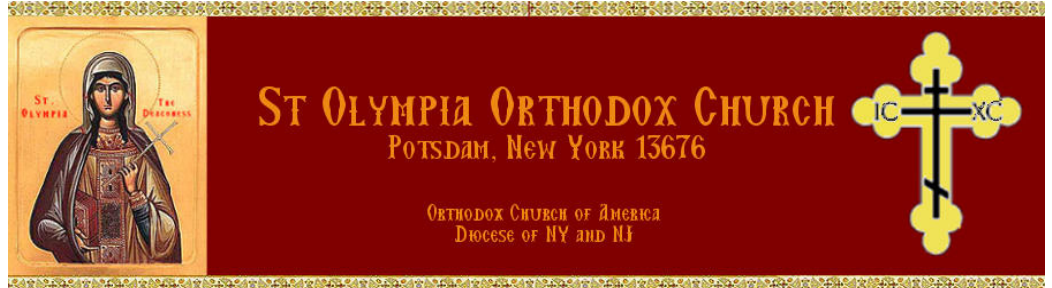


**Week of
January 22nd
2017**



You can reach Fr. Luke at
frlukacs@gmail.com
or at
(613) 925-3004

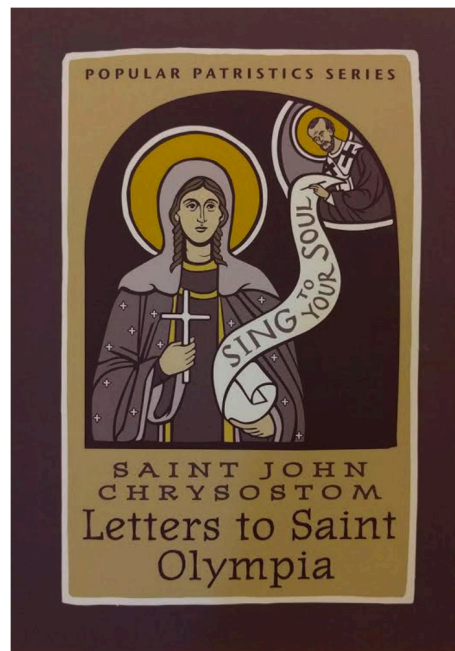
Please leave a clear
message and include your
phone number

*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

A Special Gift to our Parish



A small parcel containing a newly-published book was received this past Saturday. It was from Dr. David Ford, Professor of Church History at St. Tikhon's Seminary. The book contains all the surviving letters that St. John Chrysostom wrote to St. Olympia while he was in exile, some available in English for the first time. As many parishioners remember, Dr. Ford was with Vladyka Michael on April 3, 2015, when Vladyka came to Potsdam to name our Mission. After Vladyka's announcement that St. Olympia would be our patron, Dr. Ford spoke to us about St. Olympia's life and these very special letters. Thus, it is very moving that he writes, "This book is dedicated to the parishioners of

St. Olympia Orthodox Mission, Potsdam, NY, who started me on this wondrous project..." In addition, there is a beautiful hand-written inscription to "all the Parish of St. Olympia" that reads, "May this book be a great blessing for you all, by the prayers of St. John and St. Olympia! With Love and Prayers, David C. Ford."

If you would like your own personal copy, visit our St. Olympia Bookstore (\$18)

Stewardship - Never too late!

To date, we have had stewardship responses from approximately 80% of people who attend services at St. Olympia Orthodox Church. This is wonderful for our first call for stewardship. Even more astounding is that we have received three donations from people who are not members of the parish but have heard about it and want to help us grow!

Just as important, in addition to whatever financial support is appropriate for you, the church asks for the talent(s) that you can share. As we pray during the Divine Liturgy, "Thine own of Thine own we offer to Thee on behalf of all and for all." We offer what we have been given by God. Our prayer becomes alive when we put it 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 or talent 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.

God is Wonderful in His Saints

St. Xenia, Deaconess of Rome (January 24th)

St. Xenia was the daughter of wealthy and noble Christian parents. She lived in Rome during the 5th century and was given the baptismal name of Eusebia. When she reached marriageable age, she secretly left Rome with two servants to avoid becoming engaged because she wanted to dedicate her life to God. Her plan was to travel to the island of Kos. Instead, prayer revealed that they should seek a spiritual father, specifically Paul, the abbot of a monastery in Mylassa (a Byzantine province in southwestern Asia Minor--present day Turkey). He directed the three women to move close to the monastery and live in a hermitage. Eusebia took the name Xenia, which means stranger in Greek. She built a church dedicated to St. Stephen the first martyr. Her hermitage expanded into a substantial monastery for women. Xenia fasted extremely, but as secretly as possible, as she engaged in spiritual warfare in order to avoid vainglory. Indeed, she was known for her humility. It is said that she would eat only dried bread every three days or every seven days. It is also said that she had the gift of tears when she prayed. When Abbot Paul was made a bishop, he ordained Xenia to the diaconate. She was known to help the destitute, comfort those in sorrow and guide people in repentance. She was granted foreknowledge of her death and gathered the nuns asking for their prayers. She then entered the church where she fell asleep in the Lord. A sweet fragrance filled the temple. Her relics are wonder-working and healed the sick.

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

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
after Great Vespers.

*Do almsgiving based on the
quantity of your possessions.
If you possess only a few, do
not be afraid to give accord-
ing to the little you have. You
are storing up a good treas-
ure for yourself in the day
of necessity. For almsgiving
delivers us from death and
prevents us from entering
into the darkness. Indeed,
almsgiving is a good gift for
all who do it before the Most
High.*

(Tobit 4:8-11)

*Do not lay up for yourselves
treasures on earth, where
moth and rust destroy and
where thieves break in and
steal; but lay up for your-
selves treasures in heaven,
where neither moth nor rust
destroys and where thieves
do not break in and steal. For
where your treasure is, there
your heart will be also.*

(Matthew 6:19-21)

