

Week of April 2nd 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 Liturgy

April 9th
Palm Sunday
10:00 am

Lenten lunch
(fish and olive oil permitted)
and fellowship to follow

All welcome!

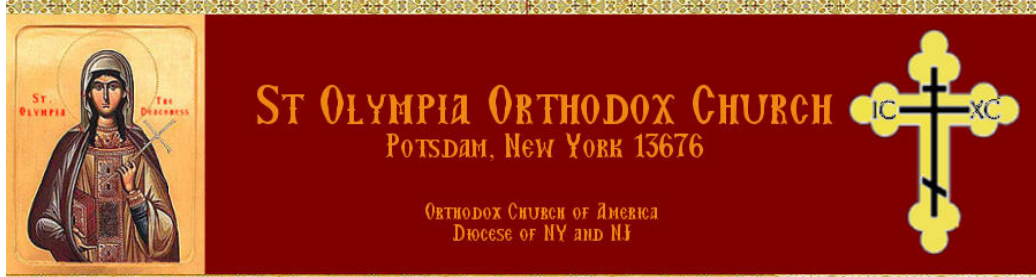
St. Olympia Chapel
123 Main Street
Potsdam, NY

Repentance is the renewal of baptism and is a contract with God for a fresh start in life.

Where there is real humility, all bonds are made free.

The tears that come after baptism are greater than baptism itself, though it may seem rash to say so. Baptism washes off those evils that were previously within us, whereas the sins committed after baptism are washed away by tears.

--St. John of the Ladder



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

Holy Week and Pascha Services – 2017

All services are at St. Olympia Chapel, 123 Main St., Potsdam, NY,
EXCEPT Vespers of Love/Parish Feast which will be held at Trinity Episcopal Church, Fall Island, Potsdam

Palm Sunday	April 9 th	10:00 am	Divine Liturgy/Литургия/Λειτουργία
Palm Sunday	April 9 th	7:00 pm	Service of the Bridegroom/ ΝΥΜΦΙΟΣ/ Литургия
Holy Monday	April 10 th	7:00 pm	Преждеосвященных Даров
Holy Tuesday	April 11 th	7:00 pm	
Holy Wednesday	April 12 th	7:00 pm	
Holy Thursday	April 13 th	10:00 am	Liturgy of the Last Supper/ Великий Четверг. Воспоминание Тайной Вечери/ ΕΣΠΕΡΙΝΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΘΕΙΑ ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΕΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΥ
		7:00 pm	The Passion - Twelve Gospels/ Последование Страстей Господних -12 фрагментов из Евангелий/ Η ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΕΙΑ ΤΩΝ ΑΓΙΩΝ ΠΑΘΩΝ - ΔΩΔΕΚΑ ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΑ
Holy (Good) Friday	April 14 th	2:00 pm	Taking Christ's body down from the Cross/ Η ΑΠΟΚΑΘΛΩΣΙΣ /Снятие с креста (Вынос Плащаницы)
		7:00 pm	Lamentations/ Плач о погребении/ Ο ΕΠΙΤΑΦΙΟΣ ΘΡΗΝΟΣ
Holy Saturday	April 15 th	11:00 am	Liturgy of St. Basil (Descent into Hades – Proto-Resurrection)/ Литургия (хождение в Ад)/ ΕΣΠΕΡΙΝΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΘΕΙΑ ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΕΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΥ
Holy Saturday/ Pascha	April 15 th – 16 th	11:00 pm	Vigil with Matins and Divine Liturgy of the Resurrection at midnight followed by blessing of the baskets/breaking the fast/ ΟΡΘΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΕΩΣ/ Η ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΙΣ ΚΑΙ ΘΕΙΑ ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΕΙΑ/ Светлая Пасхальная Заутреня и Пасхальная Литургия (в полночь), за которыми следуют освящение пасхальной пищи и окончание Великого Поста
Pascha	April 16 th	2 pm	Vespers of Love/ Ο ΕΣΠΕΡΙΝΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΑΓΑΠΗΣ/ Великая Вечерня первого дня Пасхи

Parish feast follows the service

NOTE: both will be at Trinity Episcopal Church on Fall Island, Potsdam.

