

Glory to God for all things!

We are currently asking for the prayerful giving of donations towards a sign to be placed in our parking lot. This beautiful and well-crafted sign will help newcomers find us, and also announce things like special services and food sales. The cost of the sign is \$6,200, plus installation fees. We have currently received \$1,000 in donations towards the sign, and are asking for additional giving so that we can meet this need.

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.

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.

Monday through Friday: 8am Morning Prayer

Come join us in prayer for our Church family and community as she begins her day.

Announcements

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.

Please let Fr. Joshua know if you would like to have your home blessed.

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



July 5, 2020

Venerable Athanasius of Athos

Epistle: Romans 6:18-23

Gospel: Matthew 8:5-13

Biblical, Sacramental, Patristic, Christ-centered, and Spirit-filled, *All Saints Orthodox Church* is a community of Orthodox Christians glorifying God, seeking to know and live the Gospel, putting on the Mind of Christ, and acquiring the Holy Spirit. Discover your identity in Christ with practical teachings to uplift and transform your mind, open and expand your heart, and know the freeing, awesome, and intimate presence of God in your soul.

Pastoral Reflection

Christ remakes a person. In Christ a person is made totally new. As it is said, God did not become man in order to make bad men better, but to make dead men live. In other words, the solution Christ offers is not moral reform, but new life. And yet, when we think of our life in Christ, we so often see all that we must do, all that we must avoid, all that we fall short in, and all that we must accomplish. And almost without thinking we totally transform the Gospel into some kind of moral message, or self-help message, or social message, or political message, or any kind of message that keeps the old self alive. Many of us may even think of Christianity as a system of ideals. And so we repackage the old self in a new dress and call it being Christian. But Christianity means, quite simply, “Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27). One of the hardest things for us to realize is that even our virtues are vices apart from the Spirit of Christ. Without the Spirit of Christ in the heart, there is no Christianity. And for Christ to be in the heart, the old self must perish. And yet, this is precisely what Christ accomplished on the Cross. He saw man bound up in ignorance, error, sin, and death, and taking all this weight on His shoulders He in love sought to restore man to truth, righteousness, holiness, and true life. Thus Christianity is about life, the life of God in the soul. It is first about being, being in Christ, and allowing all that is done to flow from being in Christ. Too often we run ahead, as it were, and throw our old self into our endeavors, not realizing that our being in Christ is more fundamental than our old self. Until we can dethrone our personality, Christ will never be Lord in our life. The old self must be seen through, with all its traits and habits dismantled.

Keep Praying

“The watchful one works night and day to pray continually: but if his heart is broken and lets tears flow, that calls God down from heaven to have mercy.”
-Abba Hyperichius

Wisdom, Let us Attend

The Church Fathers are a repository of living wisdom. One such Church Father is St. Nikitas Stithatos (11th Century). He taught:

What I am is not at all the same as that which characterizes me.

In seeking to acquire true self knowledge, and an accurate understanding of one’s real identity, it is essential to know what is *most* fundamental about oneself. For we almost invariably confuse our fundamental identity with traits or characteristics that are distinct from our fundamental nature. For example, the person that was in the womb is the selfsame person who is reading these words. Just think how many experiences have transpired between then and now! And yet, it is the same person. You were given a name, learned to walk, learned a language, had family and friends, and grew older, and yet you could have been born in this country or another; still you would be the same self. You could have learned this or that language; still you would be the same self. You could have grown up in a different household or had different friends; still you would be the same self. Whether in the country or the city, you are still you. You are not even reducible to your DNA. And so what is it that makes you just that: you? The body changes, hair color changes, mood changes, thought changes, personality changes, and still you are you. So, what is the essence, the core of you? St. Nikitas continues: *What I am is an image of God manifest in a spiritual, immortal, and intelligent soul, having an intellect that is the father of my consciousness and that is consubstantial with the soul and inseparable from it.* In other words, when one says “I am,” it is precisely the image of God that constitutes one’s fundamental “I am.” This “I am” is manifest as the intellect or mind (*nous*) that is the center of self. This intellect is the light of awareness, i.e. what makes you to be aware. This root intellect generates consciousness, the fundamental power to be self-conscious, conscious of one’s own being. By soul is meant life, the energy of being and existence. These three function in unity as an image and analogy of the holy and consubstantial Trinity, and as such we are one person with these three most fundamental aspects of our being reflecting God’s being, the foundation of true self knowledge.