

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 worshippers.**

**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.**

Next Services

Saturday, October 27th

**Great Vespers
5:00 pm**

**Fr. Peter is available to hear
confessions before Vespers
by appointment.**

Sunday, October 28th

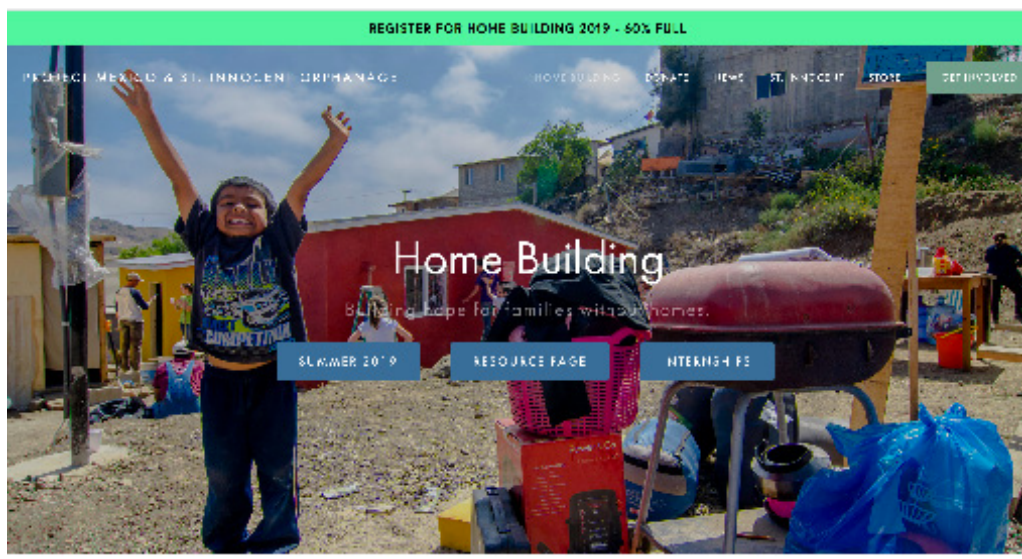
**Matins
8:45 am**

**Divine Liturgy
10:00 am**

Fellowship to follow

at

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



THE DIFFERENCE A FEW MILES MAKE
Thank you for your late 2019 Summer 2019 Home Building
donation to the St. Olympia Orthodox Church.
Project Mexico provides affordable, permanent housing for people in the US. From the mission project, many the same
and a lot of families have been able to build a better future. We hope to build a better future, we have more to do.

To learn more about **Project Mexico**, go to
<https://www.projectmexico.org/homebuilding/#register>
Links in this bulletin are not live.

Parish News

This weekend, we had the pleasure of welcoming Saba Irfan, to our parish, both for Great Vespers and also for the Divine Liturgy this morning. She is the daughter of Fr. Peter and Matushka Mary. She works in NYC and was visiting her parents here in Potsdam for the very first time. We hope she will return often, and we look forward to welcoming her back!

Save the dates!

Vladyka Michael will visit our parish on the weekend of Nov. 17th-18th. On Saturday, Nov. 17th, Mother Sophronia will present a lecture on angels in iconography in Knowles Conference Center, SUNY Potsdam campus. The presentation will be preceded by Great Vespers, also in Knowles. On Sunday morning, Nov. 18th, Vladyka Michael will be with us at St. Olympia Chapel for the Divine Liturgy and fellowship meal that follows.



Thoughts on John 17: 1-13

Note: the following article was written by our anonymous contributor several years ago. It is included here by permission.

How did you wake up this morning? Did you wake up and say, "Today we get to go to church!" Or did you sigh in weary sorrow, "Come on, we have to go to church!" I remember how, in his retirement, my father would park the car as close as possible to the church door and sit as far back as possible; so that the very nanosecond the final blessing was given, he could be out that door as if shot from a cannon, pulling my poor mother in his wake, to "beat the traffic." Admittedly, he wasn't the most pious person I've ever met; but to act like he'd been kept there for hours, padlocked to the pew, and finally set free, was a little over the top. But for him, gaining even a single minute by beating the traffic was of signal importance. And are you and I so different about time? Don't you and I sometimes stare at our watches and count, not just the minutes, but even the seconds,

grasping every tick of the clock? Well, in John 17:1-13, we find Jesus watching the clock too. Notice verse 1, where Jesus says, "Father, the hour has come." The hour for what? For Jesus to be glorified: "Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You." What? Was Jesus in a hurry to get out of here? How did He know it was time? What determined it? That's what we'll find out today as we look at why Jesus said, "The hour has come. Glorify Your Son."

Firstly, it was time because he completed his work. In North America, we don't just measure time with clocks; rather, we're now driven by the watch around our wrists or in our pocket, or our cell phone, not just in the cities but also in the country. We have to be to work by a certain precise time, or we get docked. We wait for the clock to hit five or six, and stampede out to go home. We have to get online at a certain precise time to make the best possible sale of our crops, because just 30 seconds late means thousands of dollars lost. We have to get back to that parking meter by the exact second our time runs out, or we'll get a ticket. These days, we're slaves of time.

