

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 *almost* **\$3,000** in donations towards the sign, with pledges for more, and are asking for additional giving so that we can reach this goal. Any amount is welcome!

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

Recent Clarification from *Archbishop Mark*: All parishes may continue to fully utilize their worship space while maintaining social distancing from persons not already having regular contact. Once inside the church some persons may need to remove their masks or occasionally remove it for personal reasons. There are HIPAA laws that would forbid us to ask prying personal questions. Also, please keep in mind healthy children are not considered vulnerable or a source of spreading the virus.

- Upcoming Midweek Liturgy for *The Feast of the Transfiguration* of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be August 6 at 9:30am.
- Festal Great Vespers will be August 5 at 6:00pm.
- *The Dormition Fast is August 1 thru 14.*

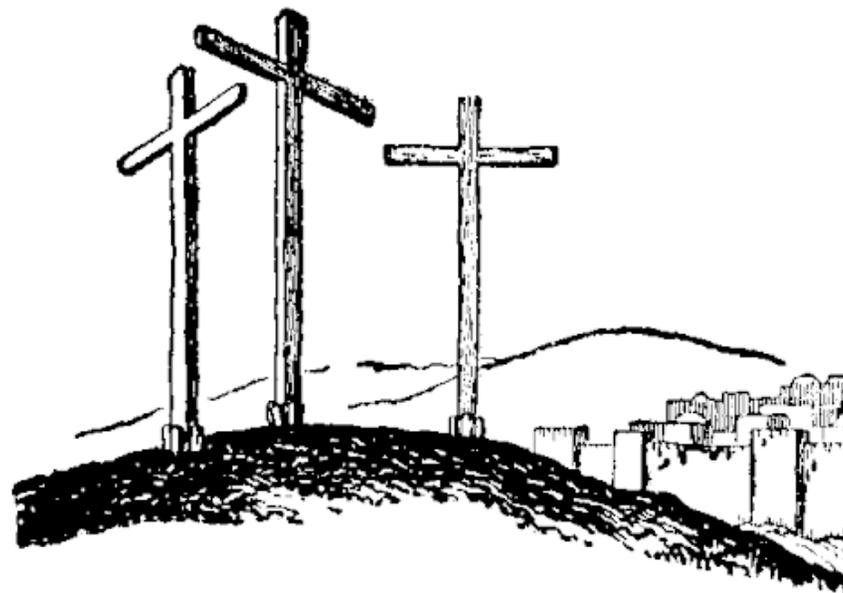
Find Peace of Soul at

All Saints Orthodox Church

211 Willow Avenue, Olyphant, PA 18447

www.allsaintsolyphant.org

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



August 2, 2020

Righteous Nicodemus and Gamaliel

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Gospel: Matthew 14:14-22

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

All the cries of the world entered into the heart of Christ, and there found their answer: Life out of death. On the Cross, all the evil of the world, the storm of sin and death, in all its destructive capacity, entered into that great heart of Christ and there became quelled, stilled, healed. Recall that to be crucified was to be accursed. The curse of the Cross acted like a funnel such that, driven by the centripetal power of infinite justice, all the forces of destruction were there to be concentrated and to crash on the Rock that is Christ, and there to be transformed into blessing, shame into glory, death into life. Glory to Jesus Christ! His heart opened wide to let in the worst of man, all of fallen man's shame and corruption, and the destruction wrought necessarily by them, and He willingly, even joyfully sunk under their weight, sunk into bottomless death. And yet in Jesus, the divine Omega, death itself met its own end in being swallowed up by Him, the incessant faithlessness of man meeting the eternal faithfulness of God in a covenant of unbreakable grace. Glory to Jesus Christ! All the rivers of evil passion flowed into that great heart, wide like an ocean, and like the wide ocean turned their diverse waters to share of the one taste, death now salted with life. He swallowed the poison of the curse in all its potency, despising the shame of man, and brought low by the supernatural power of curse, destruction, and death He rose on the Third Day in the greater power of His everlasting life, His indestructible righteousness, and His boundless joy. Glory to Jesus Christ! And still He is calling through the boundless gift of His mercy. Entrusting your heart to Him, trusting in Christ's righteousness alone, you thereby receive His righteousness, and then His righteousness is made to flow through your deeds.

Keep Praying

"Nothing is better than to realise one's weakness and ignorance, and nothing is worse than not to be aware of them." -St. Peter of Damaskos

Wisdom, Let us Attend

The Church Fathers are a repository of living wisdom. One such Church Father is St. Theophan the Recluse (18th Century). He taught:

While God abhors this evil conceit in us, there is nothing He loves and desires to see in us more than a sincere consciousness of our nothingness and a firm and deep-felt conviction that any good we may have in our nature and our life comes from Him alone, since He is the source of all good, and that nothing truly good can ever come from ourselves, whether a good thought or a good action.

Many people are ceaselessly occupied with developing and promoting self-esteem, self-confidence, and self-satisfaction. Adults so often seek to cultivate these in their children, and in each other. According to the world's logic, life's good is thought to flow from high regard for oneself, and life's problems are thought to stem from having a self-deprecating or low regard for oneself. It may come as a shock when we hear from the wise that excessive self-regard is actually without foundation, that it is even a principle source of evil in our lives. What could they mean? Conceit means not merely thinking too highly of oneself, but more basically of our total self-obsession with our moods, opinions, and circumstances, which is to say life with self as the center. When the Fathers encourage us to think of ourselves as nothing, they mean to convey not that we think of ourselves more and more as bad, but that we understand that we are not the cause of our own existence, nor the source of our own power, nor sufficient unto ourselves. (And when they say to be selfless they don't mean for us to run around conceitedly solving everyone's problems.) We are fragile bits of clay and vapor soon to be dispersed. Our sin is a fact, one we must squarely face, but the greater fact is God's mercy. His mercy is what even enables us to see our sin for what it is. And to this mercy we may totally entrust our lives, for as it illumines our sin, weakness, and total inability, it also energizes us to surrender to His superior goodness. We see in Christ that our self-esteem was utterly misguided, and that His love and esteem far exceed any love or esteem we could bestow upon ourselves. Esteeming Him, it is His strength living in us that enables us to "do all things through Christ."