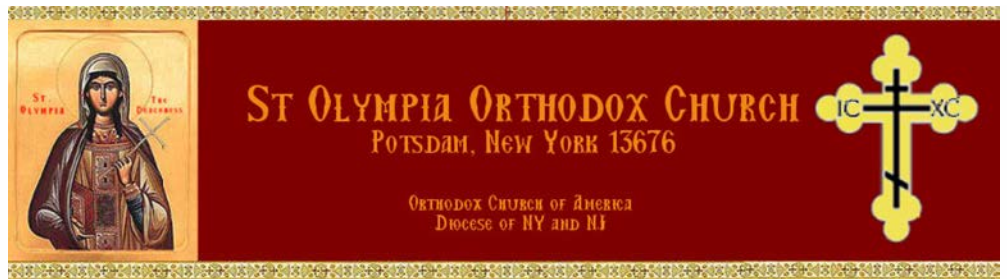


**Week of  
November 28<sup>th</sup>**



**You can reach Fr. Luke at  
[frlukacs@gmail.com](mailto:frlukacs@gmail.com) or at  
(613) 925-3004**

**Leave a clear message  
with your phone number.**

Welcome to St. Olympia Orthodox Church, a young and, God willing, growing community of worshippers. Divine Liturgies are held every Sunday at 123 Main St. in Potsdam are primarily in English. You can learn more about us on Facebook and at [www.saintolympiaorthodoxchurch.org](http://www.saintolympiaorthodoxchurch.org)

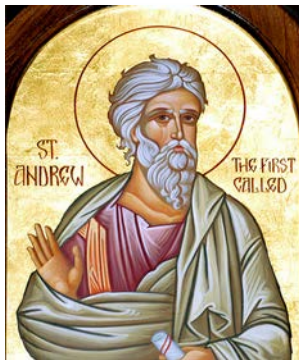
**“And whatever you do,  
do it heartily, as to the  
Lord and not to men,  
knowing that from the  
Lord you will receive the  
reward of the inheritance;  
for you serve the  
Lord Christ.”  
(Colossians 3:23-24)**

## **Stewardship**

As we grow as a worshipping community, we need to nourish and nurture our St. Olympia parish. A stewardship card for 2017 will soon be available so that the parish can begin to plan its growth wisely. We have been blessed with so much as a community of prayer. May our love for the Lord guide our giving of time, talents and resources.

## **Sanctified Time**

### **Nativity Fast - Week three**



November ends with the feast of St. Andrew “the first called” who was one of the disciples of St. John the Baptist. When St. John pointed out Jesus as “the Lamb of Him and became His first disciple.

On the first three days in December we commemorate the prophets Nahum, Habakkuk and Zephaniah. These three were contemporaries of the well known and oft quoted Jeremiah at the time (627 - 582 BC) of the fall of Nineveh, collapse of the Kingdom of Judah and the approaching destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians. It was a time of political corruption and societal decadence followed by destruction and captivity. Underlying the gloom and doom were clear themes of the One who would come from afar and visit His people bringing peace and salvation.

On December 4th, in addition to the well known and loved Great Martyr Barbara Missionary to America, St. Alexander Hotovitzky who served under the omophorion of St. Tikhon for part of his time of service. He founded parishes in Philadelphia, Yonkers and Passaic as well as many other cities and small towns.

At the conclusion of the third week of the fast, we celebrate on December 6th, perhaps the most well known and beloved of the saints of God, Nicholas the



Wonderworker. Indeed St. Nicholas is an icon of the season and all over the world special traditions have developed to celebrate his holy memory. These celebrations often include the giving of gifts to children along with special foods. Here in the US he has been conflated with the legendary Santa Claus. The saint himself, who served as the Bishop of Myra, was humble and extremely charitable; full of personal concern for the well being of his spiritual children. His humility and sincere love of God and neighbor was crowned with the spiritual gifts of clairvoyance and miracles. Indeed his miracles have made him famous to the present day. Numerous pilgrims travel to his present resting place in Bari Italy begging the intercession of the saint and receiving it. Churches dedicated to him are everywhere in the world, his icons are found in most all Orthodox churches and he is the patron saint of many Christian countries.

--Mother Sophronia