But how does God deal with time? How does God determine when it's time to do something? Certainly, God is not driven by the movement of the sun or the stars. God promised Abraham in Genesis 15:16 that his descendants would inherit the Promised Land when "the iniquity of the Amorites" (the people who currently occupied it) would reach its full measure. When God could no longer tolerate the sins of the Amorites, He would act to remove them. Similarly, in Galatians 4:4 Paul says that it was "when the fullness of time had come," when all the conditions were just right, that "God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, born under the Law." What conditions? Isaiah 11:1 foretells that "there shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots;" in other words, it would be when the Israelite nation and kingdom had been cut down to a stump, which it was. Genesis 49:10 foretells that "the scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet until Shiloh comes;" it would be when a foreigner would be king of the Jews, which there was, when Caesar Augustus ruled the Roman Empire and the Edomite Herod was nominal king of the Jews. The point is that God is task-oriented, not time-oriented. He's willing to be as patient as He needs to be until a goal is achieved, whether it be a thousand years or a single day.

That's why in John 17:1-13, Jesus prays, "Father, the time has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You." Why was it was time for Him to be glorified? Verses 4-5 explain: "I have glorified You on the earth." How? "I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was." Jesus prayed this right before He was betrayed by Judas and led away to be as it were bathed in the sins of the world on the cross, suffer a humiliating and excruciating death, be buried in a borrowed tomb, and rise again the third day. Everything was now in motion and there was nothing left for Jesus to do but let it all be played out according to the Father's plan.

So? So sometimes---OK, oftentimes---when I go shopping, I forget something on my list (probably because I also forgot the list). So I can't make what I wanted to make, or if I do it just won't taste right. Well, if Jesus had forgotten to do just one thing, then His sacrifice would not have tasted right in the mouth of our holy God. If Jesus had forgotten one little quarter-teaspoon of love or joy or forgiveness, on the fortieth day after Pascha, the Father would've told Jesus, "No Ascension today, Son; You're done yet!" But in a matter of hours Jesus would've completed the work the Father sent Him to do; so it was time to return to glory.

Well, I don't know about you, but when I stand before God in judgment with my works, I know I won't be able to say honestly with Jesus, "Father, I have glorified You on earth by completing everything You gave me to do." I didn't always listen to, obey, or respect my parents. I didn't always do a complete and accurate job at work. I didn't always obey the just laws of my society, including speed limits. And if I'm basing my salvation on my works, I'm in big trouble, because God doesn't allow for half-baked jobs. He demands perfection. Thankfully, however, in verse 3 Jesus tells us, "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, Whom You have sent." Salvation isn't based on what we do; it's based on Whom we know---not know about, but know personally in an on-going relationship of love and trust. It's through faith in Christ that we know Him as our Saviour, and are connected to him. And we don't have to worry about finishing the job of salvation, because on the Cross Jesus cried out "It is finished! It's completed! It's done!" "

Secondly, it was time for Jesus to be glorified because He revealed the Word to us. When it comes to glorifying people, biographers try to pick out those several key moments or events in their careers that made them great, and sometimes even narrow it down to one defining moment. What about Jesus? We always mention Jesus' suffering, death, and Resurrection as the main point in His "career"---because really it was. But prior to His suffering and death, what would be the most defining moment in our Lord's life, something for which to glorify Him: raising Lazarus from the dead? overturning the tables in the temple? walking on water? turning water into wine? Most of us would probably pick the most fabulous miracle. But what did Jesus see as His great accomplishment? He tells us in verse 6: "I have manifested Your name [I have shown Who You are and what You're like] to the men whom You have given Me out of the world." Jesus gloried in the seemingly simple task of taking care of the disciples whom the Father had placed under His care, by nurturing them in the Word of God.

What kind of message does this send us? It tells us that the most important things in life are not stuff that gains the attention of the world: being a famous actor or politician; serving on parish council or a singing a great solo. The most glorious thing you and I can do revolves around taking care of the most precious treasures God has given us: His Word and His children, the other people in our lives and in our world. Sometimes, for example, fathers especially think that their job is to be a good provider and a strong disciplinarian. But Ephesians 6:4 tells fathers, "do not provoke your children to wrath [don't be so hard on them that you drive them away], but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord," by showing them what the love of God, looks like. When neighbors experience a death in the family, yes, they need a casserole; but they also need to hear the reassurance in 1 Corinthians 15:22 that "as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive." Any person, every person, in the depths of despair over a messed-up life needs, not just a hug, but the words "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

And note in verses 6-8 how Jesus describes how the disciples responded: "I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept [obeyed] Your word. Now they have known," says Jesus, "that all things which You have given Me are from You. For I have given them the words which You have given Me; and they received them and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me." When Jesus revealed God to the disciples, they responded in faith, trusting and obeying what Jesus said: that He was the Christ, sent from heaven. What makes a parent most happy? When their children trust enough in the parents' love to do what they say and turn out right. And that's what brings glory to Jesus and to the Father: us trusting enough and helping others trust enough in Their love to do what They say and turn out right.

Ah, but will we? It's your move...and mine too.