Weekly Schedule of Services

Saturday: 4pm Great Vespers This ancient prayer service assists in preparing us for the most sacred of services, the Sunday Liturgy. *Coming Soon* Stay after as we preach through a book of the Bible.

Sunday: 9:30am Divine Liturgy This is the central day of the Christian week, where we worship our great God in holy array, and receive the most sacred Body and Blood of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Coming Soon Wednesday: 6:30pm [Vespers and] Bible Study Join us as we study and discuss Sacred Scripture and the Core Principles of Christian Faith and Practice.

Monday through Friday: 8am Morning Prayer Come join us in prayer for our Church family as she begins her day!

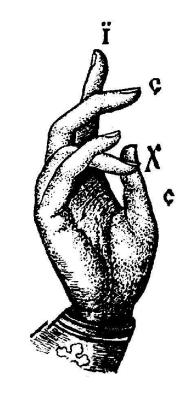
Upcoming Midweek Feast

(Parents of children, we hope you all will attend! Please see Fr. Joshua for letters of "reason for absence" from school.)

Wednesday, June 5 at 6:30pm Great Vespers Thursday, June 6 at 9:30am Feast of Holy Ascension

Also Upcoming

Sunday, June 9: His Eminence, Archbishop Mark will be visiting and worshipping with us at the Divine Liturgy. Let's give him a warm welcome! Find Peace of Soul at All Saints Orthodox Church



Sunday, June 2, 2019: 6th Sunday after Pascha <u>St. Nicepherus, Confessor, Patriarch of Constantinople</u> Epistle: Acts 16:16-34; Gospel: John 9:1-38 Biblical, Sacramental, Patristic, Christ-centered, and Spirit-filled, *All Saints Orthodox Church* is a community of Orthodox Christians seeking to live the Gospel by putting on the Mind of Christ and acquiring the Holy Spirit. Discover who you are in Christ with practical teachings to uplift and transform your mind, open and expand your heart, and experientially know the awesome and intimate presence of God in your soul.

Pastoral Reflection

As we approach the Feasts of both Ascension and Pentecost, let our minds be captured by the glory of Christ's victory over death in the Resurrection, by His raising our fallen human nature to the very throne of God in His Ascension, and by the sending of the Holy Spirit to indwell the hearts of believers at Pentecost. Let us be awestruck that He has purchased us at the price of His own Blood, and ushered us into the very Life of the Trinity. The heart of the faithful is a temple of the Lord. The very kingdom of God is within, to be encountered in brilliant glory by those who will steadfastly wait upon the Lord, constant in prayer, stillness, and watchfulness. Meet the Lord in the secret place, the depths of the heart, and draw from the wells of His truth and love.

<u>Keep Praying</u>

"Attentiveness is the heart's stillness, unbroken by any thought. In this stillness the heart breathes and invokes, endlessly and without ceasing, only Jesus Christ who is the Son of God and Himself God."-St. Hesychios the Priest

Wisdom, Let us Attend

The Church Fathers are a repository of wisdom. One such Church Father is St. Maximus the Confessor (7th Century). In a time of great controversy he stood unwavering for the truth when most of his contemporaries were siding with the popular thought of the times. Among his writings are the *Four Hundred Chapters On Love*. The first of these is:

"Love is a good disposition of the soul by which one prefers no being to the knowledge of God. It is impossible to reach the habit of this love if one has any attachment to earthly things."

One way to understand this is that true love of God implies all other affections come only *after* love of Him. If we are not putting God first, then clearly we must be putting someone or something before Him. Loving God first and foremost, however, does not reduce our love for others, or our capacity for love, but rather frees our hearts and minds to love others in a godly way, allowing us to perform our tasks in a right, God-pleasing manner. What would it look like if we loved God first? Would our lives look any different? Would we spend our time any differently?

Lord, help me to love You first and foremost, and to find all of my sufficiency in You. You are the light of my darkened soul, and in You do I place all of my confidence and hope. Despite its many and various attractions, the life of the flesh is empty and alienated from righteousness, peace, and joy. Awaken me from the dream of living for myself and the world, and teach me to live and rest in You alone.