

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.

Upcoming: 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

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

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.

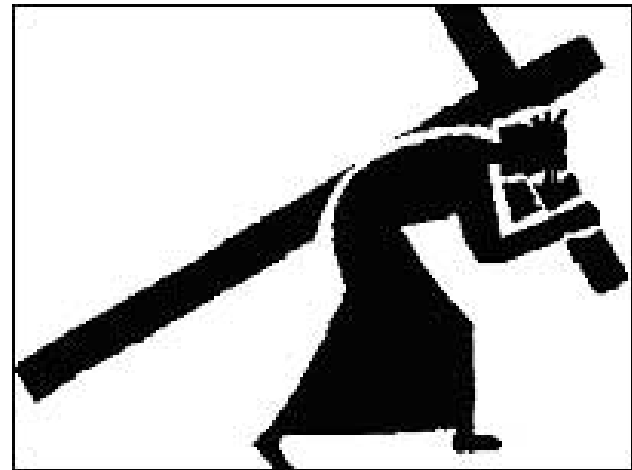
Find Peace of Soul at

All Saints Orthodox Church

211 Willow Avenue, Olyphant, PA 18447

www.allsaintsolyphant.org

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



Sunday, October 6, 2019

Holy Apostle Thomas and St. Innocent of Moscow

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

Gospel: Luke 7:11-16

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

What is a successful life? When asked that question, many will say things like: making an impact, leaving a legacy, fulfilling personal goals, or success at some endeavor(s). How we view the goal of our life is a huge factor in our daily living. As each experience of our life is occurring, we either accept or reject it based on whether we see it as consistent with why and what we are ultimately doing here. But what is God's vision of a successful life? In a word: Holiness. God calls us to be holy, for He is holy, and all that He does in and for our lives is aimed at the growth of holiness. He even puts the Holy Spirit into our hearts so that we can be a house for Him in all His holiness. Without holiness none can see the Lord, and so holiness is of paramount importance. Holiness is part of God's nature, and the life of God is a life of holiness. Therefore, the true measure of a successful life is holiness. Not making an impact, not leaving a legacy, not fulfilling personal goals, nor success at some endeavor, but holiness marks a successful life. And the practicality of this is evident, for example, because if a person is rude to us, but our goal is holiness, then we cannot be angry, for they have provided us with an opportunity to exercise patience and faith, which are intrinsic to holiness. If someone wounds our ego, we cannot be saddened, but grateful, for they have provided us with an opportunity to exercise humility and love, essential ingredients to holiness. See how holiness solves so many of our problems? Even our suffering will be seen as a precious blessing, for by it we are afforded the opportunity to grow in holiness.

Keep Praying

"Truly blessed is he who cries out to God unceasingly in his heart."

-St. Hesychius

Wisdom, Let us Attend

The Church Fathers are a repository of living wisdom. One such Church Father is the recent Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica. He taught:

The truth is that when we pray, we read our prayer rule without the participation of our entire being. We only pay lip service to our prayer rule. We are distracted, and of course that means we are not praying in spirit and in truth. We are only praying with our bodies and pronouncing the words with our lips, while our being is somewhere else. Our attention is focused elsewhere, not on the words of the prayer.

One way to understand this is found by looking closely at our prayer life. If we strive for self-honesty, we will not ignore the many times we pray inattentively, perfunctorily, and with haste. Sometimes we may even ignore our prayer rule, forgetting that prayer is absolutely essential to our salvation. As St. Ignatius Brianchaninov taught, "He who is careless about prayer is careless about his salvation; he who quits prayer renounces his salvation." Why is this so? Because prayer is the principle method God uses to transform our minds and train us in being God-centered. It is not possible to be saved without being God-centered, and impossible to be God-centered if our minds are not God-centered, and impossible for our minds to be God-centered without being transformed by God-directed prayer. As Elder Thaddeus also states, *We cannot achieve salvation in any way other than by transforming our mind, making it different from what it was.* What is the fallen mind typically like? It thinks of God only occasionally, if at all, and then only that God will make life conform to what is more agreeable. Suffering is avoided as if it were more evil than sin. But prayer is God's great gift to man, the means by which our minds and hearts can develop a God-centered perspective, to embrace life's many sufferings as a precious means for exercising holy faith, hope, and love. It is a wonder why we don't choose to be God-centered, which is also to say prayer-centered. Attentive prayer activates God's energy in the soul, His strength bearing our weakness, for *God can bear everything, for He is Almighty. We must give over to Him all our infirmities and those of our neighbors, through prayer.*