



ST OLYMPIA ORTHODOX CHURCH

POTSDAM, NEW YORK 13676

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

DIOCESE OF NY AND NJ



*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.***

Upcoming Services:
At the Norwood Church
March 14, 21
Hours: 9:10am
Divine Liturgy: 9:30am
March 13, 20
Vespers: 5pm

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

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

St. Olympia Orthodox Church
34 North Main Street
Norwood, NY, 13668

Mailing Address:
St. Olympia Orthodox Church
PO Box 122
Canton, NY 13617

Expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden Forgiveness Sunday



Daylight Saving Time begins this Sunday, March 14!

Weekday Services during Great Lent
6 PM every Wednesday

Reader's Vespers
March 17, 24, 31, April 14

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
April 7 with Father Paul
April 21 with Vladyka Michael

Expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden Forgiveness Sunday

As we begin the Great Fast, the Church reminds us of Adam's expulsion from Paradise. God commanded Adam to fast (Gen. 2:16), but he did not obey. Because of their disobedience, Adam and Eve were cast out of Eden and lost the life of blessedness, knowledge of God, and communion with Him, for which they were created. Both they and their descendants became heirs of death and corruption.

Let us consider the benefits of fasting, the consequences of disobedience, and recall our fallen state. Today we are invited to cleanse ourselves of evil through fasting and obedience to God. Our fasting should not be a negative thing, a mere abstention from certain foods. It is an opportunity to free ourselves from the sinful desires and urges of our fallen nature, and to nourish our souls with prayer, repentance, to participate in church services, and partake of the life-giving Mysteries of Christ. At Forgiveness Vespers we sing: "Let us begin the time of fasting in light, preparing ourselves for spiritual efforts. Let us purify our soul, let us purify our body. As we abstain from food, let us abstain from all passion and enjoy the virtues of the spirit...."

Vespers, Lord I Call, Stikhera

*The Lord took a handful of dust from the earth.
He breathed into it and created me, a living man.
He made me lord and master of all things on earth;
truly I enjoyed the life of the angels.
But Satan the deceiver tempted me in the guise of a serpent;
I ate the forbidden fruit and forfeited the glory of God.
Now I have been delivered to the earth through death.
O my compassionate Lord, call me back to Eden!*

*When the Enemy tempted me,
I disobeyed Your command, O Lord.
I exchanged the glory of my mortal body for shame and nakedness.
Now I must wear garments of skins and fig-leaves;
I am condemned to eat the bread of bitter hardship by the sweat of my brow.
The earth is cursed and brings forth thorns and husks for me.
O Lord, You took on flesh from the Virgin in the fullness of time;
call me back and restore me to Eden!*

*O Paradise, garden of delight and beauty,
dwelling-place made perfect by God,
unending gladness and eternal joy,
the hope of the prophets and the home of the saints,
by the music of your rustling leaves beseech the Creator of all
to open the gates which my sins have closed,
that I may partake of the Tree of Life and Grace
which was given to me in the beginning!*

*Adam was exiled from Paradise through disobedience;
he was driven from eternal bliss, deceived by the words of Eve;
he sat naked and weeping before the gates of Paradise.
Let us hasten to enter the season of fasting;
let us carefully obey the Gospel commands,
that we may be made acceptable to Christ our God,
and regain our home in Eden!*