



*Welcome to St. Olympia Orthodox Church,
 a young and, God willing, growing community of worshipers.*

*Fr. Nikolay Khalimonov, Priest-in-Charge, 323-851-7989, nkhalimonov@yahoo.com
 Fr. Alexy Karlgut, Dean/Administrator, 607-759-1833*

Please join us for prayer and fellowship.

Upcoming Services:
Saturday, Sept 23, 30
Great Vespers: 5pm

Sunday, Sept 24, Oct 1
Divine Liturgy: 10am
Coffee and fellowship
will follow the service

*The above services are
 at St. Olympia Church
 34 North Main Street
 Norwood, NY, 13668*

Mailing Address
St. Olympia Orthodox
Church PO Box 122
Canton, NY 13617

The Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos
October 1



Rest of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist
John the Theologian
September 26

On this day we, the Orthodox people, joyously keep festival, illumined by your coming, O Mother of God; and, beholding your most pure image, we cry out with compunction: "Cover us with your Protecting Veil and deliver us from all evil, entreating your Son, Christ our God, to save our souls."
 Troparion

Today the Virgin stands in the church, and with hosts of Saints, and invisibly prays to God for us. Angels worship with Hierarchs, and Apostles rejoice with Prophets, for the Theotokos prays to the Pre-eternal God for us.

Kontakion



The Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America has designated the Sunday following the commemoration of Saint Romanus the Melodist (October 1) as “Church Musician Sunday.”

Saint Romanus the Melodist was born in the fifth century in the Syrian city of Emesa of Jewish parents. After moving to Constantinople, he became a church sacristan in the temple of Hagia Sophia. The monk spent his nights alone at prayer in a field or in the Blachernae church beyond the city.

Saint Romanus was not a talented reader or singer. Once, on the eve of the Nativity of Christ, he read the kathisma verses. He read so poorly that another reader had to take his place. The clergy ridiculed Romanus, which devastated him.

On the day of the Nativity, the Mother of God appeared to the grief-stricken youth in a vision while he was praying before her Kyriotissa icon. She gave him a scroll and commanded him to eat it. Thus was he given the gift of understanding, composition, and hymnography.

That evening at the all-night Vigil Saint Romanus sang, in a wondrous voice, his first Kontakion: “Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One...” All the hymns of Saint Romanus became known as kontakia, in reference to the Virgin’s scroll. Saint Romanus was also the first to write in the form of the Oikos, which he incorporated into the all-night Vigil at his places of residence (In Greek, “oikos”).

For his zealous service Saint Romanus was ordained as a deacon and became a teacher of song. Until his death, which occurred about the year 556, the hierodeacon Romanus the Melodist composed nearly a thousand hymns, many of which are still used by Christians to glorify the Lord. About eighty survive.

You gladdened Christ’s Church by your melodies like an inspired heavenly trumpet. You were enlightened by the Mother of God and shone on the world as God’s poet. We lovingly honor you, righteous Romanus.

Troparion

You were adorned from childhood with the godly virtues of the Spirit; you were a precious adornment of the Church of Christ, all-wise Romanus, for you made it lovely with beautiful hymnody. Therefore, we entreat you, grant your divine gift to those who desire it, that we may cry out to you: “Rejoice, all-blessed Father, beauty of the Church.”

Kontakion

Rest of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian

September 26

The Holy, Glorious All-laudable Apostle and Evangelist, Virgin, and Beloved Friend of Christ, John the Theologian was the son of Zebedee and Salome, a daughter of Saint Joseph the Betrothed. He was called by our Lord Jesus Christ to be one of His Apostles at the same time as his elder brother James. This took place at the Sea of Galilee. Leaving behind their father, both brothers followed the Lord.

The Apostle John was especially loved by the Savior for his sacrificial love and his virginal purity. After his calling, the Apostle John did not part from the Lord, and he was one of the three apostles who were particularly close to Him. Saint John the Theologian was present when the Lord restored the daughter of Jairus to life, and he was a witness to the Transfiguration of the Lord on Mount Tabor. During the Last Supper, he reclined next to the Lord, and laid his head upon His breast. He also asked the name of the Savior's betrayer. The Apostle John followed after the Lord when they led Him bound from the Garden of Gethsemane to the court of the iniquitous High Priests Annas and Caiphas. He was there in the courtyard of the High Priest during the interrogations of his Teacher and he resolutely followed after him on the way to Golgotha, grieving with all his heart.

At the foot of the Cross he stood with the Mother of God and heard the words of the Crucified Lord addressed to Her from the Cross: "Woman, behold Thy son." Then the Lord said to him, "Behold thy Mother" (John 19:26-27). From that moment the Apostle John, like a loving son, concerned himself over the Most Holy Virgin Mary, and he served Her until Her Dormition. After the Dormition of the Mother of God the Apostle John went to Ephesus and other cities of Asia Minor to preach the Gospel, taking with him his own disciple Prochorus. They boarded a ship, which floundered during a terrible tempest. All the travellers were cast up upon dry ground, and only the Apostle John remained in the depths of the sea. Prochorus wept bitterly, bereft of his spiritual father and guide, and he went on towards Ephesus alone.

