

11/24/2010

Dear parish faithful:

Glory be to Jesus Christ! I wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving!

It is interesting but although the Thanksgiving holiday is technically a secular one, it is very Christian. Thanksgiving is at the heart of our faith. In fact the word "Eucharist", which we use to describe our Divine Liturgy is simply the Greek word meaning thanksgiving. Every Sunday is a cosmic celebration of praise and thanksgiving to our glorious God! It is cosmic in the sense that the Kingdom of God is outside of time and space. We truly enter into and participate in a mystical way in the eternal timeless worship going on in Heaven. We are praying (really) together with angels and saints! Alas, if we only could really get a handle on this - we'd rather go to church on Sunday than to the Super-bowl! If our eyes could be opened to truly see it - and to see the blessings we receive - truly we receive "grace upon grace!" (John 1:16) And the worship in Heaven is more glorious than we can imagine! Yet we get a small foretaste here, and the more our eyes are opened the better it becomes.

(For a very interesting passage of scripture - where Elisha the prophet prays that his servant's eyes may be opened to see spiritual things - see 2 Kings 6:8-23 [4Kingdoms 6:8-23])

So this thanksgiving remember also to express your gratitude to God who so loved people that He sent his only Son to suffer and die in order to bring us back to Himself. And who poured out His Holy Spirit on His Church. Remember He is the only truly Good One, the one from whom all good comes. "Every good and perfect gift is from above coming down from the Father of Lights." (James 1:17) Everything good that we have received ultimately comes from Him. And every Sunday we can offer just a small bit of appreciation back by "offering a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving" to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit - to whom is most justly due - all glory, honor and worship, now and ever and unto ages of ages!

I for one, am thankful for our annual meeting on Sunday - thank you to all of you who were there and participated in a very important event in the life of our parish. You all handled yourselves well, and although there were a couple of matters on the agenda that could have been divisive - yet you all handled yourselves with Christian love and did not allow them to become that. I am truly thankful for you all and for what God is doing in our parish! I see Him at work, and I am excited about the things He is going to do!

Thank you all for your concern and prayers for us and for our church!

Yours in Christ,

Fr Stacey

Holy Assumption Orthodox Church

Schedule:

Wednesday
Daily Vespers 6:30 PM

Friday
Fr Stacey office hours: 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM

Saturday
Great Vespers 5:00 PM
Confessions following vespers

Sunday
Hours 9:10 AM
Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM
Church School Following Divine Liturgy

WELCOME VISITORS!

We are delighted to have visitors worship with us, and we pray that you will be blessed through your participation in our services. While Holy Communion may only be received by prepared Orthodox Christians, our non-Orthodox guests are welcome to join us in venerating the Cross and receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy

Please Join us for Coffee Hour after Divine Liturgy in the Social Hall

If this is your first visit to our parish, we welcome you and invite you to return as often as you are able. For those interested in learning more about Orthodox Christianity please ask any of our church community – or feel free to contact Fr Stacey. Our parish library is available for your reading interests. Children are welcome to join church school classes after liturgy.

CONFESSIONS

Fr Stacey can usually hear confessions after Wednesday or Saturday vespers. He is also available by appointment, or during his regular office hours.

Listen online to our Divine Liturgy and other Orthodox Christian Teachings INBN.net

Reader and Servers Schedule

Date	Hours	Epistle	Altar Boys
November 28	Ann/Mary-Ann	Alissa Gates	Brendan/Shawn
December 5	Sally/Paula	Joan Huba	Jacob/Gregory
December 12	Ann/Alissa	Subdn. Eusebius	Brendan/Shawn
December 19	Joan/Jeff B.	Rdr. Timothy	Jacob/Gregory
December 26	Michelle/Elena	Alissa Gates	Brendan/Shawn