



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, January 25th
Great Vespers - 5:00 pm

Sunday, January 26th
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*

Important Notice:

Daily Reader's Vespers at St. Olympia Hermitage in Edwards, NY, are temporarily suspended. Mother Sophronia is experiencing health issues and appreciates your prayers.



And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury. And He saw a poor widow putting in two small copper coins. And He said, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all of them; for they all out of their surplus put into the offering; but she out of her poverty put in all that she had to live on." --Luke 21:1-4

Stewardship

January 19, 2020

Dear Families and Friends of St. Olympia Orthodox Church,

We are reaching out to with Christian love in our hearts to wish you God's blessings for 2020 and to ask you to renew or formally become Stewards of St. Olympia Orthodox Church.

St. Olympia Church has come a long way since February 2012, when we held our first regular services on the campus of SUNY Potsdam, and had to bring in and set up an altar, icon screen, and all items necessary for each Liturgy. In the past eight years, we have prayed with, taken Holy Eucharist with, and ministered to many people—old friends and new, long time residents of St. Lawrence County and new additions to our community, students, cradle Orthodox and converts. By the fall of 2016, we grew from having Divine Liturgy twice per month, to having Matins and Divine Liturgy every Sunday with Great Vespers on Saturday evening!

Our Lord continues to move in St. Olympia parish, far exceeding our own limited vision. If someone had asked us two years ago when we might have a resident priest, we would probably have answered "years from now." It was barely a dream. Yet by the following summer, Archbishop Michael had sent Father Peter to us. Similarly, when we began our first stewardship drive in 2017, we established a building fund. We estimated that it would take years to grow the funds necessary for acquiring, renovating and maintaining our own building. Nevertheless, the Lord has preempted our frail human timeline again! There is a church community in Norwood, NY, that wants to give us their church building! Underneath the almost daunting and much-needed maintenance and restoration is a building with a strong foundation. With the blessing of Vladyka Michael, much of that construction and repairs will be completed by teams of volunteers from the Diocese while we will need to provide as much of the building materials as possible. With help from each of you -- your prayers, time, talents, and treasure--St Olympia Orthodox Church will continue to blossom in Northern New York.

Gratitude and responsibility are both components of Christian Stewardship. We have the honor of caring for the gifts and blessings that the Lord has bestowed upon us, and to "give back" to Him in the spirit of thanksgiving. The very word we often use for God's ultimate Gift to us of Himself in Holy Communion, "Eucharist", is rooted in the Greek word for "giving thanks." How can we look upon all God has blessed us with, and not feel compelled to give something back in thanksgiving?

We thank you for your prayerful consideration of this appeal. Please complete the Stewardship Pledge card for 2020 (a link is available at (<https://www.saintolympiaorthodoxchurch.org/>)) and return it to us at your earliest convenience. May God grant you many blessings.

Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," says the Lord of Hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it." Malachi 3:10

In Christ,

Cynthia Eyler
Parish Council President