



Main Church *Iconography*

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

TOGETHER, LET US ADORN OUR PARISH

Sponsor an Icon today!



St. Olympia the Deaconess

July 25



Saint Olympia the Deaconess lived in Constantinople. Her father was the senator Anicius Secundus and through her mother, Alexandra, she was the granddaughter of the noted eparch Eulalios. Inheriting great wealth after the death of her parents, Olympia distributed it to the poor, needy, orphaned and widowed. She was appointed a deaconess by the holy Patriarch Nectarius, and provided great assistance to the hierarchs of Constantinople. She was especially close to St. John Chrysostom. When the hierarch was unjustly banished, Olympia and the other deaconesses were deeply upset. Her generosity also greatly benefited Patriarch Theophilus of Alexandria. He, however, turned against her for her devotion to St. John Chrysostom. He began to make unjust accusations against her to cast doubt on her holy life.

After the repose of St. John Chrysostom in 407, Olympia passed away in exile somewhere in Nicomedia in 408. Shortly before her death, she gave instructions that she wanted her remains to be placed in a coffin and tossed into the sea, leaving her final resting place to divine providence.

As requested, the coffin was tossed into the sea and was brought by the waves to a place named Brokthoi, a suburban shore near Constantinople. The inhabitants, informed of this by God, took the holy relics of Olympia and placed them in the monastery and church of the Holy Apostle Thomas.

Apolytikion: Most Holy Olympia, counselor to patriarchs, deaconess and friend of the divine Chrysostom, you are like a tower, a haven, and a wall of defense, as you speak to all in the eloquent voice of your example. You are rich in the fruits of courage, patience and serenity, with the force of virtue as your rudder. You are a patron of the poor and a defender of the faith. Through the power of your philosophic soul, intercede with Christ, our God, to save our souls.