On the fourteenth day of his journey he stood at the shore of the sea and saw that the waves had cast a man ashore. Going up to him, he recognized the Apostle John, whom the Lord had preserved alive for fourteen days in the sea. Teacher and disciple went to Ephesus, where the Apostle John preached incessantly to the pagans about Christ. His preaching was accompanied by such numerous and great miracles, that the number of believers increased with each day. During this time there had begun a persecution of Christians under the emperor Nero (56-68). They took the Apostle John for trial at Rome. Saint John was sentenced to death for his confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, but the Lord preserved His chosen one. The apostle drank a cup of deadly poison, but he remained alive. Later, he emerged unharmed from a cauldron of boiling oil into which he had been thrown on orders from the torturer.

After this, they sent the Apostle John off to imprisonment to the island of Patmos, where he spent many years. Proceeding along on his way to the place of exile, Saint John worked many miracles. On the island of Patmos, his preaching and miracles attracted to him all the inhabitants of the island, and he enlightened them with the light of the Gospel. He cast out many devils from the pagan temples, and he healed a great multitude of the sick...

The Apostle John withdrew with his disciple Prochorus to a desolate height, where he imposed upon himself a three-day fast. As Saint John prayed the earth quaked and thunder rumbled. Prochorus fell to the ground in fright. The Apostle John lifted him up and told him to write down what he was about to say. "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, saith the Lord, Who is and Who was and Who is to come, the Almighty" (Rev 1:8), proclaimed the Spirit of God through the Apostle John. Thus in about the year 67 the Book of Revelation was written, known also as the "Apocalypse," of the holy Apostle John the Theologian. In this Book were predictions of the tribulations of the Church and of the end of the world.

After his prolonged exile, the Apostle John received his freedom and returned to Ephesus, where he continued with his activity, instructing Christians to guard against false teachers and their erroneous teachings. In the year 95, the Apostle John wrote his Gospel at Ephesus. He called for all Christians to love the Lord and one another, and by this to fulfill the commands of Christ. The Church calls Saint John the "Apostle of Love", since he constantly taught that without love man cannot come near to God.

In his three Epistles, Saint John speaks of the significance of love for God and for neighbor. Already in his old age, he learned of a youth who had strayed from the true path to follow the leader of a band of robbers, so Saint John went out into the wilderness to seek him. Seeing the holy Elder, the guilty one tried to hide himself,

but the Apostle John ran after him and besought him to stop. He promised to take the sins of the youth upon himself, if only he would repent and not bring ruin upon his soul. Shaken by the intense love of the holy Elder, the youth actually did repent and turn his life around.

Saint John reposed when he was more than a hundred years old. He far outlived the other eyewitnesses of the Lord, and for a long time he remained the only remaining eyewitness of the earthly life of the Savior.

When it was time for the departure of the Apostle John, he went out beyond the city limits of Ephesus with the families of his disciples. He bade them prepare for him a cross-shaped grave, in which he lay, telling his disciples that they should cover him over with the soil. The disciples tearfully kissed their beloved teacher, but not wanting to be disobedient, they fulfilled his bidding. They covered the face of the saint with a cloth and filled in the grave. Learning of this, other disciples of Saint John came to the place of his burial. When they opened the grave, they found it empty.

Each year from the grave of the holy Apostle John on May 8 came forth a fine dust, which believers gathered up and were healed of sicknesses by it. Therefore, the Church also celebrates the memory of the holy Apostle John the Theologian on May 8.

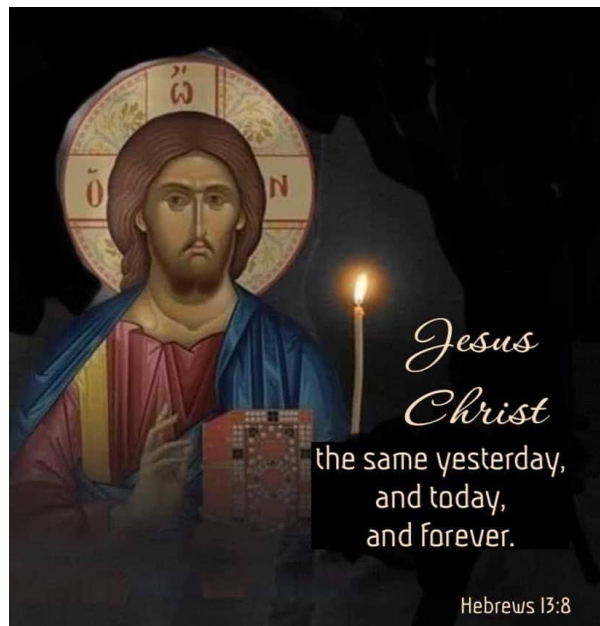
The Lord bestowed on His beloved disciple John and John's brother James the name "Sons of Thunder" an awesome messenger accompanied by the cleansing power of heavenly fire. And precisely by this the Savior pointed out the flaming, fiery, sacrificial character of Christian love, the preacher of which was the Apostle John the Theologian. The eagle, symbol of the lofty heights of his theological thought, is the iconographic symbol of the Evangelist John the Theologian. The appellation "Theologian" is bestowed by Holy Church only to Saint John among the immediate disciples and Apostles of Christ, as being the seer of the mysterious Judgments of God.