Fr Luke will be in Potsdam from Saturday of Lazarus, April 8th until Pascha and is available to hear confessions during the day.

He will also give Holy Unction/ ΕΥΧΕΛΑΙΟΝ/ Соборование(Елеосвящение) and will anoint people in Potsdam after services by request.

Movie review – Bitter Harvest directed by George Mendeluk

This new film release is about the 1932-1933 *Holodomor* (“death by hunger”), that is recognized by a number of countries as one of the world’s genocides. In addition to the cruel starvation of Ukrainians during the Stalinist regime there were also the usual executions and forced labor of priests, land owners and the intelligentsia that happened throughout the Soviet Union.

To convey the horrors of *Holodomor* the movie uses fictional characters from a rural *kulak* (peasant farmer) village. One theme that may not be fully understood by many who watch this film is the importance of the icon of the village’s patron saint, referred to in a familiarized form as St. Yuri. Yuri is the nickname for the Slavic version of Georgios, George in English. St. George followed his father’s footsteps in a military career and rose through the ranks to become a count in the personal guard of Emperor Diocletian (late 3rd century). The icon of St. George takes on a special significance as the “soul” of the village, especially since the village patriarch is also a warrior—an early battle scene shows him wielding a sword on horseback that cannot but remind an Orthodox of the icon—and the torture, imprisonment and death of the patriarch by the soul-less political commissar (who also executes the village priest) recalls the martyrdom of St. George during the Christian purges of Diocletian.

The movie also captures the disillusionment of the Ukrainian youth with Stalin’s Soviet communist regime and the violent suppression of any remaining idealistic debate about politics, the arts, or ethnic identity. It starkly portrays Stalin’s failed policies at “agricultural reform,” the violent farm collectivization in the “bread basket” of Europe, and the intentional use of hunger as a weapon (e.g., not surprisingly the U.S.S.R. was a major importer of American and Canadian grain during the Cold War).

In 2003 at the United Nations, 25 countries including Russia, Ukraine and United States signed a joint statement on the seventieth anniversary of the *Holodomor*:

In the former Soviet Union millions of men, women and children fell victims to the cruel actions and policies of the totalitarian regime. The Great Famine of 1932–1933 in Ukraine (Holodomor), took from 7 million to 10 million innocent lives and became a national tragedy for the Ukrainian people. In this regard we note activities in observance of the seventieth anniversary of this Famine, in particular organized by the Government of Ukraine.

Honouring the seventieth anniversary of the Ukrainian tragedy, we also commemorate the memory of millions of Russians, Kazakhs and representatives of other nationalities who died of starvation in the Volga River region, Northern Caucasus, Kazakhstan and in other parts of the former Soviet Union, as a result of civil war and forced collectivisation, leaving deep scars in the consciousness of future generations.

New to our library:

Thirty Steps to Heaven: The Ladder of Divine Ascent for All Walks of Life by Vassilios Papavassiliou. From the back cover:

Many laypeople have attempted to read the great spiritual classic, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*, but have been frustrated in attempting to apply the lessons of this monastic text to their everyday lives in the world. Archimandrite Vassilios interprets the *Ladder* for the ordinary Christian without sacrificing any of its beauty and power. Now you too can accept the challenge offered by St. John Climacus to ascend closer to God with each passing day.

St Dionysios: Patron Saint of Zakynthos by Dinos Konomos

On the Holy Icons by St. Theodore the Studite. From the back cover:

To many modern Christians the question of icon veneration may seem a marginal issue in theology. To St. Theodore the Studite, writing in the midst of the iconoclastic controversy of the eighth-ninth century, it was clear that iconoclasm is a serious error which alienates its followers from God as much as any other heresy. That is to say, rejection of Christian veneration of images effectively denies God’s incarnation, which alone makes human salvation possible. If Christ could not be portrayed, then He was not truly man, and humanity was not truly united with God in Him. In our own day, when the material world so often is regarded as mere matter--incapable of transfiguration in Christ--St. Theodore’s message remains remarkably pertinent.



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.

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 will be held on a Saturday after Pascha. Please keep this in mind as you begin spring cleaning so that we can grow the sale with your items.