

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.

Beginning Oct 9: Wednesday: 6:30pm Prayer and Essentials

After praying an Akathist, join us as we explore and discuss the Core Teachings of Christian Faith and Practice through the Scriptures and the Church Fathers.

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

Mid-week service: Great Vespers: Monday September 30, 6:30pm

Holy Protection Festal Liturgy: Tuesday October 1, 9am

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.

Regular Wednesday evening Choir Rehearsals begin October 9, at 7pm

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 29, 2019

Venerable Cyriacus, Hermit of Palestine

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15

Gospel: Luke 6:31-36

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

Are you in a hurry? Today's culture is only increasing its pace, increasing the speed and tempo of life while also constantly reducing the time between obligations. Not only that, the consequences for any perceived weakness and failure also seem only to increase, adding pressure to pressure in our all-too-human efforts to accomplish an increasingly impossible pace. We might wonder where there is any relief, any grace. Enter: The Church. The Church is our refuge from the fallen world; it is the invasion of heaven on earth, and as such it is the source of our bringing the light, peace, and beauty of heaven to our earthly environments. That is why it is so unfortunate when the hurried values of the world try to make their way into the Church. Church is not a place we speed up; it is a place we slow down. It is not a place we hurry; it is a place we soak in the presence of the All-Holy Trinity. Impatience is impertinence. The Church is not an item on a list we rush through in order to get on to the next task. The Church is not a "task." It is a place of reverence, solemnity, non-hurried prayer, and worship. If we are impatient regarding Church services, whether prayers, readings, singing, homilies, or silences, then it is time we understand Church anew, according to God's purpose. God is inviting us to lay aside our earthly cares, to rest and be renewed in His presence. The Church is a haven from the restless pace of the world, and is more needed today than ever. The timelessness of heaven ought to permeate the Church and the atmosphere of her worship in order that it might also permeate our souls with the perfume of God's grace.

Keep Praying

"Prayer is not accepted if we have something against someone."

-St. Macarius of Optina

Wisdom, Let us Attend

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

Let your first task, as soon as you awaken, be the sign of the Cross, and your first words - the words of the Jesus Prayer.

One way to understand this is by acknowledging how important the first moments of the day are. The first moments of the day are accompanied by the first movements of our soul. Before we have even opened our eyes we have thought a thousand thoughts and felt numerous emotions. It is in these moments that we can win or lose the day. If we succumb to the false idea that we are a law unto ourselves, that whatever we happen to be thinking is true, or that whatever feelings we happen to feel respond accurately to the situations in the outside world, then it will be impossible for us to carry the Cross of self-denial. If we are not carrying the Cross, then we are not with Christ, for "he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me" (Matthew 10:38). Self-denial here means to purposely, actively, always, and in all ways actually follow Christ. Self-denial does *not* mean doing what we don't want to do. It means wanting what God wants. It means ordering our thoughts and emotions according to God's values and resetting the balance of our life according to God's will, which are expressed in His commandments. Self-denial means willing what God wills for our lives *as we live them*, thinking about the world, our relationships, ourselves, and our actions according to what God reveals in His Word and teaches in the Church, establishing our life, activity, thought, emotion, and our very identity, without grumbling, on Christ, for "he who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it" (Matthew 10:39). Now, if this sounds grueling or burdensome, then we are still listening with the ears of pride, for God invites us into the humble world of heaven, into the peace of Christ. How can a self that is denied grumble or complain? Or, self-denial has no meaning. God extends all grace to us so that we establish our life on Christ. In order to enter the Kingdom we must surrender everything to Him, renouncing all stubbornness and willfulness.