

All Saints Orthodox Christian Church
210 Susquehanna Ave. PO Box 207 Olyphant, PA. 18447

Fr. Paul Schellbach, Rector

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Office Hours: 9 AM-4 PM, Monday thru Friday

www.allsaintsolyphant.org

January 25, 2015

Zacchaeus Sunday

Today. Potluck for Coffee Hour.

Thursday 29th-Friday 30th. Fr. Paul at Diocesan Assembly in Bethlehem.

Home Blessing sign up list on candle desk. Please sign up for the New Year. Fr. Paul would love to bless your home and visit you this new year.

Calendars. If you have not received a 2015 calendar yet please see Ken Stafursky. For now, only one per household.

Rectory renovation. The renovation on the rectory is going on quite well. It is turning out to be quite beautiful. Tentative occupancy should be sometime in February. Please consider providing a donation to offset rectory renovation costs.

Coming up: 2015 Winter Teen Retreat. February 6-8 at Trout Lake Retreat Center in Stroudsburg. See flyer on white board downstairs for more information.

On Zacchaeus:

The very first announcement of Lent is made the Sunday on which the Gospel lesson about Zacchaeus (Lk. 19:1-10) is read. It is the story of a man who was too short to see Jesus but who *desired* so much to see Him that he climbed up a tree. Jesus responded to his desire and went to his house. Thus the theme of this first announcement is *desire*. Man follows his desire. One can even say that man *is* desire, and this fundamental psychological truth about human nature is acknowledged by the Gospel: "Where your treasure is," says Christ, "there shall

your heart be.” A strong desire overcomes the natural limitations of man; when he passionately desires something he does things of which “normally” he is incapable. Being “short,” he overcomes and transcends himself. The only question, therefore, is whether we desire the right things, whether the power of desire in us is aimed at the right goal, or whether-in the words of the existentialist atheist, Jean Paul Sartre-man is a “useless passion.”

Zacchaeus desired the “right thing”; he wanted to see and approach Christ. He is the first symbol of repentance, for repentance begins as the rediscovery of the deep nature of all desire: the desire for God and His righteousness, for the true life. Zacchaeus is “short”-petty, sinful and limited-yet his desire overcomes all this. It “forces” Christ’s attention; it brings Christ to his home. Such, then, is the first invitation: ours is to *desire* that which is deepest and truest in ourselves, to acknowledge the thirst and hunger for the Absolute which is in us whether we know it or not, and which, when we deviate from it and turn our desires away, makes us indeed a “useless passion.” And if we desire deeply enough, strongly enough, Christ will respond. From **Great Lent** by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann.

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Month of January Education Prayer Corner: ***Troparion to Theophany.***

Saturday Vespers 4PM; Sunday Divine Liturgy 9:30AM. Confessions available upon request.

Peroghis available Friday 9-11:30 & Sunday 11-12.

Donations. Weekly: \$236. Loose: \$8. Tithe: \$551. 2nd collection, Sunday school: \$75. Church donation IMO Robert Zarnosky: \$7,750.

Prayers: Please inform Fr. Paul if you want someone remembered throughout the month. Hieromonk Gabriel recovering from surgery.

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If anyone would like to sponsor a bulletin in memory of someone please let Fr. Paul know.

Bulletin for January in memory of Michael Sr. & Jane Stuchlak.