



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

*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.***

**** With the new order from NY State, we are restricted to ten (10) people per service. We need to know who is planning to come. Please contact Peggy Wheeler, 315-322-8425. ****

**Upcoming Services: Sunday,
November 15, 21, 22
Matins: 8:45am 11/15
Hours: 9:40am 11/22
Divine Liturgy: 10am
Saturday, November 14, 21
Vespers: 5pm**

**Confessions: Saturday after
Vespers, Sunday before
Liturgy, otherwise by
appointment.**

**Coffee after Liturgy! **Social
Distancing guidelines must
be observed.**

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

New COVID guidelines!

The Governor's announcement this week concerning meetings of no more than ten (10) people in private homes affects our worship services. Father Paul consulted with Archbishop Michael as well as our Dean, Father Alexey to determine how to implement this directive.

To make sure we comply with the order, for the time being, **everyone will need to sign up ahead of time for each worship service.** Please call, text or email Peggy Wheeler to do this.

The Nativity Fast Begins on November 15

See the homily excerpt by Archbishop Dimitri on the next page



**The Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos
Saturday, November 21
Liturgy, 10 AM**

The Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos

The Reading from 3 Kingdoms (1 Kings): [1 Kings 8:1, 3-7, 9-11]

And it came to pass when Solomon had finished building the House of the Lord; he assembled all the elders of Israel in Zion, to bring the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord out of the City of David, which is Zion. And the priests took up the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord, the Tabernacle of the Testimony, and all the holy vessels that were in the Tabernacle of the Testimony. And the King and all Israel went before the Ark. And the priests brought the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord to its place, into the Oracle of the Temple, into the Holy of Holies, under the wings of the cherubim. For the cherubim spread out their wings over the place of the Ark so that the cherubim made a covering above the Ark and its holy things above. There was nothing in the Ark except the two tablets of the Covenant which Moses put there at Horeb, when the Lord had made a Covenant. And when the priests came out from the holy place, a cloud filled the house. And the priests were unable to stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord God Almighty filled the house.

From the Fathers:

Hail, the new ark of glory in which the Spirit of God came down and rested. Ark in which He who was holy in nature miraculously constructed for Himself the sanctuary of new-found glory in the virginal workshop of nature, for the sake of His Incarnation...For God blessed you as His tabernacle when you incomprehensibly conceived in your womb a man filled with His Father's ancestral glory, Jesus Christ, who was also God Himself.

On the Annunciation by St. Andrew of Crete

From the Hymnology:

The prophets proclaimed thee in ages past, speaking of thee as ark of holiness, golden censer, candlestick, and table; and we sing thy praises as the Tabernacle that held God. Troparion at Matins Ode 3 Second Canon

The all-pure Temple of the Saviour, the precious Bridal Chamber and Virgin, the sacred treasure of the glory of God, is led today into the house of the Lord, and with her she brings the grace of the divine Spirit. Of her, God's angels sing in praise: She is indeed the heavenly Tabernacle. Kontakion for the Feast

Preparing for Christ's Nativity: The Virgin Mary in Prophecy and Christian Tradition by Archbishop Dmitri of blessed memory

On November 15, the Church enters the period of the Christian year known as the Nativity Fast (Advent). For forty days our attention will be directed toward the Nativity of Christ, both in the proper parts of the services and in the scriptural readings.

As part of the lenten effort several days in December are dedicated to the memory of Old Testament prophets, persons with an extraordinary call to proclaim God's will and announce beforehand the Savior's coming into the world. In addition, on the two Sundays preceding Christmas the entire assembly of Old Covenant prophets are among those many people commemorated who prepared the way for Christ's advent.

Of particular significance is the feast day which occurs in the midst of the Fast, on November 21: The Presentation (or Entrance) of the Theotokos into the Temple. According to Tradition as old as the Church itself, the parents of the Theotokos were Joachim and Anna. Being elderly and having no children, they prayed that God would grant them a child, even in their old age. God answered their prayer by giving to them a daughter. Everything surrounding her birth and infancy was extraordinary. First, her birth was announced by an angel. Second, she was born of a very old and barren mother. Third, when according to custom she was presented in the temple forty days after her birth, the priest Zacharias, father of the Forerunner John the Baptist, received her with unusual joy, taking her into the Holy of Holies, a place reserved only for the priest to enter once a year. Finally, from an early age until her betrothal, the blessed handmaiden was raised in the temple. Her being brought to the temple at the age of three, escorted by young girls carrying candles or lamps in their hands, constitutes the fundamental event commemorated on November 21.

Full homily at

<https://www.oca.org/reflections/misc-authors/preparing-for-christs-nativity-the-virgin-mary-in-prophecy-and-christian-tr>