

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.

New: 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.

Announcements

Regular Wednesday evening Choir Rehearsal is 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 27, 2019

Martyr Nestor

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9

Gospel: Luke 8:26-39

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

The Gospel is a message, and has a very specific meaning. The message of the Gospel is neither vague nor arbitrary. When the Apostles travelled the world spreading the Gospel, they were sharing a very clear, repeatable message. Many Christians, however, are not sure about the content of the Gospel message and, if asked, they could not say what it is. This is lamentable. As St. Paul teaches, “For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.” This is not said to anyone’s shame, but to remind us of the importance of our role as Christians to be light to the world. Our work is to share the light of Christ. As Christ teaches: “No one lights a lamp and then hides it or puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where its light can be seen by all who enter the house.” Without knowledge of the Gospel of Christ we cannot intelligently share Christ, for the Gospel is the foundational message. As Paul asks: “How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?” What, then, is the Gospel message? In brief, it is that Christ died and rose from the dead, for you, and that apart from anything you have done He has borne your death, freely given you His eternal life, forgiven you all your sin, freed you from the curse of the Law, adopted you, qualified you to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, and made you to partake of His divine nature. This is the Gospel that we receive by faith. It is vital that we learn it by heart and learn how to share it.

Keep Praying

Before temptation has the opportunity to draw the tempting thought into your mind, destroy it with the Jesus prayer. Don't let it be!

-St. Joseph the Hesychast

Wisdom, Let us Attend

The Church Fathers are a repository of living wisdom. One such Church Father is St. Paisios the Athonite. He taught:

The soft life makes people useless. Without toil and struggle sanctification doesn't come.

One way to understand this is rooted in God’s purpose for our life: Holiness. It ought to be well-known that God has not saved us in order for our worldly comfort. His picture of us is as people with hearts burning deeply with the fires of holiness. For this reason, God allows all sorts of difficulties and pains in our life so that we can learn the root of holiness: humility. And yet, when the pains come we so often complain at the bitterness of our medicine, as if God the great Physician is not motivated by compassion for our true purpose in all that He does and allows. We forget our true purpose, and so resist the Healer of our souls when He tries to strengthen our faith by trials. No one gets stronger apart from resistance, and God wants us to bear the whole weight of His glory as living temples of His Holy Spirit. What a glorious destiny! And so to position us for blessing He allows trials in order to strengthen our faith. So let us not then kick against trials, but embrace them with the warming light of faith. *God allows temptation so as to dust off our soul, for it to be purified through sorrows and weeping, so that we are forced to take refuge in God for our salvation.* It is not that God wants us to be miserable, but we become miserable to the degree that we lose sight of our purpose here on earth, to become holy, to totally depend on God and His grace, to overcome the world with all its lust. *Blows are necessary for the salvation of our souls, for they cleanse the soul. The more one hits and rubs clothing, the better it is cleaned.* When we remember in the moment of trial that we are not reborn in Christ for worldly comfort but for holiness, then the trial becomes sweet, and we rejoice and are comforted spiritually. In other words, the sufferings of life prompt us to respond either with complaining or with faith. When we respond with faith, we are cleansed. But if we forget that we are here to become holy, we will suffer all the same, and instead of peace we will constantly feel only frustration and the misery of unmet assumptions.