

**Week of
March 12th
2017**

You can reach Fr. Luke at
frlukacs@gmail.com
or at
(613) 925-3004

Please leave a clear
message and include your
phone number

Next Divine Liturgy

**March 19th
Sunday of the Cross
10:00 am**

**Lenten lunch
and fellowship
to follow**

**Divine Liturgy
of the Presanctified
Gifts
and
Pastoral Visit
of Archbishop Michael**

**Wednesday,
March 22nd
7:00 pm**

**Both services at
St. Olympia Chapel
123 Main Street
Potsdam, NY**

Opportunities to Give:

This Sunday, there will be a special collection taken for our local food pantry. As always, the prayer and fasting of Great Lent must be accompanied by caring for those in need. Please be generous.

Our church would like the following items for Holy Week and Pascha. If you would like to contribute, please contact suchyjr@potsdam.edu

**Palm buds for Palm Sunday
Flowers for
Sunday of the Cross
Holy Friday
Pascha**

The C.O.R.C. Store in Potsdam (our local equivalent of Good Will) is in need of housewares (dishes, pots, pans, etc.), CDs, DVDs, toasters, coffee makers, toys, books, & games. Any questions or more information, call the store at 315-265-3940.

The store is having an "End of Season" sale on Friday, March 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All winter clothing and shoes are \$.25 each (the building is too small to keep items from season to season).

Spring and Summer clothing will be out on Saturday, March 25.

Our sincere thanks to Wayne Brown, Sr. for his expert and artistic repair of our tabernacle.

Our gratitude to an anonymous benefactor for donating a full case of Communion wine.

**Lenten Prayer
of St. Ephraim the Syrian**

**O Lord
and Master of my life,
take from me
the spirit of slothfulness,
faint-heartedness,
lust for power
and idle talk.**

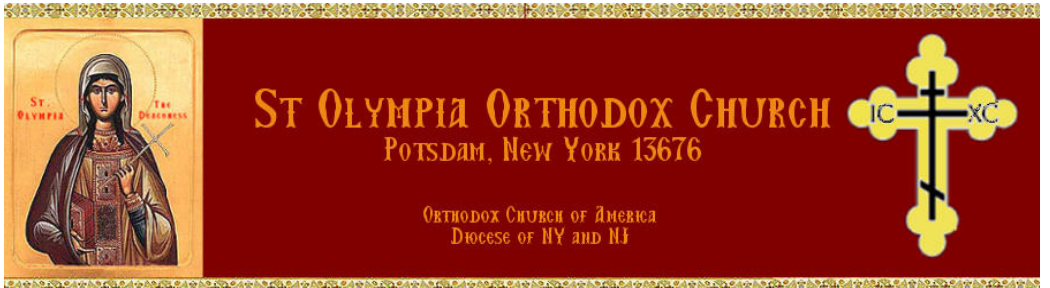
**But give rather the spirit of
chastity,
humility,
patience
and love
to your servant.**

**Yea, O Lord and King,
grant me to see my own errors
and not to judge my brother,
for Thou art blessed
unto ages of ages.**

Amen.



Marianthi Stakos fries up a heaping load of lenten loukomades (Greek honey puffs) for the ecstatic pleasure of parishioners this past Sunday. Honey from Greg and Debs Kalicin's Harmony Farms, of course!



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

Join us for prayer and fellowship. Divine Liturgies are held every Sunday and are primarily in English.

Visit us on Facebook or www.saintolympiaorthodoxchurch.org

The Third Sunday of Great Lent - Sunday of the Cross

Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of Eden; it has been mysteriously quenched by the wood of the Cross. The sting of death and the victory of hell have been vanquished; for You, O my Savior, have come and cried to those in hell: "Enter again into Paradise."

(Kontakion of the Cross)

These powerful words stand alongside of the icon of Christ's descent in Hades to depict an image of an event which transcends human history. Adam and Eve are being raised up by the Lord, who is "clothed with light as with a garment" while representatives of the righteous who awaited this event look on. Angels stand above the scene holding the Cross, a reminder of the crucifixion. Beneath Christ is a dark chasm representing hell the doors of which He stands upon. They are broken. Now all things are filled with light.

On this Sunday and throughout all of the following week we will venerate the precious and life giving Cross, placed in the nave of the church and decorated with flowers and greens. We will hopefully experience joy, refreshment and renewed resolve in our Lenten struggles as we chant the ancient hymns of supplication and praise while we bow down in worship before it. It is the invincible weapon of peace through which we are being freed through fasting, prayer and generous self-giving from the dead-end of egotism and self gratification.

"Come, O Adam and Eve, our first father and mother, you fell from divine glory through the envy of the murderer of man! Bitter was the pleasure of the Tree of old; but see, the honored Tree of the Cross draws near!



In icons of the crucifixion we see this detail below the Cross upon which the Lord died on Golgotha (place of the skull), so named as it was thought to be the resting place of Adam, the first man to experience death. The Blood of Christ, the second Adam, falls into the dark cavern onto the skull to restore the first Adam (and all of his descendants) to life.

"Run with haste and embrace it [the Cross] in joy crying out with faith: You are our help, O most precious Cross! We eat of your fruit and gain incorruption! We are restored again to Eden, having received great mercy!" (Vespers of Third Sunday of Lent)

--Mother Sophronia



▲
Skull of Adam

Save the Dates

Archbishop Michael's next visits to Potsdam will be:

Saturday-Sunday,
September 9-10, 2017