

# *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.

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 Rehearsal is at 7pm

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

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

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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.

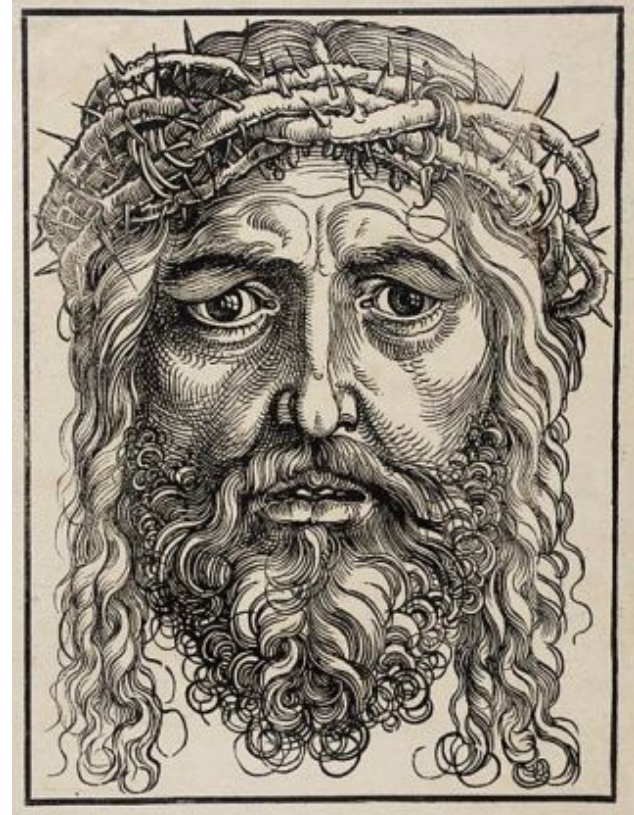
*Find Peace of Soul at*

# *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



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Sunday, December 1, 2019  
Holy Prophet Nahum

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Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22  
Gospel: Luke 18:18-27

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**

Christ is King. Christ is Lord. Christ is our Lord, your Lord and mine. This means that Christ has all authority. He is sovereign. All authority is His. There is no authority outside of Christ. As God, He has all power; He has all wisdom; He has all truth; He has all goodness; He has all life. There is no power, wisdom, truth, goodness, or life outside of Christ. To seek for power, wisdom, truth, goodness, or life apart from Christ is to put what is primary behind what is secondary. It is to have a god before God. Therefore, to have saving faith in Christ is to hand over one's life, one's affections, and all of one's hopes, on Christ alone. It is to seek for power, wisdom, truth, goodness, and life in Christ alone. It is to lay one's self, one's family, one's job, one's personal opinions, one's time, one's wishes, one's personal wisdom, at His feet. It is dedicating, consecrating one's whole being to God. It is refusing to live by any other value or principle. It is acknowledging Christ as the Personal Ruler and Lord over one's life, time, money, habits, hobbies, actions, investments, friendships, entertainment, work, everything. This alone is saving faith in Christ. If a person does not have this kind of faith, then they are still in thrall to sin and death. Christ alone is Savior. Faith is a living thing. Faith is a committed attitude towards Christ that He is the most valuable, the most beautiful, the most precious. Faith is not merely holding the idea that Christ is Lord, but personally obeying Him in all things *as Lord*. Anything less than this is seeking salvation outside of Christ. Some will conceal this truth, from themselves or others, but this only exposes them to the danger of damnation. Christ is our only Lord and Savior. Unless we give Him absolute authority over our life and choices, we have not yet acquired saving faith.

### **Keep Praying**

*Prayer is grace. God gives it when there exists zeal and humility... Let Christ not be missing from your heart. -Elder Amphilochios of Patmos*

### **Wisdom, Let us Attend**

The Church Fathers are a repository of living wisdom. One such Church Father is St. John Chrysostom (fl. 4th Century). He declared:

*I would like to have a voice strong enough to make myself heard from the four corners of the world. I would climb the ugliest mountain of the universe and I would cry out to all men, "Save, Save your soul!"*

Why would St. John have this desire? Few in the history of the Church have seen and written so clearly on the effects of sin. Sin is the most utterly destructive evil on earth. Sin is far worse even than the worst physical and emotional suffering because sin is an internal pollution of the soul that renders it incapable of receiving either heaven's joy or its eternal life. Sin hopelessly turns the soul in on itself in worldly, carnal perspectives and pursuits. Sin, of course, does not mean merely unethical or immoral actions, but actions which proceed from a state of unbelief and faithlessness. This faithlessness is the root sin, planted in the soil of pride and vanity, watered by sensualism, anger, and lust. Everything that is not of faith is sin, according to the unerring testimony of the Apostle Paul. Faithlessness is therefore destroying countless souls. Yet people typically think of themselves as good people, maybe not perfect, but more or less good people. Yet whose standard are they using? Are they judging themselves "mostly good" based on man's standard of goodness, or God's standard? A master of Scripture, St. John knows that God judges according to His own holy standard, and so rather than being judged by whether we were good according to what our peers think, say, or do, St. John knows God will judge according to His divine standard of holiness. Unless we are *in* Christ, every sin in our soul will confess its iniquity before God, and sensing the horror of this, St. John's heartcry is for all men to turn to Christ for salvation. He states he would even expose himself to great danger and harm to excite men to salvation, and in his life he did just this, preaching God's standard, and was thus exiled and died so for it. If only we had this burning desire for souls to be saved! Many have little lively interest even in their own souls, much less the souls of others. Comfort, fear of man, and opinion too often stand as obstacles, but they will provide no solace on the Day of Judgment.