

# 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. *Coming Soon* Stay after as we preach through a book of the Bible.

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.

*Coming Soon* Wednesday: 6:30pm [Vespers and] Bible Study  
Join us as we study and discuss Sacred Scripture and the Core Principles of Christian Faith and Practice.

Monday through Friday: 8am Morning Prayer

Come join us in prayer for our Church family as she begins her day!

## Upcoming Major Feast

Sunday, June 16: Holy Pentecost

## Also Upcoming

Sunday, June 9: His Eminence, Archbishop Mark will be visiting and worshipping with us at the Divine Liturgy.

Let's give him a warm welcome!

### \* Help Needed \*

Donations for food sale to help with expenses.

Please see Ann Schlasta, Sonia Prestys, or Ann Naughton.

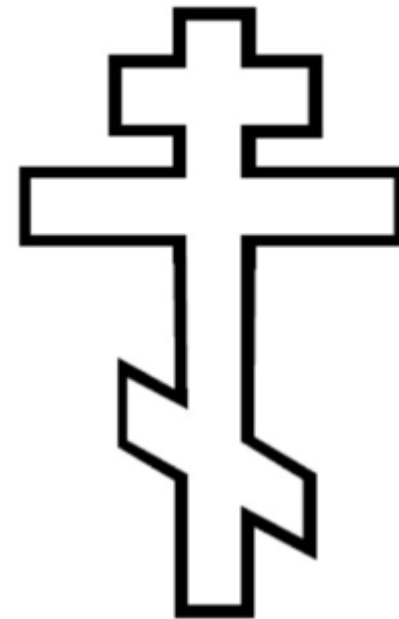
*Find Peace of Soul at*

# All Saints Orthodox Church

211 Willow Avenue, Olyphant, PA 18447

[www.allsaintsolyphant.org](http://www.allsaintsolyphant.org)

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



Sunday, June 9, 2019: Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council

St. Cyril, Archbishop of Alexandria (5th Century)

St. Columba, Enlightener of Scotland (6th Century)

Epistle: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36; Gospel: John 17:1-13

Biblical, Sacramental, Patristic, Christ-centered, and Spirit-filled, *All Saints Orthodox Church* is a community of Orthodox Christians seeking to 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 experientially know the awesome and intimate presence of God in your soul.

### *Pastoral Reflection*

The Feast of Holy Pentecost is nearing. Speaking of Pentecost, St. Symeon the New Theologian declared, *“It was the aim and end of the entire Dispensation of Christ’s Incarnation that the Holy Spirit might be received in the souls of those who believe in Christ... so that this Holy Spirit might be, as it were, the soul of the soul of believers, and that they, for this reason might be called Christians.”* In other words, it is nothing other than the living and active presence of the Holy Spirit in our hearts that makes us Christian. We are not Christian except by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Moreover, the activity of the Holy Spirit in us moves and draws us towards holiness; it recasts, recreates, renews, and sanctifies us in mind, conscience, and in all our senses, as St. Symeon further teaches. By the Gift of the Holy Spirit, we are transformed and receive an entirely new and supernatural life, one by which we live, not from earth to heaven, but from heaven to earth. The key to receiving is faith in Christ, for by faith we grasp hold of, and are grasped by, this most precious of God’s promises: eternal life, offered freely to all in the regenerating waters of Baptism and the Eucharistic life of the Church.

### *Keep Praying*

*“For as the more the rain pours down upon the earth, the more it softens the earth; so too the holy Name of Christ, when it is invoked by us without thoughts, the more constantly we call upon it, the more it softens the earth of our heart, and fills it with joy and delight.”* -St. Hesychius the Priest

### *Wisdom, Let us Attend*

The Church Fathers are a repository of wisdom. One such Church Father is St. Theophan the Recluse (19th Century). His nearness to the modern era makes his instruction on the Christian life, especially the inner life of prayer, especially valuable:

*“The essence of the Christian life consists in establishing oneself with the mind in the heart before God, in the Lord Jesus Christ, by the grace of the Holy Spirit: in this way he is enabled to control all inward movements and all outward actions, so as to transform everything in himself, whether great or small, into the service of God the Trinity, consciously and freely offering oneself wholly to God.”*

One way to understand this is explained by the contemporary saint, Porphyrios, who stated, “The ideal for all of us is to give ourselves totally to Christ with all our heart.” He continued, “Give your heart to Christ and everything else will become His work.” In other words, the life in Christ is a life of surrender, especially the surrender of our will, our mind, and our heart, to Christ. We give everything to Christ, not only our time, our talent, and our treasure, but our choices, our thoughts, and our affections, too. Christ is indweller of our soul, and we neglect Him as we get distracted among the activities of our lives. Putting Christ first, however, and entrusting to Him *everything* that arises in life, is the quickest and surest path to interior freedom. In the space of this interior freedom we are also strengthened to be more effective in all that we do. In Him, then, grace becomes the engine driving our life, and we live as if carried along by a wind from heaven. But grace only operates freely in a state of humble surrender, for where the Lord reigns as *Lord*, there He also embraces as *Savior*.

*O Lord, help me to take each step of my life gently, in the conscious awareness of Your presence - Your presence in my heart and in the heart of those I meet.*