

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 first and 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.

Monday through Friday: 8am Morning Prayer

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

Announcements

Recent Clarification from *Archbishop Mark*: "All parishes may continue to fully utilize their worship space while maintaining social distancing from persons not already having regular contact. Once inside the church some persons may need to remove their masks or occasionally remove it for personal reasons. There are HIPAA laws that would forbid us to ask prying personal questions. Also, please keep in mind healthy children are not considered vulnerable or a source of spreading the virus."

The CDC guidance on mask-wearing states: "CDC recommends that people wear masks in public settings and when around people who don't live in your household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. To practice social or physical distancing, stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people who are not from your household in both indoor and outdoor spaces."

Pennsylvania directive for masks: "Individuals must wear a face covering in any public place as well as outdoors when they are in a place where people are congregating and they cannot remain 6 feet apart from persons who are not a part of their household. Individuals should consider carrying a face covering in case they unexpectedly come in close contact with others."

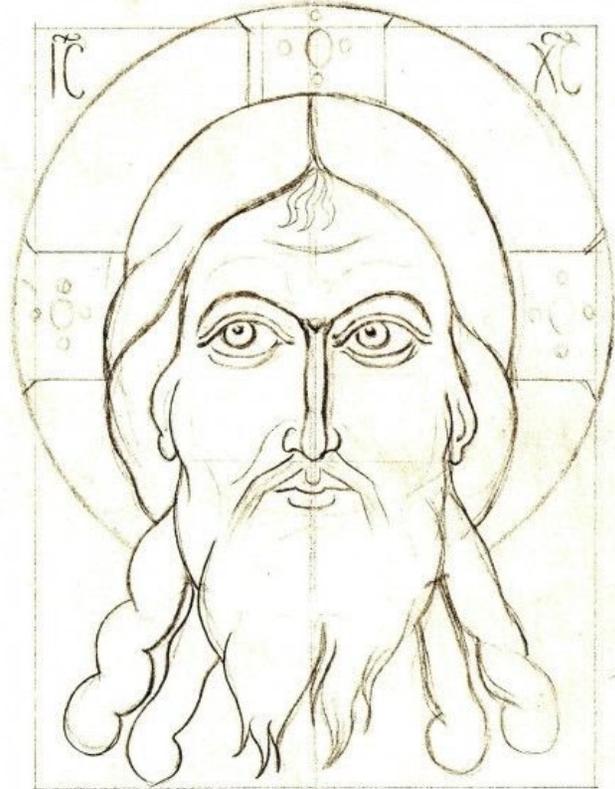
Find Peace of Soul at

All Saints Orthodox Church

211 Willow Avenue, Olyphant, PA 18447

www.allsaintsolyphant.org

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



August 16, 2020

Image of Christ Not Made By Hands

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16

Gospel: Matthew 17:14-23

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

Elements of the Divine Liturgy. A few prefatory remarks. Immediately before the Church even begins the Divine Liturgy, she has already gathered in order to pray the *Hours*, usually the *Third* and the *Sixth Hours*. Many Orthodox parishes also include *Matins* in the morning prior to the Liturgy, or append Matins to the Saturday evening service of *Great Vespers*. The combined service of Vespers and Matins is called *Vigil*. What this tells us is that the Divine Liturgy is and must be entered through prayer. It is not something that we enter casually or carelessly. We enter into the Liturgy truly only with a prayerful spirit, with hearts ready. The Liturgy itself is a prayer service, prayer being the lifting up of the soul and its affections to Almighty God in praise, thanksgiving, confession, and petition. This excludes the possibility that the Liturgy is merely a “spectator sport.” Everyone worships. Everyone participates. To be merely inside the building but without praying is to remain outside the Church. For the Church is *not* the building. The Church is the people. That bears repeating: The Church is *not* the building. The Church is the people of God gathered together for worship and fellowship. The building is called the church because it is named for the activity of the gathering of the people of God. Thus, the Church is not a loosely connected group of individuals, but a single Body of people gathered specifically under the Headship of Jesus Christ. If a person does not look to Christ as their Lord and Savior, then they remain outside the Church. Lastly, it is a commandment to attend Church. To miss Church is to place oneself contrary God’s commandment that we gather in worship. Unless one has a pressing need to miss Church, or some significant circumstance that requires one to be absent, then to miss Church is to disobey God.

Keep Praying

“The greatest necessity of all is to control and curb our tongue.”

-St. Theophan the Recluse

Wisdom, Let us Attend

The Church Fathers are a repository of living wisdom. One such Church Father is St. Theophan the Recluse (19th Century). He taught:

The mover of the tongue is the heart: what fills the heart is poured out through the tongue. And conversely, when feeling is poured out of the heart by the tongue, it becomes strengthened and firmly rooted in the heart. Therefore the tongue is one of the chief factors in building up our inner disposition.

Many people’s spiritual battles are lost at the gate of their lips. From their tongues pour all kinds of sin, whether criticism, gossip, anger, complaining, whispering, backbiting, or harsh speech. It is like a flood of sin is at any moment ready to escape. Instead of building up our neighbor, we rather tear them down. Instead of complimenting, we correct. Instead of uplifting, we grumble and complain about all the details of our circumstances. If only our mouths gave only blessings! We ever reserve the right to criticize, to comment negatively about anyone and anything. Whatever we don’t like, we make sure someone has to know. And so instead of edifying people, we drag them down. The addiction to our opinion means we return again and again to criticize and complain. Our mouths should only know blessing. And yet, the problem is not located in the tongue, but in the heart. All the harsh speech and verbalized annoyance is simply the manifestation of our wicked heart. It is our heart that is waterlogged with negativity and sin. The mouth only moves from the overflow of the heart, and so for the cause of our negativity we must look into our heart. We must wonder at the astonishing amount of negative activity that is going on there. But we must beware, also, for every harsh word we share, every criticism we give, every gossip we engage in, all of these, they all further deepen the roots of the negativity and sin we harbor in our hearts. Moreover, these words harm whoever is unfortunate enough to hear us. But we are *commanded* to love our neighbor as our self, and yet with our tongue we unload not love but untold amounts of unholiness and sin which harm the hearer. But the reverse is also true, for by speaking only the truth in love we root ourselves and our hearers in virtue, building up a holy disposition.