



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

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Fr. Alexy Karlgut, Dean/Administrator, 607-759-1833*

Please join us for prayer and fellowship.

Upcoming Services:
Saturday, Aug 26, Sept 2
Great Vespers: 5pm

Sunday, Aug 27, Sept 3
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, NY13617*

The Beheading of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John August 29



**Church New Year: the Indiction
September 1**



The Beheading of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John August 29

*The memory of the righteous is celebrated with hymns of praise,
but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for you, O Forerunner.
You were shown in truth to be the most honorable of the prophets,
for you were deemed worthy to baptize in the streams of the Jordan Him whom they foretold.
Therefore, having suffered for the truth with joy,
you proclaimed to those in hell God who appeared in the flesh,
who takes away the sin of the world,
and grants us great mercy.*

Troparion

The Beheading of the Prophet, Forerunner of the Lord, John the Baptist: The Evangelists Matthew (Mt.14:1-12) and Mark (Mark 6:14-29) provide accounts about the martyric end of John the Baptist in the year 32 after the Birth of Christ.

Following the Baptism of the Lord, Saint John the Baptist was locked up in prison by Herod Antipas, the Tetrarch (ruler of one fourth of the Holy Land) and governor of Galilee. (After the death of king Herod the Great, the Romans divided the territory of Palestine into four parts, and put a governor in charge of each part. Herod Antipas received Galilee from the emperor Augustus).

The prophet of God John openly denounced Herod for having left his lawful wife, the daughter of the Arabian king Aretas, and then instead cohabiting with Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip (Luke 3:19-20). On his birthday, Herod made a feast for dignitaries, the elders and a thousand chief citizens. Salome, the daughter of Herod, danced before the guests and charmed Herod. In gratitude to the girl, he swore to give her whatever she would ask, up to half his kingdom.

The vile girl on the advice of her wicked mother Herodias asked that she be given the head of John the Baptist on a platter. Herod became apprehensive, for he feared the wrath of God for the murder of a prophet, whom earlier he had heeded. He also feared the people, who loved the holy Forerunner. But because of the guests and his careless oath, he gave orders to cut off the head of Saint John and to give it to Salome.

According to Tradition, the mouth of the dead preacher of repentance once more opened and proclaimed: "Herod, you should not have the wife of your brother Philip." Salome took the platter with the head of Saint John and gave it to her mother. The frenzied Herodias repeatedly stabbed the tongue of the prophet with a needle and buried his holy head in a unclean place. But the pious Joanna, wife of Herod's steward Chuza, buried the head of John the Baptist in an earthen vessel on the Mount of Olives, where Herod had a parcel of land. (The Uncovering of the Venerable Head is celebrated February 24). The holy body of John the Baptist was taken that night by his disciples and buried at Sebastia, there where the wicked deed had been done.

After the murder of Saint John the Baptist, Herod continued to govern for a certain time. Pontius Pilate, governor of Judea, later sent Jesus Christ to him, Whom he mocked (Luke 23:7-12).

The judgment of God came upon Herod, Herodias and Salome, even during their earthly life. Salome, crossing the River Sikoris in winter, fell through the ice. The ice gave way in such a way that her body was in the water, but her head was trapped above the ice. It was similar to how she once had danced with her feet upon the ground, but now she flailed helplessly in the icy water. Thus she was trapped until that time when the sharp ice cut through her neck.

Her corpse was not found, but they brought the head to Herod and Herodias, as once they had brought them the head of Saint John the Baptist. The Arab king Aretas, in revenge for the disrespect shown his daughter, made war against Herod. The defeated Herod suffered the wrath of the Roman emperor Caius Caligula (37-41) and was exiled with Herodias first to Gaul, and then to Spain.

The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist, a Feast day established by the Church, is also a strict fast day because of the grief of Christians at the violent death of the saint. In some Orthodox cultures pious people will not eat food from a flat plate, use a knife, or eat food that is round in shape on this day.

*The glorious beheading of the Forerunner,
became an act of divine dispensation,
for he preached to those in hell the coming of the Savior.
Let Herodias lament, for she entreated lawless murder,
loving not the law of God, nor eternal life,
but that which is false and temporal.*

Kontakion

Church New Year: the Indiction
September 1

The first day of the Church New Year is also called the beginning of the Indiction. The term Indiction comes from a Latin word meaning, "to impose." It was originally applied to the imposition of taxes in Egypt. The first worldwide Indiction was in 312 when the Emperor Constantine (May 21) saw a miraculous vision of the Cross in the sky. Before the introduction of the Julian calendar, Rome began the New Year on September 1.

According to Holy Tradition, Christ entered the synagogue on September 1 to announce His mission to mankind (Luke 4:16-22). Quoting Isaiah 61:1-2, the Savior proclaimed,

"The spirit of the Lord is upon Me; because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to proclaim release to captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord..."

...Tradition says that the Hebrews entered the Promised Land in September.

*O Creator of the universe, Thou didst appoint times by Thy power;
bless the crown of this year with Thy goodness, O Lord.
Preserve in safety Thy rulers and cities: and through the intercessions of the Theotokos, save us!*

Troparion

*O Creator and Master of time and the ages, Triune and Merciful God of all:
grant blessings for the course of this year,
and in Thy boundless mercy save those who worship Thee and cry out in fear:
"O Savior, grant blessings to all mankind!"*

Kontakion

Righteous Anna the Prophetess who met the Lord at the Temple in Jerusalem
August 28

Enlightened by the Spirit, your pure heart became the dwelling place of most splendid prophecy; for you saw things far off as if they were near. Therefore, we honor you, blessed and glorious Prophetess Anna.

Kontakion



Saint Phoebe the Deaconess at Cenchreae near Corinth (Romans 16:1-2)
September 3

Enlightened by grace and taught the Faith by the chosen vessel of Christ, you were found worthy of the diaconate; and you carried Paul's words to Rome. O Deaconess Phoebe, pray to Christ God that his Spirit may enlighten our souls!

Troparion

**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

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

[NEW DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION](#)

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

Zapifka (post-communion) Cup

Contact Jessica Suchy-Pilalis for details

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.

"God loves us very much; He has us in mind in each and every moment and He protects us. We should know this and not be afraid of anything."

Elder Porphyrios, late 20th century Greece

