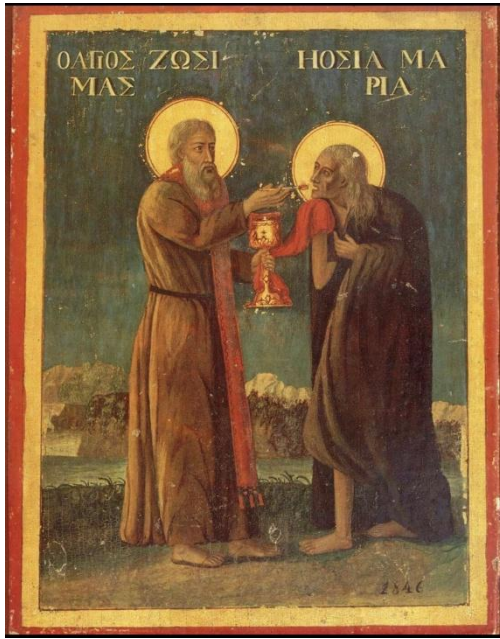


Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Elevation of the Holy Cross

Orthodox Church

Williamsport, PA.



St Mary of Egypt
5th Sunday of Great Lent
March 29th, 2026

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701-2749
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Very Rev. Fr. Seraphim Reynolds, Pastor/Rector
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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Galatians 3:23-29; Hebrews 9:11-14

Gospel: St. Luke 7:36-50; St. Mark 10:32-45

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.

+ ***Presanctified Divine Liturgy*** – Wednesday April 1st * 5:30pm

+ ***Lazarus Saturday Matins*** – Friday April 3rd * 5:30pm

+ ***Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy*** – Saturday April 4th * 9am

+ ***Great Vespers w/Blessing of Palms*** – Saturday April 4th * 5pm

+ ***Palm Sunday Hours, Divine Liturgy, Procession*** – April 5th * 9:40am

+ ***Bridegroom Matins*** – Sunday April 5th * 5:30pm

** ***April Benevolence*** – St. John of the Ladder, Greenville, SC (fire)

Our Giving – March 22nd, 2026

Tithes/Offerings - \$522.25.00 / Online Giving - \$1,401.00

Candle Offerings - \$65.00 / Benevolence - \$250.00

Pascha Flowers - \$50.00

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.*

✚ ***“Living the Traditional Orthodox Life”*** by Archpriest John Moses ✚

“What is traditional Orthodoxy? Almost every Orthodox spiritual writer that I have read emphasizes that true Orthodoxy is a matter of the heart. Without warmth of heart towards God and neighbor, there can be no true faith. Fr. Seraphim Rose wrote,

“Orthodoxy is not merely a ritual, or belief, or a pattern of behavior, or anything else that a man may possess, thinking that he is thereby a Christian, and be spiritually dead; it is rather an elemental reality of power which transforms a man and gives him strength to live in the most difficult and tormenting conditions, and prepares him to depart with peace into eternal life.”

This elemental reality of power of which Fr. Seraphim speaks is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, that living and eternal flame of love within the regenerated heart. It is the seal and the promise of our baptism waiting to be fully realized in our lives. Walking in the Spirit is Orthodoxy in its most fundamental reality. St. Seraphim of Sarov told us that the only true purpose, the only real goal of any Orthodox life is the acquisition of the Holy Spirit.

Traditional Orthodox life is also a life of suffering love, and this is most difficult for North Americans to accept. Even though we are familiar with suffering, we do all that we can to avoid it. Yet, the Lord said that if we were to follow him, we had to take up our cross. The cross cannot be embraced without suffering. A non-suffering Orthodox Christian is a contradiction of terms. A non-suffering Orthodox Christian is on the road to hell.”

November 8, 2003

“Orthodoxy is life. If we don’t live Orthodoxy, we simply are not Orthodox, no matter what formal beliefs we might hold.” **Bl. Fr. Seraphim Rose**

“Be careful with your mouth, but primarily with your mind; do not let evil thoughts start talking to you. Do not let your mouth say words that could perhaps wound your brother. Let your mouth put forth words which are fragrant: words of consolation, courage and hope. It is a person's mouth that reveals his interior, inner man.” **Elder Ephraim of Philitheou**

“Bound up with this is a disease of today's Orthodox Christians which can be deadly: the 'correctness disease.' . . . If you are critical of others, self-confident about your correctness, eager to quote canons to prove someone else is wrong, constantly 'knowing better' than others--you have the germs of the 'correctness disease.' These are signs of immaturity in spiritual life . . .”

Bl. Fr. Seraphim Rose

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, Joanna Bohlander, John Dykes, Mary Fish, John Sam, Innocent Sam, Chris Gehret, Bridget Youmans, Jennifer Updegrove, Stephanie Raptis, & 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, Andrew Gehret

Prayers for the Newly Departed: *Memory Eternal*

His Holiness, Patriarch Illia II, +3/17, Archpriest John Ealy +3/5, Archpriest George Johnson +3/9, Monk Kyril (Yefimov) +3/1, Joan Lengel +3/3, Milagros Medallon Kaahanui +3/24 and All those who have lost their lives in the wars & unrest in Ukraine, Russia, the Middle East and around the world.