

# 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.

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.

Please See Our Lenten Schedule  
for dates and times of Services

Lenten Services are especially powerful for Spiritual Renewal.

Monday through Friday: 8am Morning Prayer

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

## Announcements

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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.

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Please let Fr. Joshua know if you would like to have your home blessed.

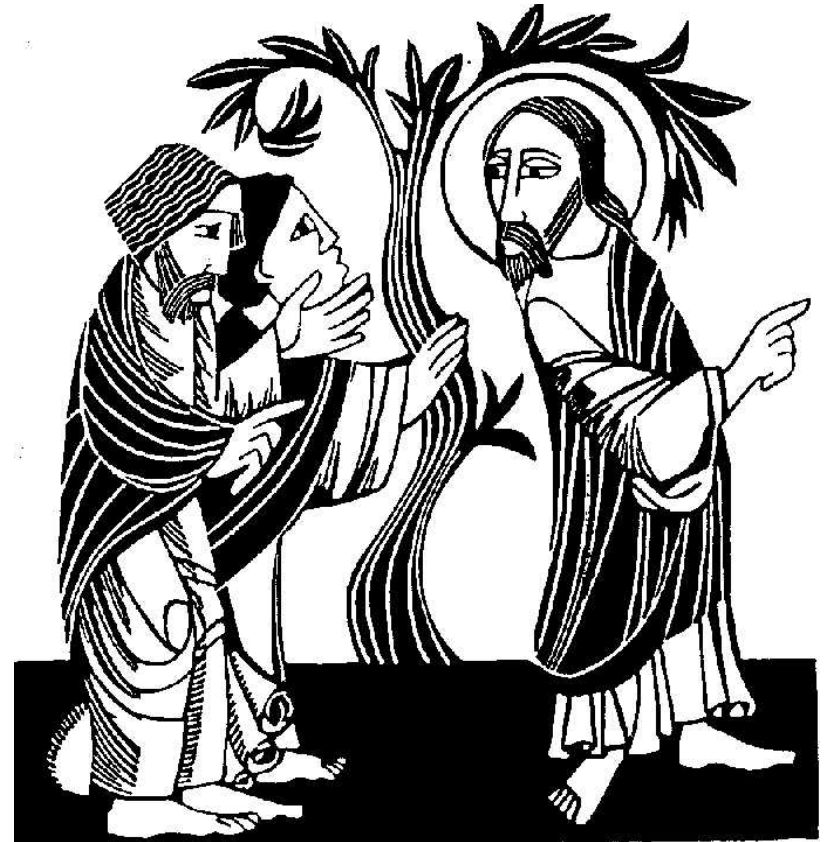
Find Peace of Soul at

# 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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March 8, 2020: The Sunday of Orthodoxy  
St. Theophylactus

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Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2

Gospel: John 1:43-51

Biblical, Sacramental, Patristic, Christ-centered, and Spirit-filled, *All Saints Orthodox Church* is a community of Orthodox Christians glorifying God, seeking to know and live the Gospel, putting on the Mind of Christ, and acquiring the Holy Spirit. Discover your identity in Christ with practical teachings to uplift and transform your mind, open and expand your heart, and know the freeing, awesome, and intimate presence of God in your soul.

### **Pastoral Reflection**

True Christian life is the manifestation of heaven on earth, the bringing of heaven into the sphere of human activity. In order to achieve this true Christian life, the power and influence of the Holy Spirit must operate through one's personality. One's personality must become heavenly. Many say that "they are who they are," that their personality is as if set in stone, and that they've always been the way they are. The problem is, according to sacred Christian teaching, that is not a true belief, and is even a form of self-deception. In fact, God makes us new people, shaped according to His image: "Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him" (Colossians 3:9-10). We are to live in a renewed way, in the same way Jesus lives, with truth and love in every word and gesture. It is thus not true that our personalities are set in stone. God promises: "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh" (Ezekiel 36:26). Our whole personality is to be one of peace and joy, righteousness and mercy. In order to accomplish this, one must say *Yes* to God definitively, and acquire and be filled with the Holy Spirit. The heart is our central organ, and all of our life flows from our heart. To internalize the Holy Spirit then means to have Him living inside your heart in such a way that you live *His* way of life. It means doing everything with Jesus in your heart and mind. It is as simple as having genuine interest and kindness towards all others, to have heavenly patience during difficulties, to never speak a harsh word. It means to avoid all occasions of sin in thought, word, and deed, but to encourage others, giving hope and joy. Be heavenly!

### **Keep Praying**

*"Love sinners, but hate their works; and do not despise them for their faults, lest you be tempted by the same." -St. Isaac the Syrian*

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

The Church Fathers are a repository of living wisdom. One such Church Father is St. Isaac the Syrian (7th cent.). He taught:

*Until the soul becomes drunk with faith in God by receiving a perception of faith's power, she can neither heal the malady of the senses, nor be able forcefully to tread visible matter underfoot, which is the barrier to things that are within and unperceived.*

Until the power of our faith is such that it can perceive God acting in and through all people, places, things, and events, then we will remain prisoners of our circumstances. What does it mean to be a prisoner of circumstances? It means to treat people and events according to their appearance. It means to let the way a person talks, such as their tone of voice, control how to respond to them. If they speak harshly, then to be controlled by one's circumstances means that one will get upset, dejected, angry, hurt, or sad. To be a prisoner of one's senses means that if one is sick or in pain, then one will get upset, impatient, angry, fearful, or dejected. Our circumstances are always changing, and oftentimes they are uncomfortable and painful, and so as long as we allow circumstances to control our reactions to life, then we will only ever be doing as well as our circumstances allow. Our joy will be dependent on other people's tone of voice, our health, or even the traffic. Our state of mind will only ever be as good as the day's news. As God's children, however, we are given freedom in Christ. This freedom includes emotional freedom. We are called to bring peace to a person who is speaking angrily, patience and even joy to affliction. Do you want to be able to be joyful even when you are sick? Many would rather be miserable, and rather than trust in God's providence and express patience in the face of pain or weakness, they treat these as if they give a personal right to anger, impatience, bitterness, or any host of negative responses. But God calls us to joy and contentment in all of life's circumstances, but the only way to have this freedom is through faith. Faith sees through circumstances and sensory data to what lies beyond. The power of faith is such that it can touch and even taste Christ's victory over death even in the most challenging or dire of circumstances, because faith touches and receives God.