

Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Elevation of the Holy Cross

Orthodox Church

Williamsport, PA.



Veneration of the Cross

3rd Sunday of Great Lent

March 15th, 2026

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6

Gospel: St. Mark 8:34-9:1

A warm welcome to ALL this morning! Everyone is invited to join us for some fellowship after the Liturgy in the Parish Hall!

This Week at Holy Cross

- + Church is open** on Tuesday & Thursday mornings from 7-9:30am for private prayer, quiet time and/or Confession. Kindly let Fr Seraphim know if you are coming for Confession.
- + 9th Hour, Presanctified Liturgy, Lenten potluck** – Wednesday March 18th * 5:30pm
- + 9th Hour, Presanctified Liturgy, Lenten potluck** – Friday March 20th * 5:30pm
- ** Community Luncheon** – Parish Hall Saturday March 21st * 10-11:30
- + Great Vespers** – Saturday March 21st * 5pm
- + Hours, Divine Liturgy** – **Sunday of St John Climacus** March 22nd * 9:40am
- ** March Benevolence** – St. Tikhon seminarian Rdr. John Barrett

Our Giving – March 8th, 2026

Tithes/Offerings - \$3,786.25 / Online Giving - \$480.00
Candle Offerings - \$56.00 / Benevolence - \$290.00

Thank you all for your generosity to 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, are at peace with everyone**, and who were *at least present for the reading of the Epistle and Gospel* should approach to receive the Holy Eucharist. If you have any questions about Communion, please see Fr. Seraphim. 😊

✝ *If you have not already, please prepare to come for Confession during Lent. Please see Fr Seraphim to set up a day and time.*

✝ **3rd Sunday of Great Lent: Veneration of the Cross**

“The Third Sunday of Lent is that of the Veneration of the Cross. The cross stands in the midst of the church in the middle of the lenten season not merely to remind men of Christ’s redemption and to keep before them the goal of their efforts, but also to be venerated as that reality by which man must live to be saved. “He who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me” (Mt.10:38). For in the Cross of Christ Crucified lies both “the power of God and the wisdom of God” for those being saved (1 Cor.1:24).”

(oca.org)

The Third Sunday of Great Lent. The Veneration of the Cross

For the preaching of the cross is ... unto us which are saved... the power of God. 1 Cor. 1:18

On the third Sunday in Great Lent, at the All Night Vigil (on Saturday evening), the Life-Giving Cross is carried out from the altar to the center of the church for the veneration of the faithful throughout the week.

As a traveler weary from a long journey rests under a broad, leafy tree, so do Orthodox Christians making their spiritual journey to the Heavenly Jerusalem—to the Pascha of the Lord—find at the halfway point of their path the “Tree of the Cross”, that they might gather strength under its canopy for their onward journey. Or, as before the arrival of the king returning from victory is preceded by his standards and scepters, so also does the Cross of the Lord precede Christ’s victory over death—His Bright Resurrection.

At this veneration we sing:

“Before Thy Cross, we bow down, O Master, and Thy Holy Resurrection we glorify.”

The Church presents the Cross to the faithful in the middle of the Forty Days in order by this recollection of the sufferings of the Lord’s death to encourage and fortify those who fast to continue their labor of fasting. The veneration of the Cross continues throughout the fourth week of the fast until Friday, and this is why the entire fourth week is called, the Week of the Veneration of the Cross.

“The Cross is the guardian of the whole world, the Cross is the beauty of the Church, the Cross is the might of kings, the Cross is the strengthening of the faithful, the Cross, angel’s glory, and wound to demons.” Thus does one of the Church’s hymns explain the significance of the Cross for the whole world. “By dipping the pen of the cross in the red ink of Thy blood, Thou O Lord didst as king sign the forgiveness of our sins,” says one of the stichera for the feast.’ 3/19/2023

www.orthochristian.com/69281.html

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 (Kovalak), Archpriest George, Fr Dcn John Wesner, Mat. Myra (Kovalak), Pres. Eva (Koutroulelis), Catharine Mann, Paul Beard, Harry Hiras, Evelyn Chabal, Amelia Kuzmiak, Juliana Matusiak, Isaac Bannister, Michael Lazorchak, Brian Gunter, Elizabeth Larson, Joanna Bohlander, John Dykes, Alexis Gross, Mary Fish, John Sam, Innocent Sam, Chris Gehret, Bridget Youmans, Jennifer Updegrove, Stephanie Raptis, Steven Reynolds & those suffering from the wars and unrest in Ukraine, Russia, & the Middle East. ***Our Catechumens:*** Melissa Czock, Jiselle Macari, Spencer Leoutsakos, Benjamin Zachariah (Military), Garette, Morgan, Charlotte & Nathaniel Fallon, Rick Lucas, Dean Johnson, Jennifer Benick, Joseph Fazio, Dallas Compton, Jonathan, Madison (& child to be born), Felicity & Edmund Race, Mason Hall

Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal

Archimandrite Luke (Majoros) +2/12, Archpriest John Ealy +3/5, Archpriest George Johnson +3/9, Monk Kyril (Yefimov) +3/1, Joan Lengel +3/3 and All those who have lost their lives in the wars & unrest in Ukraine, Russia, the Middle East and around the world.