February 11), who reigned after her husband's death and re-established Orthodoxy in the time of Patriarch Methodios (June 14). Empress Theodora proclaimed publicly that we do not kiss the Icons as a sign of worship, nor do we honor them as "gods," but as images of their prototypes.

In the year 843, on the first Sunday of the Fast, Saint Theodora and her son, Emperor Michael, venerated the Holy Icons together with the clergy and the people. Since that time this event has been commemorated every year, because it was definitively determined that we do not worship the Icons, but we honor and glorify all the Saints who are depicted on them. We worship only the Triune God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and no one else, neither a Saint, nor an Angel. (oca.org)

**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 & 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, & the families of the Air disasters **Our Catechumens:** Garrett Payer, Shyanne Vance, Melissa Czock, Kurt Schmitt (Military), & Jiselle Macari

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

Archpriest John Maxwell +2/4, Aleksandra Ter +1/29, Olivia Ter +1/29, Paula Daubert +2/20, Wayne Lucas +2/1, Patricia Macy +2/25, David McHenry, All those who have lost their lives in the wars in Ukraine, Russia, & the Middle East, the victims of the Air disasters