

Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Elevation of the Holy Cross

Orthodox Church

Williamsport, PA.



Sunday of the Holy Myrrhbearers

May 4th, 2025

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Acts 6:1-7

Gospel: St. Mark 15:43-16:8

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

***A festive welcome to everyone 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 May 6th * 7-9:30am*
- + *Church open for prayer/confession – Thursday May 8th * 7-9:30am*
- + *Compline / Bible Study – Thursday May 8th * 5:30pm*
- + *Great Vespers – Saturday May 10th * 5pm*
- + *Hours & Divine Liturgy – Sunday May 11th * 9:40 – Mother's Day
brunch following in the Hall.*
- + *May Benevolence – St Nicholas Orthodox Church – McKees Rocks,
PA*
- + **A BIG THANK YOU** from Matushka Mary for your gifts and cards
on her birthday! 😊

Our Giving – PASCHA April 27th, 2025

Tithes/Offerings - \$129.00 / Online Giving - \$255.00

Candle Offerings – \$124.00 / Pascha Gifts - \$128.00

Pascha Flowers - \$345.00

Thank you all for your generosity!

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. 😊

† Sunday of the Holy Myrrhbearing Women with the Noble Joseph

The Myrrh-bearing women are those women who followed the Lord, along with His Mother. They remained with her during the time of the saving Passion and anointed the Lord's body with myrrh. Joseph and Nikódēmos asked for and received the Lord's body from Pilate. They took it down from the Cross, wrapped it in linen cloths and spices, then they laid it in a tomb, and then they placed a great stone over the entrance of the tomb.

According to the Evangelist Matthew (27:57-61) Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joses (Mark 15:40) were there sitting opposite the sepulcher, and they saw where He had been laid. This other Mary was the Mother of God. Not only were these present, but also many other women, as Saint Luke says (24:10).

Today the Church honors Saints Mary Magdalene (July 22), Mary the wife of Cleopas (May 23), Susanna (May 4), Joanna (June 27), Salome, mother of the sons of Zebedee (August 3), Martha and Mary, sisters of Lazarus (June 4), and the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, who was the stepmother of her husband Joseph's sons James (October 23) and Joses (October 30). Today we also remember Saint Joseph of Arimathea (July 31), who was a secret disciple (John 19:38), and Saint Nikódēmos, who was a disciple by night (John 3:3; 19:38).

(oca.org)

“Only the man who has had to face despair is really convinced that he needs mercy. Those who do not want mercy never seek it. It is better to find God on the threshold of despair than to risk our lives in a complacency that has never felt the need of forgiveness. A life that is without problems may literally be more hopeless than one that always verges on despair”.

+ Thomas Merton, No Man Is an Island

* Speak well of those who speak evil of you.

* Pay good for evil.

* Pray for those who cause you various offenses, wrongs, temptations, persecutions.

* Whatever you do, on no account condemn anyone; do not even try to judge whether a person is good or bad, but keep your eyes on that one evil person for whom you must give an account before God – yourself.

+ St. Ignatius (Brianchaninov) The Arena

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 & 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, Joanna Bohlander & 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

Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal

Schema-Archimandrite Panteleimon (Voepel) +4/24, Archpriest Alexander Poshyvajlo +4/22, Matushka Sophia Daniels +3/29, Matushka Mary Shafran +3/31, Matushka Evangeline Zarras +4/13 & All those who have lost their lives in the wars in Ukraine, Russia, & the Middle East