

*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, May 11**  
**Great Vespers: 5pm**  
**Sunday, May 12**  
**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*

## **Saint Thomas Sunday** **May 12**



*From the sealed tomb, You did shine forth O Life! Through closed doors You did come to Your disciples, O Christ God! Renew in us, through them, an upright spirit, by the greatness of Your mercy, O Resurrection of all!*

**Troparion**

*Thomas touched Your life-giving side with an eager hand, O Christ God, when You did come to Your apostles through closed doors. He cried out with all: You are my Lord and my God!*

**Kontakion**

During Bright Week, the services of First, Third, Sixth, and Ninth Hour are the same: the service is glorious, full of rejoicing, and short! The text for the Paschal Hours is included below. Enjoy!

### **The Hours of Pascha**

*(Reader's service changes in italics)*

Priest: Blessed is our God, always now and ever and unto ages of ages. Choir: Amen.

*or: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. [3x]

#### Tone 6

Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ let us worship the Holy Lord Jesus, the only sinless One.

We venerate Thy Cross, O Christ, and we praise and glorify Thy Holy Resurrection.

For Thou art our God, and we know no other than Thee. We call on Thy name.

Come, all you faithful, let us venerate Christ's Holy Resurrection.

For behold through the Cross, joy has come into all the world.

Let us ever bless the Lord, praising His Resurrection.

For by enduring the Cross for us, He has destroyed death by death.

#### Tone 8

Before the dawn Mary and the women came and found the stone rolled away from the tomb.

They heard the angelic voice: Why do you seek among the dead as a man the One who is everlasting light?

Behold the clothes in the grave! Go and proclaim to the world:

The Lord is risen! He has slain death, as He is the Son of God, saving the human race!

Thou descended into the tomb, O immortal, Thou destroyed the power of death.

In victory Thou arose, O Christ God, proclaiming: Rejoice! to the myrrhbearing women, //  
granting peace to Thine apostles, and bestowing Resurrection on the fallen.

In the tomb with the body and in hell with the soul, in paradise with the thief and on the throne with the Father and the Spirit, were Thou, O boundless Christ, filling all things.

#### Glory...

Bearing life and more fruitful than paradise, brighter than any royal chamber://

Thy tomb, O Christ, is the fountain of our Resurrection.

Now and ever...

Rejoice, holy and divine abode of the most high!

For through thee, O Theotokos, joy is given to those who cry://

Blessed art thou among women, O all undefiled Lady!

Lord have mercy [12x]

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

More honorable than the cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim.

Thou who without stain bearest God, the Word, and art truly Theotokos, we magnify thee !

[In the name of the Lord, Father, bless. [or *Lord, bless*] *Priest:* Through the prayers... R. Amen

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! [3x]

Lord have mercy. [3x]

Father, bless. *Priest:* May Christ, who is risen from; the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life, have mercy on us for he is good and loves mankind... Amen.

*or Lord, bless. Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers and Mothers, have mercy on us and save us.*

And unto us He has given eternal life.

Let us worship His Resurrection on the third day!

**Post-Easter Sundays**  
**Saint Thomas Sunday: Antipascha**  
**From *The Orthodox Faith - Volume II: Worship***  
**By Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko**

Every day during the week of Easter, called Bright Week by the Church, the paschal services are celebrated in all their splendor. The Easter baptismal procession is repeated daily. The royal gates of the sanctuary remain open. The joy of the Resurrection and the gift of the Kingdom of eternal life continue to abound. Then, at the end of the week, on Saturday evening, the second Sunday after Easter is celebrated in remembrance of the appearance of Christ to the Apostle Thomas “after eight days” (John 20.26).

It is important to note that the number eight has symbolical significance in both Jewish and Christian spiritual tradition. It signifies more than completion and fullness; it signifies the Kingdom of God and the life of the world to come since seven is the number of earthly time. The Sabbath, the seventh day, is the blessed day of rest in this world, the final day of the week. The “first day of the week,” the day “after Sabbath”; stressed in all of the gospels as the day of Christ’s Resurrection (Mark 16.1, Matthew 28.1, Luke 24.1, John 20.1, 19), is therefore also “the eighth day,” the day beyond the confines of this world, the day which stands for the life of the world to come, the day of the eternal rest of the Kingdom of God (see Hebrews 4).

The Sunday after Easter, called the Second Sunday, is thus the eighth day of the paschal celebration, the last day of Bright Week. It is therefore called the Antipascha, and it was only on this day in the early church that the newly-baptized Christians removed their robes and entered once again into the life of this world.

