



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.***

*** Archbishop Michael
has blessed us to worship
with up to ten (10)
households per service.
Please contact Father
Peter if you are planning
to attend. ***

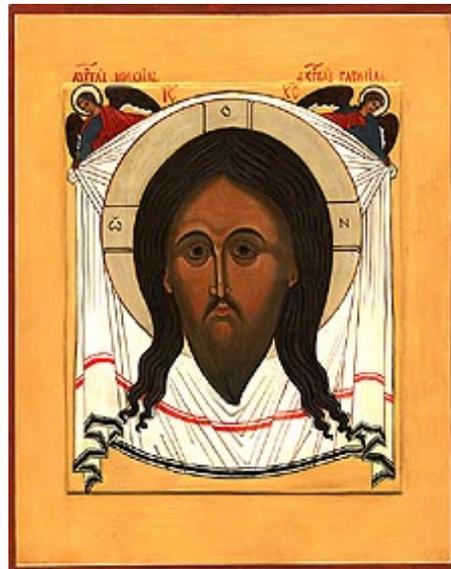
Translation of the Image “Not-Made-By-Hands” of our Lord Jesus Christ from Edessa to Constantinople, the Third “Feast of the Savior in August”

August 16

Upcoming Services:
Sunday, August 16, 23
Divine Liturgy: 10 am

**No coffee hour **Social
Distancing guidelines
must be observed.**

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



*Uncircumscribed Word
of the Father
as we behold the victorious
image of Your true
incarnation,
not made by hands,
but divinely wrought
in Your ineffable and divine
dispensation towards us,
we honor it with veneration!*

Kontakion

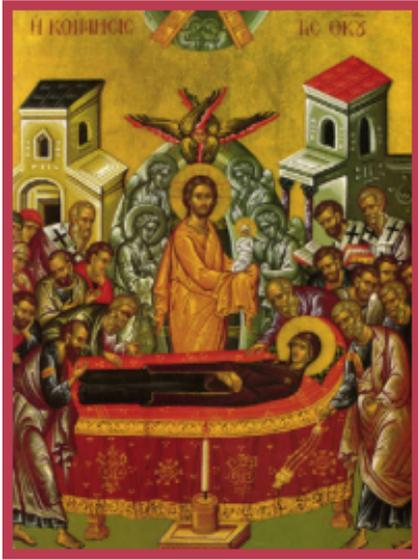
Read the story of this amazing icon at:

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2020/08/16/102304-translation-of-the-image-not-made-by-hands-of-our-lord-jesus-chr>

The Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos Celebrated through August 23

Doxastikon of the Dormition

(This hymn ends "Lord I Call" at Vespers)



By the divine command the God-bearing Apostles were caught up by clouds from every place. When they came to your all-pure body, the source of Life, they kissed it most reverently. The highest Powers of heaven were also present with their Master, and seized with awe they escorted the inviolate body, the body that had received God in the flesh. In a manner beyond this world they went before it and invisibly cried out to the ranks above them: "Behold, the Queen of all, the Child of God, has come! Lift up your gates, and in a manner beyond this world receive the Mother of the everlasting Light, for through her was accomplished the salvation of all the mortal race! We cannot gaze upon her, nor is it possible to render honor worthy of her, for her excellence surpasses all understanding. "Therefore, O immaculate Theotokos, who live forever with your Son, the life-bearing King, pray ceaselessly to Him to preserve the new people of God, and to save them from every hostile assault, for we have acquired your intercession, and to the ages, in manifest splendor, we call you blessed.

A Parable: "The Grace of God"

A certain priest still could not convince several converts in his parish. They asked him and he answered them. Everything he answered them was from the Holy Fathers and scripture. They were looking down a bit at the simple priest, not realizing that they have not even comprehended the basics of faith. At some point it seemed to them that they had completely overcome him, but then the father took out a large glass jar and, filling it with stones, asked the converts:

"Is the jar full?"

"Yes, full, " he heard a confident answer.

Then he poured a considerable amount of peas into it and shook it. Naturally, the peas took the free space between the stones. And again the priest asked the converts:

"Is the jar full?"

"Full," they answered in chorus, however, already with less aplomb than before, feeling a trick that was not long in coming.

The priest poured a whole sack of sand into the jar, asking:

"And now?"

"Full," as there was already a single uncertain voice.

And the priest kept pouring water into the jar, one after the other, saying:

"Stones are what you read about faith, peas are your deeds, sand is experience, water is the grace of God. The moment you decide that you know everything, the less hope you have to truly be filled with the grace of God.