

# 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 Feasts

Sunday, June 23: All Saints (with Pot Luck following)

## Also Upcoming

Friday, June 21: Ethnic Food Sale!!!

Pierogie, Cabbage and Noodles, Potato Pancakes, and more!

For advanced orders call 570-383-0785 or 570-561-8082

### \* Help Needed \*

Donations for food sale to help with expenses.

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

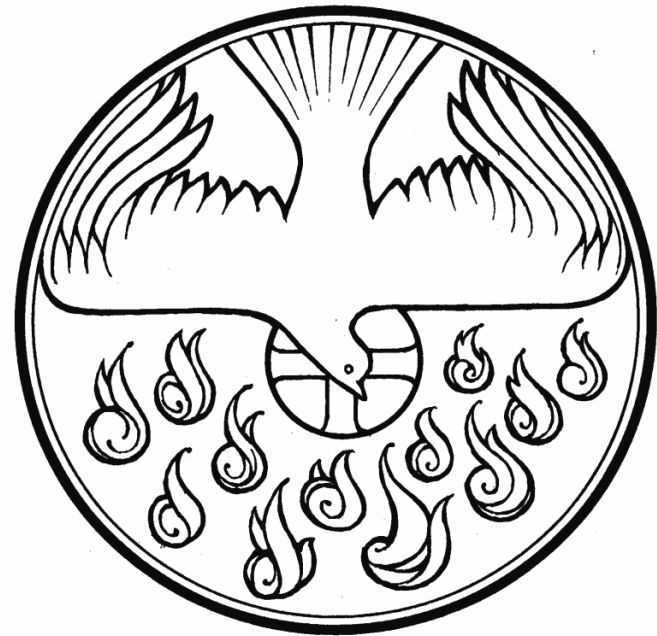
*Find Peace of Soul at*

# 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 16, 2019

HOLY PENTECOST

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St. Tychonas, Bishop of Amathus in Cyprus (4th-5th Cent)

Epistle: Acts 2:1-11; Gospel: John 7:37-52, 8:12

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 upon us, when we celebrate the sending and receiving of the Holy Spirit. This is not exclusively an historical event, however, but also a present reality. We all can receive the Holy Spirit in fuller measure. By receiving the Holy Spirit we receive God Himself, into the innermost chambers of our being. As St. Seraphim of Sarov teaches, speaking as he was even to baptized Orthodox Christians, *“the true aim of our Christian life consists of the acquisition of the Holy Spirit of God.”* Thus it is not enough that we were baptized; we must also manifest the life of God in our living. This, however, is not an appeal to self-centered struggle, but self-surrendered struggle. As St. Theophan the Recluse states: *“Grace is the soul of the struggle.”* Grace operates in inverse proportion to the activity of self-will. When we are empty of self-will, however, and in humility die to our self, our flesh, our passions, crucified with Christ, then we experience an explosion of freedom. *“It was for freedom that Christ set us free.”* The struggle then is to remain surrendered to Christ and centered on Him. This is accomplished by the grace of the Holy Spirit, given to us, and so our aim is to acquire the Holy Spirit, which is to say to give free reign for His operation within us.

### Keep Praying

*“Both forms of prayer are pleasing to God - prayer recited attentively from prayer books and accompanied by suitable holy thoughts and feelings; and prayer without books and in your own words. Only perfunctory prayer is displeasing to Him.”* -St. Theophan the Recluse

### Wisdom, Let us Attend

The Church Fathers are a repository of living wisdom. One such Church Father is St. Seraphim of Sarov (19th Century). His instruction on the centrality of the Holy Spirit is like lightning streaking across a dark sky:

*Acquiring the Spirit of God is the true aim of our Christian life, while prayer, fasting, almsgiving and other good works done for Christ's sake are merely means for acquiring the Spirit of God.*

One way to understand this is that only the life of God is truly living and alive. We can perform almost any action, whether it be prayer, fasting, charitable giving, or any number of good works, but without the life of God in our souls then the actions bear no living fruit. The way we acquire the Holy Spirit, however, is not through an accumulation of Spirit-less actions, for actions devoid of the Spirit, even a multitude of them, could not somehow add up to the Spirit. The Spirit must be given and received. It is given by Christ, and it is received by faith. As St. Symeon the New Theologian teaches, *“Christians... enter into the Kingdom of Heaven despite the fact that their likeness to Christ is not their own doing, since this is accomplished by means of faith which they receive in Christ.”* Faith is that by which we receive the Lord and are received by Him. St. Symeon continues, saying that *“only by the power of grace received from Christ are there any good qualities to be shown in oneself.”* All good, then, is accomplished by *“the power of this grace which dwells in him... For fasting, and vigils, and sleeping on the floor, and prostrations, and praying, and every other suffering of evil is nothing without Divine grace.”* Since it is by faith that we acquire the grace of the Holy Spirit, only actions rooted in and exercising faith in Christ will bear spiritual fruit. As St. Seraphim teaches, *“only good deeds done for Christ's sake bring us the fruits of the Holy Spirit. All that is not done for Christ's sake, even though it be good, brings neither reward in the future life nor the grace of God in this life.”* Surrender, then, all to Christ, all for His sake alone, and acquire the Holy Spirit in the space of that humility.