

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.

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, November 10, 2019

Apostles Erastus, Olympus, Herodion, Sosipater,
Quartus, and Tertius, of the Seventy

Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20

Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

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 memorization of Scripture is a very good practice. It says in the Psalms: “Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.” In other words, having Scripture memorized helps us to live and walk in righteousness. Having even only a few Scriptures memorized is helpful so that one can reflect on its meaning. The Psalms state, “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly... But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and *in His law he meditates day and night.*” The blessing of God flows through a person who regularly meditates and reflects on what is revealed in Scripture, for God’s word in Scripture reflects His mind and will. In this way it is also worth noting that we do not memorize Scripture just for the sake of being able to memorize, but for the sake of reflection and meditation, of entering more deeply into the thought-world of God. As the Psalms also state: “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” This is to say that the word of God is given to illuminate our minds, hearts, and lives, and to shape our perspective on life, on the things we do, and on the things that happen to us. Since there are so many verses of Scripture suitable to memorize, one might wonder which to memorize first. In order to get started, one would do well to memorize this verse of Scripture: “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20). This verse contains the whole of the Gospel in a nutshell. Memorize it, reflect on it, and let God’s word sink deeply into the depths of your heart.

Keep Praying

As a bird without wings, as a soldier without arms, so is a Christian without prayer.
-St. Tikhon of Zadonsk

Wisdom, Let us Attend

The Church Fathers are a repository of living wisdom. One such Church Father is St. Isaac the Syrian (7th Century). He taught:

*He who senses his sins, is greater than he who raises the dead with his prayer. **He who groans one hour for his soul, is greater than he who benefits the whole world.** He who is made worthy to see himself, is greater than he who is made worthy to see angels. To him who knows himself, is given the knowledge of all things. For the knowledge of ourselves is the fullness of knowledge of all things.*

Taking the second sentence, one way to understand this is to see the value of the soul in God’s eyes. We know the value of something by what a person is willing to pay. God willingly paid for our lives with His life, even while we were sinners. Since we know His life is eternal and of infinite worth, we know that He ascribes to us that same value. That is a glorious fact! We also know that the whole world will one day be burned up, as St. Peter says: “the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night... both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.” Therefore, since man and not the world is given eternal life, we know he has greater value than the whole world. Hence, to benefit the world is of less value than to groan, even for only an hour, over your soul. Why? Because through repentance one can receive God’s free gift of salvation. To groan over one’s soul is to mourn the harm caused by sin and to recognize the absolute need of God’s mercy. But some people do not feel that they are worth so much, and instead think of themselves as having little value. The problem with this is that this person places their opinion of themselves over God’s opinion of them, and so will not groan over their soul. One must not place their own opinion of themselves over God’s opinion. To groan over one’s sin is therefore to accept two things: 1) the value of one’s soul in God’s eyes, and 2) the great evil and harm of the sin that we have committed. God does not wink at sin, but endeavored to cleanse it with the only true remedy: His blood. The gravity of sin is revealed by the extent of its remedy. When we sense the extent to which God Himself went in order to rescue us from sin, death, and the devil, then we will be in a position to truly groan for our soul.