

All Saints Greek Orthodox Monastery

Way of The Saints

Father Vasilios' missive to the faithful:

In the pandemic we are now experiencing, many are looking for possible answers to why it is occurring. Is God punishing us for our bad behavior? A culture, like ours, that has embraced rationalism, demands an explanation. But what if there isn't an explanation? What does the Bible have to say when there aren't answers to everything that occurs in the world? Is it merely a time to simply lament?

Let us turn to the Biblical references of lamentation, expressing sorrow and mourning. Psalm 6 pleads: "Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am weak; heal me, O Lord, for my bones are troubled." Psalm 9 asks: "Why do You stand afar off, O Lord? Why do You disregard me in times of affliction?" And Psalm 13 goes on to say: "How long, O Lord, will You forget me to the end?" Jesus Himself in agony quotes Psalm 21: "O God, My God, hear me; why have You forsaken Me?" We lament when we ask why and don't get an answer. This is how we feel on Holy Friday evening chanting the Lamentation of the burial of Christ. We mourn in disbelief that our perfect and Holy Lord had to undergo such horrible and brutal beatings and scourging when He could have summoned a host of angels to have rescued Him from such an ordeal. Why, O Lord, was it necessary to go so far in order to save humankind from eternal death? However, through faith, we accept God's plan for our salvation, are thankful for His loving kindness and mercy to us, the profligates.

N.T, Wright, Anglican Bishop and professor of New Testament and early Christianity at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, and prolific writer of numerous Christian Books writes the following: "The point of lament in the biblical tradition is not just that it's an outlet for our frustration, sorrow and loneliness and sheer inability to understand what is happening and why. The mystery of the biblical story is that God also laments. God is grieved to His heart, Genesis declares, over the violent wickedness of His human creatures, and the turning away from Him of the people of Israel." When Jesus visited earth by His Incarnation, He would often lament seeing the effect on humans due to the fall in paradise but always empathizing and showing compassion. A lucid example of His lament, sorrow and empathy is when He visited the tomb of Lazarus and saw the corrupt condition that death holds on human beings who were meant originally to live an incorrupt eternal life in God's Kingdom. At the tomb of Lazarus Jesus wept. (Jn 11:35)

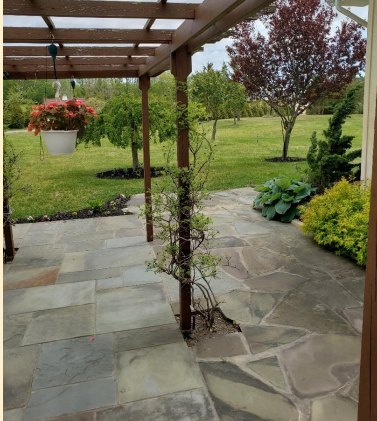
It is no part in being a Christian to be able to explain everything that is happening in the world and why. Sometimes we must simply lament. In our isolation due to the pandemic, we can become receptacles of the healing love of God. And out of that can emerge new possibilities, new acts of kindness, new hopes and new knowledge.



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WITH FAITH AND LOVE LET US DRAW NEAR....



Upcoming Services

May	31—1st Ecumenical Council	Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
June	6—Soul Saturday	Divine Liturgy 9:30 am,
	In Cemetery Memorial following	
	7—Pentecost	Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
	13—Vespers of All Saints	5:00 pm
	14—All Saints	Divine Liturgy 9:30 am,
	Distancing Picnic on grounds following	
	21—All Saints of No. Am.	Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
	24—Nativity of John the Baptist	Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
	28—	Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
	29 —Apostles Peter & Paul	Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
July	5—	Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
	12—	Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
	19—4th Ecumenical Council	Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
	22—St Mary Magdalene	Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
	26—	Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
	27—St Panteleimon	Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
August	1—Procession of the Cross	Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
	2—	Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
	5—Paraklesis to Theotokos	5:00 pm
	6—Transfiguration	Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
	7—Paraklesis to Theotokos	5:00 pm
	9—	Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
	12—Paraklesis to Theotokos	5:00 pm
	14—Paraklesis to Theotokos	5:00 pm
	15—Dormition of the Theotokos	Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
	16—	Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
	23—	Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
	29—Beheading of St John Baptist	Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
	30—	Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

All Saints Name Day Celebration

Due to the restrictions that the Covid pandemic places on gatherings we propose to have our name day celebration meal in the form of an ‘extended family’ picnic: Where each family will bring picnic food for themselves, (including a personal small Bar-B-Que or hibachi if desired) to enjoy on our lawns --- **“Distancing BBQ Picnic”** Each family group should bring chairs and anything they need, expecting to be 6 to 10 feet from other family groups.

In this way we can have our fellowship and yet keep to the directives from the Archdiocese.

See you here for June 14 picnic!

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

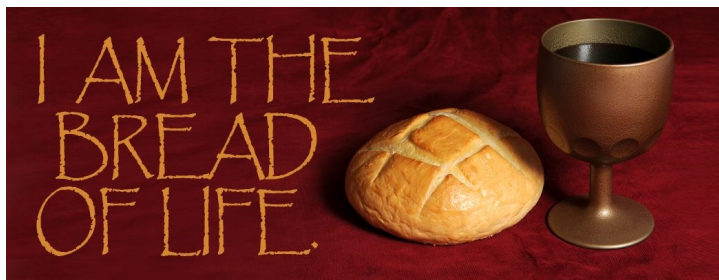
Due to the Covid Pandemic, and until we receive further directions, our Monastery Church will continue to follow the dictates of our Archdiocese, including local and State government.

We are open for Divine Liturgy, for Sundays and other scheduled Services....

- * All visitors must wear a face mask (not just plastic shield) to come into the Church, or when in the company of people outside of their own immediate family.
- * All non-family members must maintain 6 to 10 feet distance from others.
- * Only 10 (total) people may be inside the Church or Trapisa at any given moment.
- * Follow directions when receiving Holy Communion.
- * Go back outside again when finished to make room for others.

Please follow these rules for the safety and comfort of others and yourself.

Thank You for your understanding.



PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

ALL SAINTS MONASTERY

**PO Box 215
Riverhead, NY 11901**

Phone: 631-439-5603
E-mail: Allsaintsmoni@gmail.com
Web: www.Allsaintsmonastery.org

We are located at:

1676 Middle Road — Calverton, NY



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE & HELP

SCHEDULE A VISIT

The monastery regularly hosts parish groups and individuals throughout the year. The monastery is open to visitors, and all are welcome to pray in our chapel of Ss. Constantine and Helen, and our three outside shrines dedicated to St. Andrew (1) and the Theotokos. (2)

OUR SERVICES

Orthros and Divine Liturgy are held on Sundays and feast days, beginning at 8:45 am with Liturgy at 9:30 am. A small refreshment follows the services in our Trapisa hall.



Let us know if you'd like to offer help with.....

- ⇒ Monastery **Name Day “Picnic & BBQ”**
- ⇒ Our vegetable garden/flower gardens
- ⇒ Making prosphora
- ⇒ Making/Distributing Mailings or Soap