

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.

Saturday, September 14th, 1pm: Wedding of Nick and Sara

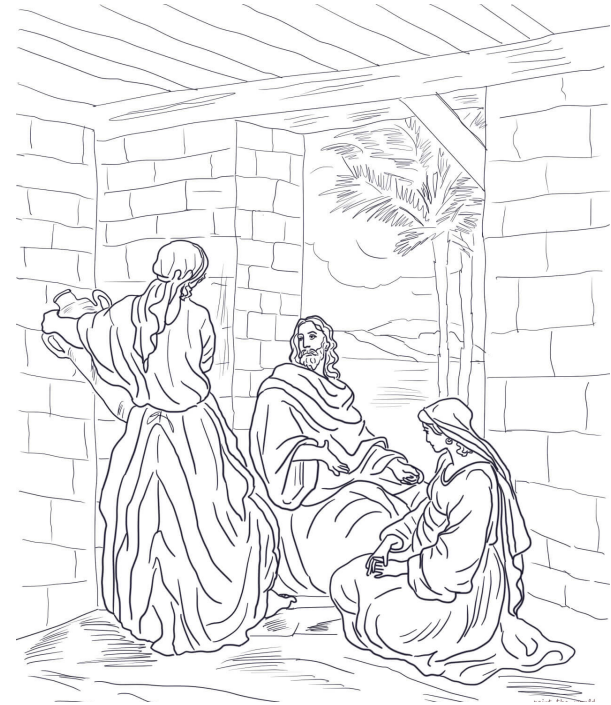
Find Peace of Soul at

All Saints Orthodox Church

211 Willow Avenue, Olyphant, PA 18447

www.allsaintsolyphant.org

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



Sunday, September 8, 2019

Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos

Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel: Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

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

Why is there evil? This question has been asked countless times. From Genesis we read that God gave dominion of the earth to mankind. Although the psalmist says, “The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof,” the Psalms also state, “The heavens are the LORD's; but the earth He has given to the children of men.” Definitely everything is God's, and yet some of these things He put in the charge of another. In the case of the earth, it is man's. On the other hand, mankind as a whole has presented himself to the wicked one as his slave, “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?” Even to the post-resurrection Church, St. John wrote, “The whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.” In other words, man, having given control of himself to the evil one, has as a consequence given his rightful dominion of the earth to the control of the evil one. Although the earth is given by God to man, through sin man became an agent of the evil one and thereby bequeathed control of the earth to him. Now, since the earth is controlled practically by evil, what grounds remain for anyone wondering why evil is in the world? What ground remains for questioning either God's goodness or His existence based on the presence of evil in the world? According to the Bible it appears that since the practical dominion of the earth is man's, then all evil is squarely the responsibility of man, caused through man by his own sin and by his giving control to the evil one.

Keep Praying

“Prayer is the ascent of the mind to God.”

-St. John of Damascus

Wisdom, Let us Attend

The Church Fathers are a repository of living wisdom. One such Church Father is Blessed Augustine (5th Century). Writing about Jesus Christ who is the Word of God:

Words by their daily use, sound, and passage out of us, have become common things. But there is a word which remains inward, in the very man himself; distinct from the sound which proceeds out of the mouth. There is a word, which is truly and spiritually that, which you understand by the sound, not being the actual sound. Now whoever can conceive the notion of word, as existing not only before its sound, but even before the idea of its sound is formed, may see enigmatically, and as it were in a glass, some similitude of that Word of Which it is said, In the beginning was the Word.

One way to understand this is to reflect for a moment on how words are the spoken form of thoughts. When we say a word, the thought is in our mind. We speak the content of our minds, but unlike pouring a glass of water, our mind does not lose its content when it speaks. Even before we speak a word, it is there in our mind. *For a word is a thought formed from a thing which we know; which word is spoken in the heart, being neither Greek nor Latin, nor of any language, though, when we want to communicate it to others, some sign is assumed by which to express it.* There is a meaningful idea that gets expressed by a word, but is prior to the word. Before the word comes up there is an understanding that takes the form of a word. It is even the case that often we want to speak, and yet find ourselves searching for the word to say it so that we may say it aloud. *Wherefore the word which sounds externally, is a sign of the word which lies hid within, to which the name of word more truly appertains. For that which is uttered by the mouth of our flesh, is the voice of the word; and is in fact called word, with reference to that from which it is taken, when it is developed externally.* In a similar way, Jesus Christ is the Word that forever exists within the Heart of God the Father. This Word is God speaking *Himself*. All that God *is* is in the Word, and revealed in the Person of Jesus Christ.