



*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, June 17, 24
Great Vespers: 5pm

Sunday, June 18, 25
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*

**Synaxis of the Saints of North America
June 18**



**Nativity of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John
June 24**

Prophet and Forerunner of the coming of Christ, although we cannot praise you worthily, we honor you in love at your nativity, for by it you ended your father's silence and your mother's barrenness, proclaiming to the world the incarnation of the Son of God!

Troparion

Holy Apostle Jude June 19

Divinely we praise you, O Jude, as a faithful witness, knowing you to be the brother of Christ. You trampled on delusion, and so preserved the faith. Today as we celebrate your holy memory, by your intercessions we receive remission of sins.

Troparion

The Holy Apostle Jude, one of the twelve apostles of Christ, is descended from King David and Solomon, and was the son of Righteous Joseph the Betrothed (Sunday after the Nativity of the Lord) by his first wife.

The Holy Apostle John the Theologian writes in his Gospel, "... neither did his brethren believe in Him" (John. 7:5). Saint Theophylact, Archbishop of Bulgaria, explains this passage. He says that at the beginning of the Lord Jesus Christ's earthly ministry, Joseph's sons, Jude among them, did not believe in His divine nature. Tradition says that when Saint Joseph returned from Egypt, he began to divide his possessions among his sons. He wanted to allot a share to Christ the Savior, born miraculously and incorruptibly from the All-Pure Virgin Mary. The brothers were opposed to this because Jesus was born of another mother. Only James, later called "The Brother of God," offered to share his portion with Him.

Jude came to believe in Christ the Savior as the awaited Messiah, and he followed Him and was chosen as one of the twelve Apostles. Mindful of his sin, the Apostle Jude considered himself unworthy to be called the Lord's brother, and in his Epistle he calls himself merely the brother of James.

The Holy Apostle Jude also had other names: the Evangelist Matthew terms him "Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddeus" (Mt. 10:3). The Holy Evangelist Mark also calls him Thaddeus (Mark 3:18), and in the Acts of the Holy Apostles he is called Barsabas (Acts 15: 22). This was customary at that time.

After the Ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ, Saint Jude traveled about preaching the Gospel. He propagated the faith in Christ at first in Judea, Galilee, Samaria and Idumaia, and later in the lands of Arabia, Syria and Mesopotamia. Finally, he went to the city of Edessa. Here he finished the work that was not completed by his predecessor, Saint Thaddeus, Apostle of the Seventy (August 21). There is a tradition that Saint Jude went to Persia, where he wrote his catholic Epistle in Greek. In the Epistle much profound truth was expressed in a few words.

Saint Jude's Epistle speaks about the Holy Trinity, about the Incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ, about the good and bad angels, and about the dread Last Judgment. The Apostle urges believers to guard themselves against fleshly impurity, to be diligent in prayer, faith and love, to convert the lost to the path of salvation, and to guard themselves from the teachings of heretics. He also says that it is not enough just to be converted to Christianity, but faith must be demonstrated by good works. He cites the rebellious angels and men punished by God (verse 6) to support this.

The Holy Apostle Jude died as a martyr around the year 80 near Mt. Ararat in Armenia, where he was crucified and pierced by arrows.



**Holy Apostle Jude
June 19**



**Holy Martyr Agrippina
June 23**



**Righteous Artemis
June 23**

Holy Martyr Agrippina

June 23

The Holy Martyr Agrippina, was by birth a Roman. She did not wish to enter into marriage, and totally dedicated her life to God. During the time of persecution against Christians under the emperor Valerian (253-259) the saint went before the court and bravely confessed her faith in Christ, for which she was given over to torture. They beat the holy virgin with sticks so severely that her bones broke. Afterwards they put Saint Agrippina in chains, but an angel freed her from her bonds.

The holy confessor died from the tortures she endured. The Christians Bassa, Paula and Agathonike secretly took the body of the holy martyr and transported it to Sicily, where many miracles were worked at her grave. In the eleventh century the relics of the holy Martyr Agrippina were transferred to Constantinople.

Righteous Artemius of Verkola

June 23

Holy Righteous Artemius of Verkola was born in the village of Dvina Verkola around the year 1532. The son of pious parents, Artemius was a child who was courageous, meek and diligent for every good deed. On June 23, 1545 the twelve-year-old Artemius and his father were taken by surprise in a field by a thunderstorm. A clap of thunder broke right over their heads, and the child Artemius fell dead. People thought that this was a sign of God's judgment, therefore they left the body in a pine forest without a funeral, and without burial.

