

**Week of  
April 23rd  
2017**

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Please leave a clear  
message and include your  
phone number

**Next Divine Liturgy**

**April 30th  
Sunday  
10:00 am  
Sunday of the  
Myrrh-bearing Women**

**All welcome!**

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

**Pascha at  
St. Olympia Orthodox  
Church**  
*A few more photos..*



#### **Sayings from the Desert Fathers**

An old man questioned Amma Theodora saying, "At the resurrection of the dead, how shall we rise?" She said, "As pledge, as example, and as prototype we have Him who died for us and is risen, Christ our God."

Abba Agathon said, "A man who is angry, even if he were to raise the dead, is not acceptable to God."

Abba Nilus said, "Prayer is the seed of gentleness and the absence of anger."

He also said, "Whatever you have endured out of love of wisdom will bear fruit for you at the time of prayer."

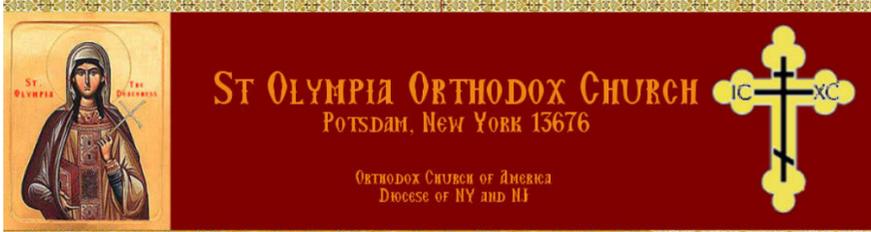
He also said,  
"Do not be always wanting everything to turn out as you think it should, but rather as God pleases. Then you will be undistrusted and thankful in your prayer."



#### **Planning Ahead**

Archbishop Michael's next visits to Potsdam will be:

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



*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!**

While the Sunday after Pascha focuses on the Risen Christ and his appearance to the disciples, (John 20), the third Sunday of Pascha (this coming Sunday) focuses on the courage of Joseph of Arimathea and Myrrh-bearing Women (Mark 15:43-16:8). St. John Chrysostom comments on this passage:

"Mark how great the women's assiduity. They had followed Him, ministering to Him, and were present even to the time of the dangers. This is why they also saw all: how He cried [out], how He gave up the ghost; how the rocks were rent and all the rest. These women were the first to see Jesus; and the sex that was most condemned first enjoys the sight of the blessings; this sex shows its courage the most.... Joseph, who had been concealing his discipleship of late, now became very bold after the death of Christ. He was by no means an obscure person...but one of the council.... He exposed himself to death, taking great enmity upon him from all by his affection for Jesus.... Do you see the women's courage? Do you see their affection? Do you see their noble spirit in matters of money? Their noble spirit even unto death? Let the men imitate the women; let us not forsake Jesus in temptation.... But we neither feed him when hungry, nor clothe Him when naked (cf. Matthew 25), but seeing Him go begging, we pass Him by. And yet if we saw Him in fact, everyone would strip himself of all his goods."

*Homily LXXXVIII on Matthew XXVII  
quoted from **The Bible and the Holy Fathers***

As St. John Chrysostom notes, these women were indeed quite courageous. One of these women was St. Mary Magdalene. In the West, she is often conflated with the sinful woman in the seventh chapter of Luke 7 (a tradition that may have started with Pope Gregory the Great in the seventh century). In the East she has no such reputation and is highly revered. She is considered "the Apostle to the Apostles" (cf. John 20:18). She is titled "Equal to the Apostles" for later she travelled as a missionary to Ephesus with St. John the Evangelist. One event in her life has affected the way Christians all over the world celebrate Easter. During a dinner given by the Emperor Tiberius Caesar (reigned from 14-39 AD), she spoke about Christ's resurrection. Caesar scorned the story by telling his guests that a man could not rise from the dead anymore than the egg that she was holding could turn red. The egg miraculously changed color and this is why many icons of St. Mary Magdalene show her holding a red egg. The tradition of having red eggs at Pascha is still maintained in the East whereas in the West, all colors are now popular.



*Icon of the Myrrh-bearing Women through the hand of St. Theophanes the Recluse (16th century), Stavronikita Monastery, Mount Athos, Greece*



*Icon of St. Mary Magdalene through the hand of Mother Sophronia. The saint holds a red egg in one hand and an ointment bottle in the other.*

Archbishop Michael invited members of our parish council to give a formal presentation on our mission church at the Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors appreciation dinner held in Syracuse, NY, on April 23rd. Representing our parish were Fr. Luke Majoros, Parish Council President, Cynthia Eyler and Parish Council members, Julio Gurrea and Jessica Suchy-Pilalis. They gave a PowerPoint presentation that outlined the five-year history of our mission as well as our future plans and needs. Mother Sophronia also joined our contingent. The evening provided the chance for us to express gratitude to the DDB for the significant financial support that they have given to St. Olympia Orthodox Church. It was also a wonderful opportunity to meet people with connections to the North Country and to encourage them to visit Potsdam and our church.

