

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 (August) 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.”

PA directive (August) 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 30, 2020

St. Alexander Nevsky

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Gospel: Matthew 19:16-26

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 Great Litany begins: “In peace, let us pray to the Lord.” From this moment the Church engages in a series of petitionary prayers that are too often overlooked and taken for granted. Oh tragedy! The Church stands in the gap for the fallen world through her holy prayers, staying God’s wrath and judgment, calling people through the sweet perfume of prayer to holiness, to the feet of Christ, drawing down fistfulls of God’s grace and distributing it with the two hands of truth and love. We should not let a single petition go without reflecting on its meaning, without joining our heart and mind to the intentions announced at each petition. We begin in peace, for the power of peace magnifies the strength, the very reach of the prayer. For our prayers ascend to the throne of grace to the degree with which we attend to them. Half-hearted prayers, prayers said without attention, careless prayers, these prayers fall flat on the floor rather than rise to heaven. Nay, they even offend the Lord of glory. Let us rather shake the pillars of heaven with our prayer! Let us draw down showers of grace that will flood over the valleys of pain and despair, filling souls with hope of glory. Even if we are not singing in the choir, our attention to the sense of the prayer is essential to the successful praying of the Church. Each member of the Church is to labor in prayer, to strive in prayer. The opening prayers are therefore the concentrated effort of the entire congregation. No one may watch these prayers pass by without lending a hand to the great work of the Great Litany. Renounce any temptation to turn the Liturgy into a spectator sport, for each petition is given to establish, shape, and direct our prayers for each of the needs mentioned therein. The only true measure of life in a Church is the measure of her attentive prayer.

Keep Praying

“Delay - in the exercise of holiness - becomes a straight road to final perdition.”
-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:

When you start to do anything you must, as far as you can, strip yourself of all wishes of your own and neither desire to do that thing nor turn away from it, until you perceive that the only thing which moves and draws you towards it is the consciousness of God’s will.

The art of spiritual warfare is the science of freedom, for the enemies of our soul seek to keep us enslaved to our own will. Failing in all other things, they will have yet succeeded if they merely manage to keep us attached to ourselves. Even unable to draw us into sin, and even though we attach ourselves to virtue with utmost zealous abandon, they will have yet succeeded to enslave us to the Enemy if they only can convince us to remain attached to self. The righteousness which we then do will be reduced to self-righteousness. For righteousness performed with self in mind is the definition, the very essence, of *self-righteousness*. True righteousness is characterized by its single-hearted focus on God, *the consciousness of God’s will*. In this place the mind is cool with the truth of God, and the heart warm with the love of God. The will of God becomes the leading will, the guiding will, ours the following will. This consciousness of God’s will then works in us with drawing power, drawing us out of our self-oriented worldview, that small house cramped with a million and one wishes and worries. The Enemy plays on these and is happy to rearrange the furniture of our soul as long we remain trapped within ourselves, as long as we are not drawn out into God’s wider heaven, to breathe air beautifully free of all narrow passions. The laying down of self, then, is the first step, not the last. Here the Lordship of Christ extends through the activities of our mind, feelings, and will. The Lord is to be Lord over our mind, our thinking, and our thoughts. All our thoughts are to be submitted to God’s truth as found in His Word and handed down in the Church. Not only over our thoughtlife, God’s Lordship extends also to our emotional life. His will is to rule our unruly emotions, His truth guiding us in all things, so with our will our entire being is naught but consciousness of His will.