



# ST OLYMPIA ORTHODOX CHURCH

POTSDAM, NEW YORK 13676

ORTHODOX CHURCH OF AMERICA  
DIOCESE OF NY AND NJ



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

*Our priest is Fr. Peter Irfan, Acting Rector.  
You may reach him at 716-342-8520 (cell) or at fatherpeter777@yahoo.com.*

*Please join us for prayer and fellowship.  
Divine Liturgies are held every Sunday at 10 am.  
Great Vespers are held every Saturday evening at 5 pm.*

## Services this week:

**Saturday, October 26th**

Great Vespers - 5:00 pm

**Sunday, October 27th**

Matins - 8:45 am

Divine Liturgy - 10:00 am

Lunch and fellowship will follow the service

The above services are at  
**St. Olympia Chapel**  
123 Main Street  
Potsdam, NY, 13676

**Also:**

Daily Reader's Vespers  
at 5 pm

St. Olympia Hermitage  
Edwards, NY

Visitors are welcome to attend.

E-mail

mothersophronia@gmail.com  
to confirm and for directions.

## Excerpts from A Diary of a Russian Priest

The indifference of believers is something far more dreadful than the fact that unbelievers exists.

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The practice of theosophy, occultism, spiritualism is not only harmful in its effect on the health of the mind, but has as its basis an illegitimate desire to peer through a closed door. We must humbly admit the existence of a Mystery, and not try to slip round by the backstairs to eavesdrop. Moreover, we have been given a supreme law of life which leads us straight to God --love, a difficulty, thorny path; but we must follow it, bearing our cross, with no excursions into byways.

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The death of our friends and relations provides empirical confirmation of our faith in the infinite. Our love for the departed is an affirmation of the existence of another world. In the company of the dying, we reach the frontier dividing two worlds--the world of illusions and the real world: death proves to us the reality of what we held to be an illusion, and the insubstantiality of what we considered real.

## Annual Girls Retreat -- November 22-24th

### ANNUAL GIRLS RETREAT NOVEMBER 22-24, 2019

*"Come as you are: A friend loves at all times!"*

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**Danielle Geeza**  
HR Professional  
& Diocesan Youth Director



**Mat. Dennise Kraus**  
Clergy wife, former Engineer,  
& Mother of 5 kids :)



**Lara Galis**  
Geologist, Choir Director,  
& Orthodox Youth Worker



**Maria Pappas**  
Graduate Student pursuing Master of Education  
degree in School Counseling, & Orthodox Youth Worker

**OPEN TO:** Young Women in Grades 7-12  
*All jurisdictions and nearby dioceses are welcome!*

**FIRM REGISTRATION DEADLINE:** November 8<sup>th</sup>

**ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:** Hiking, game room, gymnasium, karaoke,  
and campfire w/ s'mores

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**  
Danielle Geeza – Chair, Department of Youth Ministry  
(914) 222-1317 ~ [nynjocayouth@gmail.com](mailto:nynjocayouth@gmail.com)

*The retreat will feature a panel of Orthodox Christian women whose paths have crossed serendipitously at various points in their lives. Led by our Diocesan Youth Director, Danielle Geeza, the panel will address the theme of friendship since today's society can make being a genuine, Christian friend difficult. We invite attendees to "come as you are" by bringing your full self to the retreat, knowing that although everyone is different, the greatest thing that binds us together is our Orthodox Christian faith and our love for one another.*

**Registration deadline is November 8<sup>th</sup> ... sign up today!**

To register online, please visit:

[nynjoca.wixsite.com/nynjocayouth/upcoming-events](http://nynjoca.wixsite.com/nynjocayouth/upcoming-events)

As we grow in our faith, we never know who we may meet...

**"Come as you are: A friend loves at all times!"** is this year's retreat theme and will feature a panel of Orthodox Christian women whose paths have crossed serendipitously at various points in their lives. Led by our Diocesan Youth Director, the panel will address the theme of friendship since today's society can make being a genuine Christian friend difficult.

The event will be laid back and allow for plenty of free time, including hiking and other activities!

All jurisdictions and nearby dioceses are welcome!

**WHEN:** Friday, November 22nd - Sunday, November 24th

**OPEN TO:** Young Women in Grades 7-12

**WHERE:** [Camp Shiloh, 753 Burnt Meadow Road, Hewitt, NJ 07421](#)

**FIRM REGISTRATION DEADLINE:** Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>

Given that we are working with a new venue, **please be respectful of the guidelines set forth, particularly the registration deadline of November 8<sup>th</sup>.** The Diocese must provide an initial headcount by that date—**please do not delay.**

All those who plan on attending- **participants and adult chaperones** - **must** fill out the respective participant and chaperone registration forms below.

### Participant Registration

**A note concerning chaperones:** We welcome mothers and female youth leaders to accompany the participants and act as chaperones. However, due to increased attendance at recent retreats and space limitations, **we ask that parishes limit the number of adult chaperones accompanying their group to 1 adult, if possible.** Our main focus is to ensure that the maximum number of youth can benefit from their time together and be properly accommodated.

The number of chaperones over our past few events has overwhelmed our participants, so the number of chaperones for this retreat will be strictly aligned with the Diocesan Policy of having 1 chaperone for every 6 participants (ex: 24 participants, only 6 chaperones).

Chaperones will be selected on a first come, first served basis. If you have any concerns regarding this, please bring it to Danielle Geeza and Fr. Martin Kraus' attention by emailing [nynjocayouth@gmail.com](mailto:nynjocayouth@gmail.com).

## Introduction to Byzantine Chant

Dr. Jessica Suchy-Pilalis will be giving a concise introduction to the Byzantine modes. The next sessions will be on Saturday, November 2nd and Saturday, November 9th. All sessions are at 4:00 pm. No previous chanting experience is necessary. All materials will be provided at the sessions.