

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

*Our priest is Fr. Paul Fedoroff, Priest-in-Charge.
You may reach him at priestpaulfedoroff@gmail.com or 518-573-7987 (cell)*

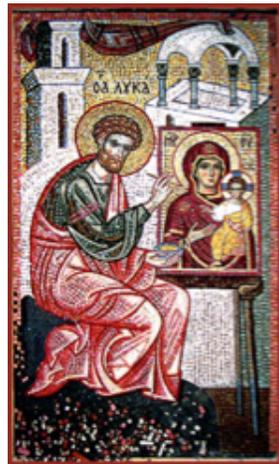
*Please join us for prayer and fellowship.***

*** After meeting with
Archbishop Michael, we
are revising our Covid
plan to accommodate as
many people as would be
safe for services. It is
helpful to know who is
planning to come. Please
contact Peggy Wheeler,
315-322-8425. ***

Upcoming Services:
Sunday, October 11, 18
Matins: 8:45am on 10/11
Divine Liturgy: 10am
Saturday, October 10,17
Vespers: 5pm

**Welcome to Father Paul
and his family! **Social
Distancing guidelines
must be observed.**

*The above services are at
St. Olympia Chapel
123 Main Street
Potsdam. NY. 13676*



**Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke
October 18**

*Let us praise with sacred songs the holy Apostle Luke,
the recorder of the joyous Gospel of Christ
and the scribe of the Acts of the Apostles,
for his writings are a testimony of the Church of Christ:
He is the physician of human weaknesses and infirmities.
He heals the wounds of our souls,
and constantly intercedes for our salvation!*

**Holy Martyr Longinus the Centurion
October 16**

*Longinus, you beheld the King of Glory
who was nailed to the Cross,
yet shone on those in darkness.
You were enlightened by His rays
and became a martyr and save those who cry:
Glory to Him who gave you strength!
Glory to Him who granted you a crown!
Glory to Him who through you grants healing to all!*



Check out the article about St Olympia Orthodox Mission in the latest issue of Koinonia:
https://www.nynjoca.org/news_200909_1

The **Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke**, was a native of Syrian Antioch, a companion of the holy Apostle Paul (Phil.1:24, 2 Tim. 4:10-11), and a physician enlightened in the Greek medical arts. Hearing about Christ, Luke arrived in Palestine and fervently accepted the preaching of salvation from the Lord Himself. As one of the Seventy Apostles, Saint Luke was sent by the Lord to preach the Kingdom of Heaven during the Savior's earthly life (Luke 10:1-3). After the Resurrection, the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to Saints Luke and Cleopas on the road to Emmaus.

Luke accompanied Saint Paul on his second missionary journey, and from that time they were inseparable. When Paul's coworkers had forsaken him, only Luke remained to assist him in his ministry (2 Tim. 4:10-11). After the martyrlic death of the First-Ranked Apostles Peter and Paul, Saint Luke left Rome to preach in Achaia, Libya, Egypt and the Thebaid. He ended his life by suffering martyrdom in the city of Thebes.

Tradition credits Saint Luke with painting the first icons of the Mother of God. "Let the grace of Him Who was born of Me and My mercy be with these Icons," said the All-Pure Virgin after seeing the icons. Saint Luke also painted icons of the First-Ranked Apostles Peter and Paul. Saint Luke's Gospel was written in the years 62-63 at Rome, under the guidance of the Apostle Paul. In the preliminary verses (1:1-3), Saint Luke precisely sets forth the purpose of his work. He proposes to record, in chronological order, everything known by Christians about Jesus Christ and His teachings. By doing this, he provided a firmer historical basis for Christian teaching (1:4). He carefully investigated the facts, and made generous use of the oral tradition of the Church and of what the All-Pure Virgin Mary Herself had told him (2:19, 51). In Saint Luke's Gospel, the message of the salvation made possible by the Lord Jesus Christ, and the preaching of the Gospel, are of primary importance.

Saint Luke also wrote the Acts of the Holy Apostles at Rome around 62-63 A.D. The Book of Acts, which is a continuation of the four Gospels, speaks about the works and the fruits of the holy Apostles after the Ascension of the Savior. At the center of the narrative is the Council of the holy Apostles at Jerusalem in the year 51, a Church event of great significance, which resulted in the separation of Christianity from Judaism and its independent dissemination into the world (Acts 15:6-29). The theological focus of the Book of Acts is the coming of the Holy Spirit, Who will guide the Church "into all truth" (John 16:13) until the Second Coming of Christ.

The **Holy Martyr Longinus the Centurion**, a Roman soldier, served in Judea under Pontius Pilate. When our Savior Jesus Christ was crucified, it was the detachment of soldiers under Longinus which stood watch on Golgotha, at the very foot of the holy Cross. They were eyewitnesses of the final moments of the earthly life of the Lord, and of the great and awesome portents that appeared at His death. These events shook the centurion's soul. Longinus believed in Christ and confessed before everyone, "Truly this was the Son of God" (Mt. 27:54). According to Church Tradition, Longinus was the soldier who pierced the side of the Crucified Savior with a spear, and received healing from an eye affliction when blood and water poured forth from the wound.

After the Crucifixion and Burial of the Savior, Longinus stood watch with his company at the Sepulchre of the Lord. They were present at the All-Radiant Resurrection of Christ. The Jews bribed them to lie and say that His disciples had stolen away the Body of Christ, but Longinus and two of his comrades refused to be seduced by the Jewish gold. They also refused to remain silent about the miracle of the Resurrection. The soldiers received Baptism from the apostles and decided to leave military service. Saint Longinus and his comrades left Judea to preach about Jesus Christ the Son of God in his native land (Cappadocia). The fiery words of those who had actually participated in the great events in Judea persuaded the Cappadocians; Christianity began quickly to spread throughout the area. When they learned of this, the Jewish elders persuaded Pilate to send soldiers there to kill Longinus and his comrades. When the soldiers arrived, the Longinus himself came out to meet the soldiers and took them to his home. After a meal, the soldiers revealed the purpose of their visit, not knowing that Longinus was the very man they were seeking. Then Longinus and his friends identified themselves and told the startled soldiers to carry out their duty. The soldiers wanted to let the saints go, but they refused, showing their firm intention to suffer for Christ. The holy martyrs were beheaded, and their bodies buried there. The head of Saint Longinus, however, was sent to Pilate. He gave orders to cast the martyr's head on a trash-heap outside the city.

After a while a blind widow from Cappadocia arrived in Jerusalem with her son to pray at the holy places, and to ask that her sight be restored. Her son became ill and died. Saint Longinus appeared to her in a dream telling her that she would see her son and receive her sight. He told her to go outside the city walls where she would find his head in a pile of refuse. There, she began to dig with her hands. As she touched the martyr's head, the woman received her sight and glorified God. The next night, Saint Longinus appeared, this time with her son. They were surrounded by a bright light, and Saint Longinus said, "Woman, behold the son for whom you grieve. See what glory and honor are his now, and be consoled. God has numbered him with those in His heavenly Kingdom. Now take my head and your son's body, and bury them in the same casket. Do not weep for your son, for he will rejoice forever in great glory and happiness." She had sought healing for her eyes, and also received healing of her soul.

Excerpted and edited from the OCA website