

**Week of
January 29th
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*

**Feast of the Presentation
of Christ in the Temple**

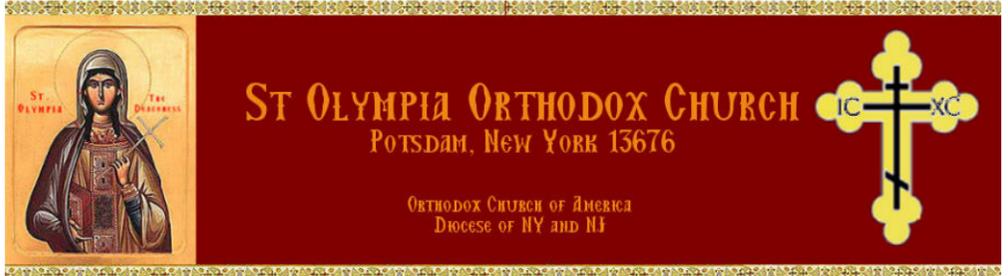
**Great Vespers
Wednesday, February 1st
6:30 pm**

**Divine Liturgy
Thursday, February 2nd
10:00 am**

*Fr. Luke will be available to
hear confessions before and af-
ter Great Vespers.*

Next Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, February 5th
123 Main Street
Potsdam, NY
10 :00 am**



**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. Students are especially welcome!**

Visit us on Facebook or www.saintolympiaorthodoxchurch.org

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

This is one of the twelve major feasts of the church and is celebrated 40 days after the Nativity in accordance with Jewish Law (Exodus 13:2 and Leviticus 12:1-8). In the icon (left) Mary and Joseph bring their offerings to the temple, the fulfillment of both the Law of the old covenant (a pair of turtle doves for they were poor) and the Spirit of the New Covenant, their first-born, the Christ-child (the Unblemished Lamb, in which they were rich, indeed). Both the Righteous Simeon and Anna the Prophet were at the temple, brought there by the Holy Spirit. One of the most beautiful set of hymns for this feast focuses on St. Simeon, and the prophecies and the profound blessing that he utters in the Spirit, "Lord, now let your servant depart in peace..." (Luke 2:29-32, prayed at every Vespers service). These hymns were written in the 8th century by Patriarch Germanos of Constantinople, who is probably better known for his treatise on the Divine Liturgy and his defense of the theology of the two wills of Christ (as God-Man, He had both divine and human wills).

*Tell us, Simeon, Whom you bear in your arms,
That you rejoice so greatly in the Temple?
To Whom do you shout and cry aloud:
"Now I am set free, for I have seen my Savior?"
This is He Who was born of a Virgin;
This is God the Word, Who came forth from God,
Who, for our sakes, has taken flesh and has saved man.
Let us worship Him!*

*Receive Him, Simeon, Whom Moses once beheld in darkness,
Granting the Law on Sinai,
Now that He has become a Babe subject to the Law!
This is He Who spoke through the Law.
This is He, of Whom the Prophets spoke,
Who, for our sakes, has taken flesh and has saved man.
Let us worship Him!*

*Come, let us also go to meet Christ with divine songs!
Let us receive Him Whose salvation Simeon saw!
This is He Whom David announced;
This is He Who spoke in the Prophets,
Who, for our sakes, has taken flesh and Who speaks through the Law.
Let us worship Him!*

Stewardship: Prayer in Action

There is a stewardship form attached to this e-mail for your convenience. If you have not yet done so, please fill it out and return it either by "snail mail" to St. Olympia Orthodox Church, 123 Main St., Potsdam, NY, 13676, or give it to a parish council member.

No amount is too small and no talent is too insignificant to give back to the Lord. Everything is helpful when given from the heart.

Donations to St. Olympia Orthodox Church are now tax exempt. Greg Kalicin, Parish Council Treasurer, will issue receipts upon request. Envelopes are now available at the candle stand.

New Additions to our Parish Library

Glory and Honor: Orthodox Christian Resources on Marriage, edited by David C. Ford, Mary S. Ford and Alfred Kentigern Siewers
From the back cover:

The Orthodox Church embodies a living Tradition that integrates a long, unbroken practice of marriage with its theology, cosmology, liturgy, mystical asceticism, and anthropology. As such, the Church has a great deal to offer all those who desire to come to a deeper understanding of marriage and family life.

This collection draws upon the riches of the Tradition to present an inspiring vision of Christian marriage, and to offer insights and guidance about marriage and family life that are adapted to modern questions and challenges, yet grounded firmly in the global teaching and practice of the Church.

Primacy in the Church, Vol. II, edited by John Chryssavgis

From the back cover:

Primacy in the Church is a careful and critical selection of historical and theological essays, canonical and liturgical articles, as well as contemporary and contextual reflections on what is arguably the most significant and sensitive issue in both inter-Orthodox debate and inter-Christian dialogue--namely, the authority of the primate and the role of councils in the thought and tradition of the Church.

Volume One examines the development and application of a theology of primacy and synodality through the centuries. Volume Two explores how such a theology can inform contemporary ecclesiology and reconcile current practices.

Note: Volume One is also in our library

Save the Dates

Archbishop Michael's next visits to Potsdam will be:

- Wednesday, March 22, 2017, for Presanctified Liturgy
- Saturday-Sunday, September 9-10, 2017



The above icon of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, also called the Meeting of the Lord, is through the hand of our beloved Mother Sophronia and lives in St. Olympia Chapel. We thank Mother Sophronia for the many gifts, spiritual, iconographic and otherwise, that she has bestowed on our parish.

We must become prayer--prayer incarnate...our whole life, every act and every gesture, even a smile, must become a hymn of adoration, an offering, a prayer. We must offer not what we have but what we are.... In Orthodoxy, prayer is distinguished in successive stages: prayer of the lips (oral prayer); prayer of the mind (mental prayer); prayer of the heart (or of the mind in the heart).... "Heart" in this context is the totality of the human person, the center not only of the consciousness but of the unconscious, not only of the soul, but of the spirit--not only the spirit, but of the body.

**--Bishop Kallistos of Diokleia
(Timothy Ware)
The Power of the Name
p. 15**

Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

(Proverbs 3:9-10)