

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.

Congratulations to baby Emily for her entry into the Church!

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, September 1, 2019

Church New Year

Epistle: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

Gospel: Luke 4:16-22

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

The *why* of our life answers many questions before they are even asked. The *why* of our life is our purpose. It is the answer to the question of why we are alive, why we do what we do, and why don't do what we don't do. If we have our *why* clear, if we know clearly what our purpose on earth is, we will live our life in alignment with who we are rather than who we aren't. Many times we wander down lost roads looking for answers to questions that aren't really our questions, that may even have very little to do with who we are as persons created in the image of God. Thank God, He gives us our *why*: Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is our *why*, our purpose. He puts His life into us through Baptism and Communion, and so our purpose is to live from Christ in us, to live with His life energizing us and His light enlightening us. We don't look to people or things for our *why*, because if people define us, then we are only ever as good as people think or treat us. We will be looking to others for purpose, validation, meaning, and direction. But God gives His life so that instead of only being as good as our environment allows, we bring the light of heaven to our environment. We give Jesus Christ in us as light to the people and events around us. We are free in Christ, and so no one need wait for permission to shine. God is your light, and He lives in you so that you may shine His light through your thoughts, words, and deeds. Don't sell yourself cheap to the nearest passion. Reckon yourself dead to darkness and alive to the light of God, Christ Jesus our Lord.

Keep Praying

“The purpose of reading and contemplation is to render the mind clear of any matter or form; from this ensues undistracted prayer.”

-St. Maximus the Confessor

Wisdom, Let us Attend

The Church Fathers are a repository of living wisdom. One such Church Father is St. John of Damascus (8th Century). Writing on the knowledge of God:

No one hath seen God at any time; the Only-begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him. The Deity, therefore, is ineffable and incomprehensible. For no one knoweth the Father, save the Son, nor the Son, save the Father. And the Holy Spirit, too, so knows the things of God as the spirit of the man knows the things that are in him. Moreover, after the first and blessed nature no one, not of men only, but even of supramundane powers, and the Cherubim, I say, and Seraphim themselves, has ever known God, save he to whom He revealed Himself.

One way to understand this is by noting that God is beyond our ability to comprehend. Just as we cannot take in the whole surface of the earth in a glance, likewise we cannot take in the whole of God in a single thought. *God then is infinite and incomprehensible and all that is comprehensible about Him is His infinity and incomprehensibility.* Even if we used all possible ideas, God is still infinitely beyond all of them and incomprehensibly beyond all understanding. We know God because He chooses to reveal Himself to us. God has no body, no shape, no boundary, no size. And yet, Scripture describes Him as having hands, feet, face, eyes, ears, and more. Why does Scripture do this? It is because these are the things that are familiar to us. Just as an infant does not understand speech and so an adult will “speak its language” with smiles and cooing, so God applies to Himself certain images and thoughts familiar to us in order for us to know and approach Him. *All the statements made about God that imply He has a body have some hidden meaning and teach us what is above us by means of something familiar to ourselves.* We know God only by the use of images and types and symbols derived from our own life. So then all the statements concerning God, that imply He has a body, are symbols, but have a higher meaning. Christ is the exception, for even though He is God, He took on all of human nature in order to redeem us.