

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.

New: Stay after as we preach through St. Paul's Letter to the Romans.

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 Essentials

Join us as we explore and discuss the Core Teachings 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. Stay for morning coffee!

Announcements

Save the Date: *The Exaltation of the Precious Cross*

Great Vespers: Friday, September 13 at 6:30pm

Divine Liturgy: Saturday, September 14 at 9:30am

Please let Fr. Joshua know of any upcoming birthdays or anniversaries.

If you haven't already, please be in touch with Fr. Joshua for your regular practice of the Sacrament of Confession.

There will be a Baptism on Saturday, August 31, at 11am.
All are welcome to come and support the entry into the Church of baby Emily!

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, August 26, 2019
Apostle Titus of the Seventy

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16

Gospel: Matthew 17:14-23

Biblical, Sacramental, Patristic, Christ-centered, and Spirit-filled, *All Saints Orthodox Church* is a community of Orthodox Christians seeking to know and 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 experience the freeing, awesome, and intimate presence of God in your soul.

Pastoral Reflection

What is the Bible's master narrative? What ties all the different books of the Bible into a single story? How do the various parts of the Bible fit together as a whole? What is the problem that this one story, as a whole, presents the solution for? Beginning in Genesis, the problem, in brief, is death, dis-integration, rupture with Life. But what produces death? Sin. And what is sin? Sin is the willing agreement with the passions. What are the passions? The passions are the activity of alienation, of moving away from Life, i.e. towards rupture and disintegration. What is the solution to this problem? In short: Communion with God. What is the basis or ground for Communion with God? The ground for Communion with God is the Incarnation of the Word of God, Jesus Christ. What is the method of obtaining Communion? The power inherent in the Gospel of the cross, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The import or meaning of this Good News? The defeat of death and the restoration of Communion with God. How to partake of this? In faith, die and rise with Christ in Baptism, and receive His Life by receiving His Body and Blood in Covenantal Communion. What is the consequence of this Communion? Being restored to God and becoming a living part of His Body, an extension of heaven on earth, the Church. What is the end or final result? Eternal joy and fellowship in the Holy Trinity.

Keep Praying

"When you awake... Direct your thoughts to God, bring to God a sacrifice of the first thoughts of your mind before it has had an opportunity to accept any worldly impressions."

-St. Ignatius Brianchaninov

Wisdom, Let us Attend

The Church Fathers are a repository of living wisdom. One such Church Father is St. Ignatius Brianchaninov (19th Century). Writing on the relationship between faith and works:

The Orthodox faith in Christ, sealed with the mystery of baptism, is alone sufficient for salvation, without deeds, when the person has no time to do them, because faith transforms a person into the likeness of Christ while deeds change him only to the likeness of Christ's actions.

One way to understand this is by looking more closely at the very nature of faith. Faith is transformative. Faith shapes everything. It shapes how we see the world because it shapes our eyes. Our spiritual eyes filter a lot, and they also bring a lot of things into focus, and so how we see will determine what we see. Christ says, "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!" Many of us must confess to seeing a lot of darkness, but the problem may be in how we see. The view is found in the seeing. Therefore, faith is the all-critical factor in our life in Christ. We might do many good deeds, but if we trust in our deeds rather than in Christ, then we are forsaking the very foundation of salvation. *"Those who rely on the good deeds of our fallen nature have not come to know Christ, they have not understood the mystery of redemption, and they are snared in the traps of their own false reasoning."* No matter how much seems to be accomplished by good deeds, considered outwardly they accomplish nothing without faith, for *"If good deeds according to the feelings of the heart would give salvation, then the incarnation of Christ would have been a pointless act. The redemption of mankind through the passion and the cross would have been unnecessary, and the gospel commandments would be meaningless. Thus, obviously, those who believe that good deeds done in our fallen nature are enough for salvation destroy the meaning of Christ and reject Christ Himself."* This is why Christ says we must deny ourselves first to follow Him. Therefore we need take care how we work, whether it be from faith.