

**Week of  
April 16th  
2017**

You can reach Fr. Luke at  
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or at  
(613) 925-3004

Please leave a clear  
message and include your  
phone number

### Next Divine Liturgies

**April 21st  
Friday  
10:00 am  
The Life-Giving Fountain**

**April 23rd  
Sunday  
10:00 am  
Sunday of Thomas**

**All welcome!**

**St. Olympia Chapel  
123 Main Street  
Potsdam, NY**

**Pascha at  
St. Olympia Orthodox  
Church**

Many people contributed time and energy to make Holy Week and Pascha a blessed time. We thank Fr. Luke for leading us spiritually. We are grateful for those who served in the altar, those who chanted and sang, those who decorated, cleaned, organized, cooked...and all who came in faith and love to pray in this holy temple.

We also thank Trinity Episcopal Church for allowing us to use their temple and parish hall for Agape Vespers and our Pascha feast. This year, we had a record number of people by the grace of God!



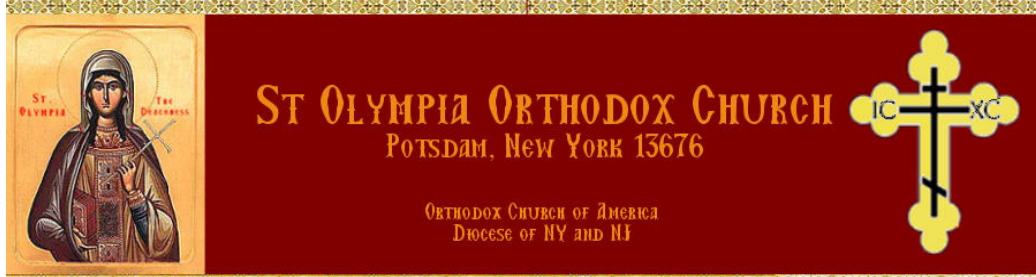
### **Planning Ahead**

Archbishop Michael's next visits to Potsdam will be:

**Saturday-Sunday,  
September 9-10, 2017**

### **Yard Sale**

Our parish is planning a yard sale inspired by items donated by Mother Sophronia. The sale will benefit our building fund. Please keep this in mind as you begin spring cleaning so that we can grow the sale with your items.



*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](http://www.saintolympiaorthodoxchurch.org)*

## **Christ is risen!**

As we celebrate Bright Week, may the triumphant hymns chanted at the Matins Service of Pascha continue to ring in our ears and gladden our hearts:

*This is the day of resurrection.  
Let us be illumined, O People.  
Pascha, the Pascha of the Lord.  
For from death to life and from earth to heaven  
has Christ God led us,  
as we sing the song of victory.*

The word "Pascha" is Greek for the Hebrew word "Pesach" which means Passover. In Hebrew tradition, it was said that the Messiah would come during the Passover, as indeed, He did. But Christ came to perfect, fulfill, supersede the Passover. He becomes the new temple: His risen body is the new temple of the new Jerusalem, the Church. He is the paschal victim, the lamb. He institutes the ultimate Paschal meal, the Eucharist, by which we, as the Church, already partake of the Kingdom while still on earth; He leads a new exodus, opening the way from death to life in Kingdom of the Father (c.f. John 13:1)

*Let us purify our senses and we shall see Christ  
shining in the unapproachable light of His resurrection.  
We shall clearly hear him say: Rejoice,  
as we sing to song of victory.*

Pascha is the fulfillment of our Lenten journey. We have prayed and fasted, resisted temptation and fought with our passions, all this with the aim of "purifying our senses," all this with the desire and hope to become more Christ-like.

*Now all is filled with light:  
heaven and earth and the lower regions.  
Let all creation celebrate the coming of Christ.  
In Him we are established.*

The quintessential icon of the Resurrection is also known as the Harrowing of Hell. In this icon, Hades is destroyed. Christ is shown standing victorious on the shattered gates of Hades (unmistakably crossed in reference to the Cross) pulling up Adam, Eve and all mankind already in Sheol, from the "lower regions."



*The souls bound the the chains of hell, O Christ,  
seeing Your compassion without measure,  
pressed onward to the light with joyful steps,  
praising the eternal Pascha.*

As shown in the icon above, it is now Hades who is taken captive and death that has been vanquished. While it is Christ, the God-Man, that is resurrected, it is in Trinity that we are being saved.

*Father Almighty, Word and Spirit,  
one nature in three persons,  
surpassing essence and divinity.  
In You have we been baptized,  
and You we bless forevermore.*

The above verses have been selected from the Canon of Pascha which is chanted at matins. At the end of each of the eight odes that comprise this Canon, as well as in other parts of the matins service and in every other service from now until the Ascension, the following hymn is sung:

*Christ is risen from the dead,  
trampling down death by death  
and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.*