Some years later, the village reader beheld a light over the place where the incorrupt body of the Righteous Artemius lay. Taken to the church of Saint Nicholas in 1577, the holy relics were shown to be a source of numerous healings. In this village a monastery was later built, called the Verkola. In 1918, the impious Soviets chopped the holy relics into pieces and threw them into a well. The memory of Saint Artemius is also celebrated on October 20.

Nativity of the Holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John

June 24

The Nativity of the Holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John: The Gospel (Luke. 1: 5) relates that the righteous parents of Saint John the Baptist, the Priest Zachariah and Elizabeth (September 5), lived in the ancient city of Hebron. They reached old age without having children, since Elizabeth was barren. Once, Saint Zachariah was serving in the Temple at Jerusalem and saw the Archangel Gabriel, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. He predicted that Saint Zachariah would father a son, who would announce the Savior, the Messiah, awaited by the Old Testament Church. Zachariah was troubled, and fear fell upon him. He had doubts that in old age it was possible to have a son, and he asked for a sign. It was given to him, and it was also a chastisement for his unbelief. Zachariah was struck speechless until the time of the fulfillment of the archangel's words.

Saint Elizabeth came to be with child, and fearing derision at being pregnant so late in life, she kept it secret for five months. Then her relative, the Virgin Mary, came to share with her Her own joy. Elizabeth, "filled with the Holy Spirit," was the first to greet the Virgin Mary as the Mother of God. Saint John leaped in his mother's womb at the visit of the Most Holy Virgin Mary and the Son of God incarnate within Her.

Soon Saint Elizabeth gave birth to a son, and all the relatives and acquaintances rejoiced together with her. On the eighth day, in accordance with the Law of Moses, he was circumcised and was called John. Everyone was amazed, since no one in the family had this name. When they asked Saint Zachariah about this, he motioned for a tablet and wrote on it: "His name is John." Immediately his tongue was loosed, and Saint Zachariah glorified God. He also prophesied about the Coming into the world of the Messiah, and of his own son John, the Forerunner of the Lord (Luke. 1: 68-79).

After the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ and the worship of the shepherds and the Magi, wicked king Herod gave orders to kill all male infants. Hearing about this, Saint Elizabeth fled into the wilderness and hid in a cave. Saint Zachariah was at Jerusalem and was doing his priestly service in the Temple. Herod sent soldiers to him to find out the abode of the infant John and his mother. Zachariah answered that their whereabouts were unknown to him, and he was killed right there in the Temple. Righteous Elizabeth continued to live in the wilderness with her son and she died there. The child John, protected by an angel, dwelt in the wilderness until the time when he came preaching repentance, and was accounted worthy to baptize the Lord.

Project Mexico

<https://www.projectmexico.org/>

Home Building

Since 1988, Project Mexico has been building safe, secure and weather-tight homes for some of the most impoverished families in Northern Mexico. Every home is constructed over the course of four days and built entirely with volunteer labor. Once complete, these homes are provided so that these families can build a brighter future for themselves and their children.

St. Innocent Orphanage

St. Innocent Orphanage is located near Rosarito, Mexico on a beautiful 16-acre ranch. St. Innocent Orphanage was founded in 1996, by Greg Yova, to provide a home for orphaned teenage boys. This home surpasses the basic needs of our youngsters and provides them with spiritual direction, a public education enhanced by private tutoring, athletics and extra-curricular activities and most importantly, tremendous amounts of love from all of the staff and volunteers.

The FOrCE Initiative

An initiative of Project Mexico, in collaboration with Hellenic College Holy Cross, The FOrCE introduces the faithful to opportunities in Christian higher education.

The FOrCE (Forming Orthodox Christian Evangelists), offers a comprehensive understanding of the many opportunities available in pursuing vocations in the Church and higher education through the esteemed HCHC graduates, seminarians, and priests. Through this public webinar series, participants will continue their spiritual growth, deepen their faith and gain extensive knowledge of what it means to be true missionaries.

Project Mexico has welcomed Orthodox Christians and Parish groups to Tijuana, Mexico for over thirty-five years to participate in its Homebuilding Program. Over 400 homes have been constructed for unhoused families in need, while actively engaging more than 15,000 believers in works of mercy as interim missionaries.