In the Church services the stress is on the Apostle Thomas’ vision of Christ and the significance of the day comes to us in the words of the gospel:

*Then He said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side; do not be faithless, but believing.” Thomas answered Him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe”*

*(John 20.27–29)*

We have not seen Christ with our physical eyes nor touched His risen body with our physical hands, yet in the Holy Spirit we have seen and touched and tasted the Word of Life (1 John 1.1–4), and so we believe.

At each of the daily services until Ascension Day we sing the Easter Troparion. At each of the Sunday services beginning with Antipascha, we sing the Easter canon and hymns, and repeat the celebration of the “first day of the week” on which Christ rose from the dead. At all of the liturgies the epistle readings are taken from the Book of Acts telling us of the first Christians who lived in communion with the Risen Lord. All of the gospel readings are taken from the Gospel of Saint John, considered by many to be a gospel written particularly for those who are newly-baptized into the new life of the Kingdom of God through death and new birth in Christ, in the name of the Holy Trinity. The reason for this opinion is that all of the “signs”—as the miracles in Saint John’s Gospel are called—deal with sacramental themes involving water: wine and bread. Thus, each of the Sundays after Thomas Sunday with the exception of the third, is dedicated to the memory of one of these “signs.”

**Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian**  
**May 8, September 26**

*O beloved Apostle of Christ our God,  
come quickly to deliver your helpless people.  
He on whose breast you leaned,  
will accept you as intercessor.  
Entreat Him, O Theologian,  
to disperse the clouds of darkness,  
granting us peace and great mercy!*

**Troparion**



## **PARISH CURRENT NEEDS!** *Holy Mother Olympia, Pray to God for us!*

### **Protecting our stained-glass windows!**

Our newly-revealed 12-foot tall 19<sup>th</sup> century stained-glass windows need protection. Please consider sponsoring a Plexiglas storm window for \$700 installed or donating what you can toward this project in support. We have four stunning windows that we would like to cover before they get vandalized and six additional ones that we'd like to winterize.

### **Providing area rugs for our sanctuary and altar area!**

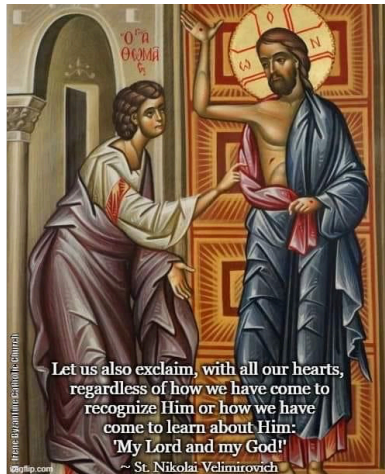
We are also in need of sponsors for carpets. Now that the moldy, hole-y 1970s carpet has been ripped out and the floor refinished, we need some area rugs. We've ordered four thick oriental-style wool rugs at a tremendous discount. Two 9'6" x 13'6" rugs are already covered and two need "adoption" at \$575. Also a 4'6" x 6'6" oval (\$128), a 2' x 3' rug for before the altar. (\$30) and a 2' x 12' non-slip rug pad (\$42.50).

You may donate directly at [saintolympiaorthodoxchurch.org](http://saintolympiaorthodoxchurch.org) ) or if you would like more information, please contact Jessica Suchy-Pilalis.

## **UPCOMING DIOCESAN & PARISH EVENTS**

### **Parish Council Meeting**

Monday, March 13, 7:30 PM via Google Meet



**Let us consider, brethren, how far Mary Magdalene was from the dignity of Peter, the leader of the apostles, and John, Christ's beloved theologian, and yet at that time she was counted worthy to experience much greater things than they did.**

**When they ran to the tomb, they saw only the linen cloths and the napkin, whereas she, by reason of the determined and patient endurance with which she remained to the end standing at the door of the cave, saw not just the angels but also the Lord of the angels risen from the dead in the flesh, before the apostles saw Him. She heard Him with her own ears and became a minister of the commandments from His divine mouth.**

**This temple (the church building) is a figure of that cave... Anyone who is determined to hasten to that truly divine cave that holds God, stand there and remain to the end, gathering his thoughts and lifting them up to God, will not only recognize the words of divinely inspired Scripture proclaiming, like angels, the divinity and humanity of the Word man for our sake, he will also certainly see the Lord with the eyes of his mind and, we can say, without exaggeration, his bodily eyes.**

**For if anyone looks with faith at the mystical table and bread of life placed upon it, he sees the person of the Word of God.**

**Saint Gregory Palamas**

***Glory to God for our Archbishop, our clergy, our parish and our church building!!!***