

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 [Prayer 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 and community as she begins her day!

Announcements

Glory to God and thank you to all who donated and worked at our perogi and food sales to help us to be able to pay off our mortgage for the rectory. A total of \$38,200 was raised to make this possible. This was done in only 15 months! Our last sale raised over \$6,000. Thank you to all who made this possible. All the support we had was great.

St. Tikhon's Monastery will be celebrating St. Anna's Day with an Akathis, procession, and anointing on Sunday, July 21 at 2:00pm.

St. Tikhon's Patronal Feast will be on Tuesday, August 13 at 9:00am.

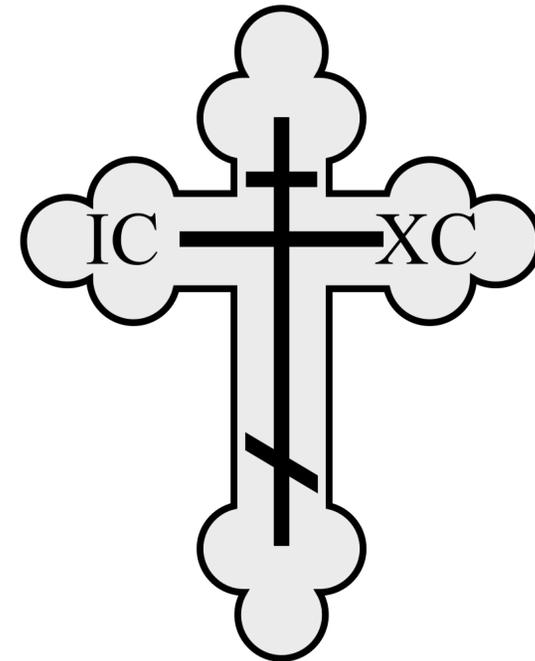
Find Peace of Soul at

All Saints Orthodox Church

211 Willow Avenue, Olyphant, PA 18447

www.allsaintsolyphant.org

Fr. Joshua Schooping - Parish Priest - 570-489-0942



Sunday, June 30, 2019

All Saints of America

Epistle: Romans 2:10-16

Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23

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

What is the Gospel? As simple a question as that is to ask, to answer can seem not a little daunting. Literally “good news,” St. Paul tells us the Gospel is “the power of God unto salvation.” Therefore, to understand what the Gospel is, we must understand what salvation is. In brief, it means being rescued and healed from the consequences of sin and death. Today, however, many cannot understand why a person would even need saving at all. To know, we must look at the problem the Gospel is answering. In short, sin and death have so entered into the bloodstream of humanity that, without divine intervention, humanity has no hope but perpetual death. Passions like anger and lust are the activity and evidence of death in the soul, and we continue at death what we are in life. Many assume, however, that there is a continuity and connection between God and man that sin and death do not affect, and so salvation is not really seen as necessary. If this were so, then Christ died and rose in vain. The reality is that sin and death ruptured our relationship with God, but were defeated at the Cross. Through the Cross Christ healed our broken relationship with God, and He delivers this healing in Communion. This is the Gospel!

Keep Praying

“If you truly wish to be serenely silent, and to live in the effortless enjoyment of a sober and quiet heart, let the Jesus Prayer cleave to your breathing.” -St. Hesychios

Wisdom, Let us Attend

The Church Fathers are a repository of living wisdom. One such Church Father is St. Gregory of Sinai. His teaching on what happens at the moment of death can help us to live life more fully:

At the moment of our death we will know for certain what is the outcome of our life.

One way to understand this is by reflecting on the process of death. As gruesome and ghastly as it may at first appear, the Church Fathers advise us to frequently reflect on our personal death, for it has a salutary and beneficial effect on our soul. Knowledge of death is, in fact, a principle aspect of being human. As we approach death, we increasingly weaken; our strength fails us. What is more, in this weakening process, the degree of faith and hope we place in people and in the world reveal themselves to our mind. Our fears and hopes present themselves to us in a very pressing way. The question, then, of the object of our faith becomes all-important, for it is. We may place great faith in our opinions, our connections, our families, our savings, or any number of other things. As we weaken, however, these begin to slip away from us, and we increasingly lose all semblance of control. As a result, we start to realize very deeply how we cannot take anything or anyone with us, and none of them can help us as we exit this life. But this is not a sad story. Death may be inevitable, but it is not an invitation to despair. Why? Because God is with us! God has defeated sin and death. He has risen to the right hand of the Father, and there He is ready to receive us. Knowledge of our death helps us begin to live this truth now. Placing God first here and now trains us for the moment of our death, and so instead of losing everything we see that we gain everything in Christ, for Christ is the sum of all things. We can even look forward to the day of our departure, for there we will have neither sorrow nor sighing, but life everlasting. This is our very real hope, established on the faith of Christ. By surrendering all to Him, His peace become ours. And so in this surrender all fear is removed and we lay down in peace, offering our soul up to God in perfect trust, falling asleep as it were in His arms.