

# 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.

*Upcoming:* Stay after as we preach through St. Paul's Letter to the Romans.

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.

*New:* Wednesday: 6:30pm Prayer and Essentials

After praying an Akathist, join us as we explore and discuss the Core Teachings of Christian Faith and Practice through the Scriptures and the Church Fathers.

Monday through Friday: 8am Morning Prayer

Come join us in prayer for our Church family and community as she begins her day.

## Announcements

Regular Wednesday evening Choir Rehearsals begin October 9, at 7pm

---

Please let Fr. Joshua know about any upcoming birthdays or anniversaries, or about those who are sick or travelling and may need prayer.

---

Please be in touch with Fr. Joshua for your regular practice of Confession.

---

Out of respect for the unique wishes of each parishioner, please personally request for pastoral visitation. If unable to make a personal request, the parishioner's directly authorized loved one is encouraged to request for pastoral visitation on their behalf.

*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, October 20, 2019  
Greatmartyr Artemius

---

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11  
Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

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

### *Pastoral Reflection*

Our true identity comes from Jesus Christ. This truth is so simple that it can be difficult to understand. We typically think that only complicated things are hard to understand, but sometimes it is the simplest things that are the most difficult. In regards to our identity, we often think of ourselves as male or female, quick or slow, American or Russian, rich or poor, strong or weak, healthy or unhealthy, calm or anxious, with this or that family name, but that is not at all how God sees it. God has practically zero concern about whether we are any of those things. And yet, that is what we so often think about ourselves *at the most basic level*. If this is so, then we are still identifying with fallen Adam and not with the risen Christ, for in Christ “there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all and in all.” St. Paul says the same thing again in a different place: “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female - for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.” It is that simple. If we let the elegant simplicity and significance of that truth sink in, we would find out how much we complicate our lives by all the various things we include as essential to who we are. We add so much to what is so simple, and then wonder why our lives are complicated and difficult, or why God is not helping us with this or that problem. He has helped! And now He is using life’s circumstances to wean us from our false identity so that we can stand in the simplicity of who we are in Christ.

### *Keep Praying*

*“The most important thing that the Holy Fathers desired and recommended is the understanding of the spiritual state, and the art of maintaining it. There remains only one rule for whoever will attain this state: dwell within and worship secretly in the heart.”* -St. Theophan

### *Wisdom, Let us Attend*

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

*Secret meditation sets our feet on the path of inner prayer, which is the most direct road to salvation. We may leave all else and turn only to this work and all will be well. Conversely, if we fulfill all other duties and neglect this one task we shall bear no fruit.*

One way to understand this is to remember with Solomon: “Guard your heart with all vigilance, for from it are the sources of life.” The heart is the real place we live from, and so we must guard it so that no passion or sin finds refuge or lodges there. A person must see all sin as foreign and dangerous to the heart. Of course, by heart we do not mean only the physical organ that pumps blood. The heart is our place of deepest affection. As Jesus says, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” The inner place of our heart is where our real life is being lived. Since Jesus is our salvation, to neglect Jesus is to neglect salvation. What is more, to not allow Jesus to be in the place of our deepest affection is to not allow Jesus into our heart. Without Jesus in the heart there is no salvation. This is why St. Theophan stresses so much the importance of inner prayer in the heart, where we dwell with Christ in the Holy Spirit in the living presence of God the Father. If we perform all possible duties and yet neglect to turn our inner heart to Jesus, then it will turn out that we have traded Christ cheaply. May it not be so! *He who does not turn within and look to this spiritual task, will make no progress.* In order to make progress we must be able to sit alone with Christ, attending to His presence in the heart, and so live from this Christ-centered place. Then the external activities we perform will be done from this place and therefore aid us in this one great work. *The unalterable principle is this: to turn within as early as possible, and to kindle there the spirit of zeal.* By quietly and attentively turning within, we cultivate this relationship with God in the depths of our heart. It is difficult at first because we are so accustomed to external and physical activities, and so they seem easier and appeal to our senses. But standing with attention in the heart before the face of God is the path to fullness.