

# 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](http://www.allsaintsolyphant.org)

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



August 23, 2020

Hieromartyr Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:2-12

Gospel: Matthew 18:23-35

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.* The very opening of the Divine Liturgy is an offering up of praise to God; as the priest exclaims: “Blessed is the Kingdom...” In other words, as David sings in the Psalms, we enter into God’s presence with praise: “Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!” (Psalm 95:2). In order to accomplish this, we must actually possess an attitude of praise and thanksgiving. It is not enough that we occupy our seats, or that we stand in our places, for God is approached through an attitude of worship, of adoration, and of glorification: “May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you! May those who love your salvation say evermore, ‘God is great!’” (Psalm 70:4) The Liturgy therefore is for those who seek the Lord, who love His salvation, and on this basis rejoice and find great gladness in Him. In this way it also implies a lifestyle of Christ-centeredness. All of the Christian life is one of seeking the Lord. This is not the attitude of fanatics, or of those who are merely too excited about religion. It is, in fact, the settled disposition of a real Christian to be pursuing the Lord, to live to glorify Him. In this way the opening exclamation of the Liturgy is but the manifestation of the constant attitude of true Christian life. Without this one must ask themselves if they are Christian at all, for “anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him” (Romans 8:9). This is no trifling matter: “Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!” (2 Corinthians 13:5) The opening exclamation of the Liturgy is thus a flaming sword turning each way, guarding the way to the Tree of Life.

### Keep Praying

*“Victory is won by these labors, by forcing yourself and mercilessly tearing yourself from vicious habits despite the pain.” -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:

*And here is a general means for making peace in the heart, when some affliction tries to disturb it: with all your strength make firm your faith in the goodness of God’s providence towards you and revive in your soul a devoted submission to God’s will.*

A providential worldview is a way of looking at the world, a way of living life with the *understanding* that God is God, that God is good, and that God’s goodness is operating at all times, especially when things go contrary to our will. Afflictions are allowed for the sake of the strengthening of the faithful, and the humbling of the prideful. When we meet an affliction and our soul chooses to see God’s goodness operating through it, we are immediately strengthened by God. When we revive in our soul a submission to God’s will, in each situation of life, the peace, freedom, and joy of God flood our souls. God then receives all the glory, for He manifests His triumph over the situations of this world. The world only wins when our perspective is dragged from looking to Jesus. The world doesn’t win by producing suffering in our lives; it wins when we agree that the world is lord over us. When God’s Lordship is clear in our souls, we receive confidence and comfort in His guiding hand. Many get confused and think that God’s goodness is revealed in our lives only by peaceful circumstances, prosperity, victory, and promotion, but this is not the way of God. God’s way is through a Cross, and His way leads us through many crosses, which is to say His victory looks often like failure, weakness, dishonor, loss, suffering. But in God these things are made to work for our good, an eternal weight of glory, a crown of heavenly victory. This is how faith looks at the world through the lens of God’s providence, living life as if God is really in control, because He is! As St. Theophan urges of these things, that you *feel that the affliction you suffer at this moment is either a means by which the Lord puts you to the test, or a purifying penance He imposes in you, or that He presses you to repent, either in general, or particularly in connection with some wrong action of yours, which has remained forgotten.* Thus peace of heart returns.