



# 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, September 14th**  
**Feast of the Holy Cross**

Matins 8:45 am  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am  
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Great Vespers - 5:00 pm

**Sunday, September 15th**

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 at-  
tend. E-mail  
mothersophronia@gmail.com  
to confirm and for directions.*



## Standing Ready to Respond

Hurricane Dorian struck the Bahamas causing severe damage and is currently affecting the Carolinas. The full extent of damage is still being determined, as are the immediate needs on the ground.

### How is IOCC Responding?

- **Local Church Partners:** IOCC's team is in touch with Orthodox parishes in the Bahamas and North and South Carolina to help determine their needs and ways to collaborate in response efforts. IOCC is also in conversation with ecumenical and other partners to coordinate responses for maximum effectiveness.
- **Emergency Response Vehicle:** Our well-equipped van has deployed in the US and we are ready to move in and support cleanup needs, etc. after the storm passes.
- **IOCC Frontliners:** Specially trained to serve those affected by disaster and trauma, Frontliners are standing by to offer emotional and spiritual care if needed in the Carolinas.

IOCC will continue to monitor the changing situation. In the meantime, **you can support our efforts** at [ioccc.org/Dorian](http://ioccc.org/Dorian). Or, help us keep our hygiene kit and clean up bucket supply full, learn more at [ioccc.org/Kits](http://ioccc.org/Kits).

**DONATE NOW**

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### Excerpts from

## *A Diary of a Russian Priest*

Faith originates in love; love, in contemplation. It is impossible not to love Christ. If we saw Him now, we should not be able to take our eyes off Him, we should "listen to him in rapture;" we should flock round Him as did the multitudes in the Gospels. All that is required of us is not to resist. We have only to yield to Him, to the contemplation of His image--in the Gospels, in the saints, in the church--and He will take possession of our hearts.

\* \* \*

What should we say to a dying woman who does not suspect the approach of death; who tells us in her perplexity, "I am ready neither for life nor for death"? It is impossible for us to lead a genuine and dignified life in this world unless we prepare ourselves for death, unless we continually meditate on death and eternal life.

\* \* \*

Death, the thing which man dreads most of all, holds no terrors for the believer, just as abysses, precipices and falls hold no terrors for winged creatures.

\* \* \*

The difference between Job and his friends. Job is an honest, truthful man, who wants facts not words. The others are people concerned with religious talk, shibboleths, traditional formulas. Job cries out against falsehood, against the incomprehensibility of suffering, the prosperity of sinners and the torments of all the innocent--not only his own. His friends answer him with vague and misleading phrases; to them, everything is clear; and having established an orderly scheme in word and thought, they imagine that they have established harmony in the outside world as well. This type of man is found all too often and in every walk of life, including the clergy and scholars.

\* \* \*

There is a certain "inhibited" condition of the soul in which we find it difficult to smile; we feel no softness or tenderness towards anyone--our state is one of petrified insensibility. Only prayer, especially the prayer of the Church, will dispel this condition. Such a mood is habitual to the proud, the melancholy, the vain, the debauched, the miserly; but to a certain degree it is inherent in men in general; it is the condition of sin, of the absence of grace--man's common condition. So far as the soul is concerned, this is already hell on earth, death despite the life of the body; and it is the natural consequence of sin, which literally kills the soul.

\* \* \*

Why is it important to read the Lives of the Saints? In the infinite spectrum of the paths leading to God, which are revealed in the lives of the various saints, we can discover our own; we can obtain guidance to help us emerge from the jungle in which we have become entangled through our human sinfulness, and so gain access to the path which leads towards the light.