One of the many fruits of Project Mexico's Homebuilding Program is that it fosters a strong and healthy summer volunteer service season with an established internship program. By bringing young Orthodox faithful to live their faith in service, volunteers and interns selflessly give of their time and summers on behalf of their neighbors. The interns lead volunteers from around the world in homebuilding. Both interns and volunteers mature in all aspects of their personal and spiritual life.

Through our extensive experience, we have identified an aspect of post-service need that yet remains unfulfilled: to provide young Christians the means to continue their spiritual growth and deepen their faith and knowledge of the Church through education in support of a lifetime of service to the Church.

The FOrCE - Hellenic College Holy Cross / Leadership 100 Scholarship Fund

An initiative of Project Mexico, in collaboration with Hellenic College Holy Cross, The FOrCE introduces the faithful to opportunities in Christian higher education and is made possible by the generosity of The Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Fund Incorporated (the "Fund"). The Leadership 100 Fund was established in 1984, for the purpose of seeding and nurturing programs under the National Ministries of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese and those that advance Orthodoxy and Hellenism.

The FOrCE (Forming Orthodox Christian Evangelists), offers a comprehensive understanding of the many opportunities available in pursuing vocations in the Church and higher education through the esteemed HCHC graduates, seminarians, and priests. Through this public webinar series, participants will continue their spiritual growth, deepen their faith and gain extensive knowledge of what it means to be true missionaries.

In order to qualify for the *scholarship, you must fill out the application form and provide answers to the FOrCE Videos. If chosen, you will receive a one-time credit of \$850 to use towards a homebuilding week of your choice.

**Does not include travel reimbursement and is only applicable to the trip fee.*

Scholarship Requirements:

1. Applicants are required to choose at least two (of 6) FOrCE Webinar videos to view
2. Applicants must write responses after completing the webinar based on the questions provided
3. Applicants are prioritized on a first come first serve basis.

As the bountiful harvest of Your sowing of salvation, the lands of North America offer to You, O Lord, all the saints who have shone in them. By their prayers keep the Church and our land in abiding peace through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One.

Troparion of the Synaxis of the Saints of North America

Departments Release “Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs”

The 16-chapter “Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs: A Manual for Adult Instruction,” is now available for free download. A cooperative effort of the Departments of the Orthodox Church in America, the groundbreaking work is an offering to the Church to assist clergy and parishes in their work of instructing inquirers and the faithful in the truths of the Orthodox Christian Faith. This work is not meant to replace time-trusted books and publications which have taught generations but to work in concert with them.

Archpriest Thomas Soroka, Project Manager for the Departments of the OCA, said, “We presented this to His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon several years ago, to bring together interested pastors, teachers, and scholars from across the Orthodox Church America and produce a presentation of the Orthodox Faith that would emphasize developing an Orthodox Christian worldview. Because of the technology available, it would be a living document that could be periodically refined and perfected. With the initial publication of this manual, we will now work to develop supportive media for teachers to present the lessons in an effective way.”

Chancellor of the OCA, Archpriest Alexander Rentel, stated, “We commend this manual for use in our parishes and institutions, and indeed, to all inquirers and Christians who desire to know more about the Orthodox Faith. We are grateful to the authors and contributors to this volume and especially to the donors who generously support the missionary outreach of the Church.”

The PDF file is formatted to be printed easily in 8 1/2' x 11" book format.

The 250-page work can be downloaded for free at oca.org/about/departments.

UPCOMING DIOCESAN & PARISH EVENTS

St Olympia Orthodox Church – Next Parish Council Meeting

7:30 PM Monday, June 19, 2023

Diocesan Council Meeting

Tuesday, July 18, at 11:00 AM

Diocesan Chancery, Bronxville NY

Presbyter’s Council Meeting

Thursday, July 27, at 1:00 PM

Zoom

WEEKDAY VESPERS AT THE HERMITAGE OF ST OLYMPIA

Weekdays at 5 PM

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

or via Facebook: Nun Sophronia Hofstead.

Who is it that so wisely, delicately and beautifully arranges and transforms the ugly, the sightless, formless substance of the earth into flowers? Who gives them their wonderful forms?

Creator, grant that we may salute in the flowers Thy wisdom, Thy goodness, Thine omnipotence.

St. John of Kronstadt