

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

Parish Council Meeting - Tuesday - September 24

Holy Protection Festal Liturgy: Tuesday October 1, 9am

Great Vespers: Monday September 30, 6:30pm

Please let Fr. Joshua know about any upcoming birthdays or anniversaries, or about those who are sick or travelling and may need prayer.

Please be in touch with Fr. Joshua for your regular practice of Confession.

Out of respect for the unique wishes of each parishioner, please personally request for pastoral visitation. If unable to make a personal request, the parishioner's directly authorized loved one is encouraged to request for pastoral visitation on their behalf.

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 22, 2019
Prophet Jonah

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

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

It is easy to find the good in someone or something when that goodness is close to the surface. It gets quite a bit harder to see the good when it is buried under layers of defense mechanisms, bad habits, and even sins. What is more complicated is that many times even the polished exterior of fine virtue that many people display often covers up mountains of anxiety, despair, shame, or some secret sin. The problem is compounded still more when we look squarely at ourselves, and notice the times when we ourselves commit the very same bad acts we observe others commit, or hide from others the very things that others hide from us. The truth is, we never really know what a person is struggling with, and often we don't want to look very closely at the things we struggle with. We often want to avoid them, even if we can't pretend them away. If we are honest, we will likely conclude that we are a mess, that we are filled with gossip, back-biting, back-talking, judgment, opinion, criticism, and condemnation. It's not simply that we accidentally do these things, but we choose to do them, and so we are guilty. God is looking upon and seeing all this, and as we reflect on this we might wonder if God is getting tired of us, losing His patience, or getting ready to abandon us. Nothing, however, could be further from the truth. God paid the ultimate price of His own Life in order to give you that Life. God believes you are worth His Life, otherwise He would not have given it for you. He sees the good, and therefore we must, through an act of faith, see the good in others, speak well of them, and uplift them, as Christ uplifts us.

Keep Praying

"With your breathing combine watchfulness and the Name of Jesus, or humility and the unremitting study of death." -St. Hesychios the Priest

Wisdom. Let us Attend

The Church Fathers are a repository of living wisdom. One such Church Father is Saint Hesychios. He taught:

Truly blessed is the man whose mind and heart are as closely attached to the Jesus Prayer and to the ceaseless invocation of His Name as air to the body or flame to the wax. The sun rising over the earth creates the daylight; and the venerable and holy Name of the Lord Jesus, shining continually in the mind, gives birth to countless intellections radiant as the sun.

One way to understand this is to notice that our minds are constantly busy. Our minds are constantly attending to some thought, some feeling, some memory, or some event. Our minds are perhaps the busiest things in the universe, and yet in this business we find that our thoughts and feelings have a life of their own. In many ways we are simply the product of our thoughts and feelings, and yet since they have a life of their own it can almost feel like our life is the product of thoughts and feelings that we have not chosen or agreed to. But the mind is something we can direct. We can purposefully choose what we think. We can control what happens in our minds. This may sound remarkable and even impossible, but the Church Fathers teach something called *watchfulness*, the art of paying very close attention to everything that is happening in our mind with the purpose of removing everything that is not true, loving, and peaceful. In fact, through watchfulness and purposeful thinking the mind can become so clear that no negative or sinful thought arises without being immediately noticed and discarded. Of course, this takes time and effort and, above all, grace, but we can *learn the difficult art of stilling the intellect*. God does not wish us to be victims of our own minds, thoughts, and emotions, and so in the Name of Jesus we find a remedy. Instead of simply rolling in the scattered clouds of random thought, or in dark habits of negative emotion, we can instead think on Jesus, closely attending to His holy Name, for *When the clouds are scattered and the air is clear; and when the fantasies of passion are scattered by Jesus Christ, the sun of righteousness, bright and star-like thoughts are born in the heart, for the heart is then illumined by Jesus.*