

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

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 Nick and Sara entering the Sacrament of Marriage!

In my years as a professional chaplain, one thing I learned is that many people don't prefer to be visited when ill. In order to better meet your needs, here are some basic guidelines for visiting the sick or homebound. Out of respect for your privacy, please personally request for any pastoral visitation. If someone is unable to make a personal request, the parishioner's directly authorized loved one is encouraged to request pastoral visitation.

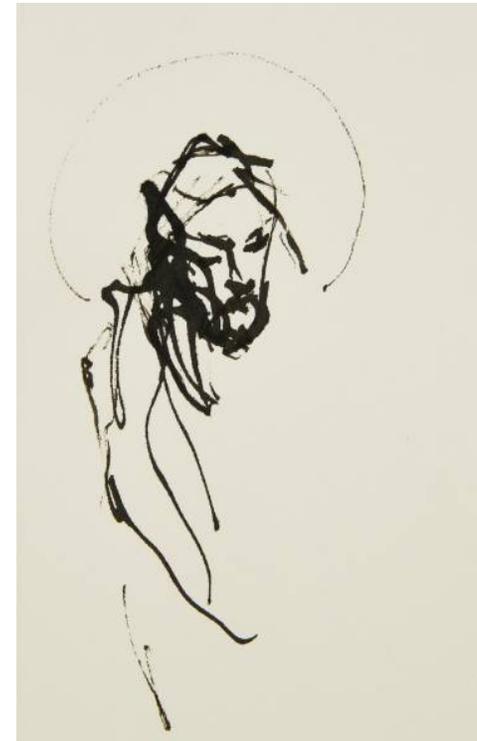
Find Peace of Soul at

All Saints Orthodox Church

211 Willow Avenue, Olyphant, PA 18447

www.allsaintsolyphant.org

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



Sunday, September 15, 2019
Greatmartyr Nicetas the Goth

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 16:13-24

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-42

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

One of the most harmful activities engaged in on a regular basis is criticism of others. Criticism, for some, is almost the only thing they know how to say. If asked to count up how many times we needlessly criticized other people, would we want to see that number? The Bible describes this activity with several different labels, such as backbiter, whisperer, gossip, talebearer, and slanderer. Today we often simply know them as critics and nitpickers, those with a critical spirit who have very little good to say about almost anyone or anything. Speaking ill of others, though, is a grievous thing. In fact, in the Psalms it says, “Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, him I will destroy.” God is displeased when we speak negatively about people. Some, however, say it is a mark of honesty to “speak your mind.” Christ, however, states, “Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned.” When we spread the poison of criticism, something for which all have been guilty at one time or another, we actually heap judgment upon our heads. This is why it is so important to speak kindly of everyone. Do you see that someone has a fault? Don’t share it. Cover your neighbor’s fault, and God will cover yours. Find the good in people. Seek it out. Speak kindly and well of people, always encouraging. Make sure your words build people up and strengthen them, and “let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.” Peace of soul is found in kind words to others.

Keep Praying

“Let us stand devoutly before the Cross of Christ and say: “Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me.” That says everything.”

-St. Porphyrios of Kavsokalyvia

Wisdom, Let us Attend

The Church Fathers are a repository of living wisdom. One such Church Father is Saint Porphyrios (20th Century). About prayer he taught:

Turn your mind towards God continually. Learn to love prayer, familiar converse with the Lord. What counts above all is love, passionate love for the Lord, for Christ the Bridegroom.

One way to understand this is to recall the thoughts we normally think about and then ask: What is normally going through this mind? Our thought life is the sum and substance of our prayer life. Moreover, what we think about continually describes who we are. It does not matter what we look like on the outside. On the outside we may look organized, well kept, intelligent, calm, well-mannered, well-spoken, and yet inside be filled with anxious thoughts, worries, mistrust, criticism of self and others, and all manner of unforgiveness and bitterness. Our inner life produces our outer life, and no matter how much we hide our inner life from others, or maybe even try to hide it from ourselves, it is there every time we turn around. This is why St. Porphyrios urges us all to turn our minds towards God continually. By training our mind to turn towards the Lord more and more in a faith-filled and loving way, we slowly but surely retrain our minds to a new way of being. This is one reason why prayer is so essential. Hence, *in order not to live in darkness, turn on the switch of prayer so that divine light may flood your soul. Christ will appear in the depths of your being. There, in the deepest and most inward parts, is the Kingdom of God.* The joy of the Kingdom is available to us, and yet we so often choose instead to occupy our attention with thoughts of worry, criticism, and unforgiveness; it is the same as having our mind covered over with a film of darkness. When we retrain our minds to think different thoughts, God-directed thoughts, we find that divine light begins to dawn in our hearts. Christ’s presence in us floods us with divine light, but it doesn’t happen on accident. It happens by painstaking efforts to keep our minds turned towards God in prayer, for *when the mind moves in prayer, divine grace comes in a split second. The person becomes full of grace and sees everything with different eyes.*