O Apostle beloved of Christ God, hasten to deliver a defenseless people. He Who permitted you to recline on His breast receives you as you bow before Him; entreat Him, O Theologian, to dispel the persistence of the heathen, and to grant us peace and great mercy.

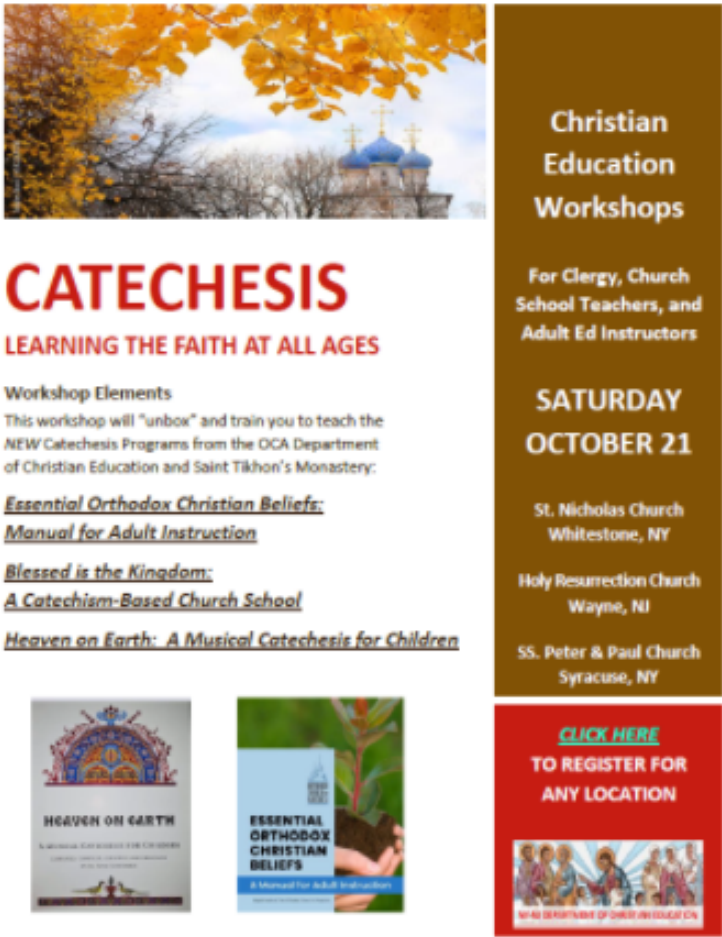
Troparion

Who can tell of your greatness, O virgin disciple? You pour forth miracles, and are a fountain of healing, and you intercede for our souls as a Theologian and the friend of Christ.

Kontakion



**ANNOUNCING
DIOCESAN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION WORKSHOPS,
Saturday, October 21, 2023
In All Three Deaneries
10 AM to 3 PM**



Christian Education Workshops

For Clergy, Church School Teachers, and Adult Ed Instructors

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 21**

St. Nicholas Church
Whitestone, NY

Holy Resurrection Church
Wayne, NJ

SS. Peter & Paul Church
Syracuse, NY

CATECHESIS
LEARNING THE FAITH AT ALL AGES



Workshop Elements
This workshop will “unbox” and train you to teach the NEW Catechesis Programs from the OCA Department of Christian Education and Saint Tikhon’s Monastery:

*Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs:
Manual for Adult Instruction*

*Blessed is the Kingdom:
A Catechism-Based Church School*

Heaven on Earth: A Musical Catechesis for Children

[CLICK HERE
TO REGISTER FOR
ANY LOCATION](#)



Workshop Elements

This workshop will “unbox” and train you to teach the NEW Catechesis Programs from the OCA Department of Christian Education and Saint Tikhon’s Monastery:

- *Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs: Manual for Adult Instruction
- *Blessed is the Kingdom: A Catechism-Based Church School
- *Heaven on Earth: A Musical Catechesis for Children

Sign up link is on the Diocesan website: “*Click Here*” on the poster

PARISH WISH LIST

A wish list to help our parish grow!

SPECIAL, one-time needs or items

A **Changing Table** for our newly remodeled, accessible restroom

RECURRING needs:

Paper Plates (small and large), **Paper Bowls**, **Hot Cups**

Napkins

Plastic Utensils, especially **Forks**

Paper Towels

Toilet Paper

Holy Mother Olympia, pray to God for us!

UPCOMING DIOCESAN & PARISH EVENTS

Presbyter's Council Meeting

Thursday, September 28, at 1:00 PM

Diocesan Chancery, Bronxville NY

St Olympia Parish Council Meeting

Monday, October 2, 7:30 PM via Google Meet

WEEKDAY VESPERS 5 PM AT THE HERMITAGE OF ST OLYMPIA

For information please contact Mother Sophronia at mothersophronia@gmail.com

or via Facebook: Nun Sophronia Hofstead.

