



# 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 21st**  
Great Vespers - 5:00 pm

**Sunday, September 22nd**

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.



## Excerpts from *A Diary of a Russian Priest*

"How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" (Luke 18:24). It is not only material riches that prevent us from entering the kingdom of God; a still greater obstacle are the higher endowments of the mind--talents, special abilities, will-power. How difficult not to be carried away by all these, not to fall into vanity and pride.

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How far astray we are led by false ideals? In this way many revolutionaries have lost their souls: starting from a correct (but narrow) concept of the good of the people, they have ended up with nothing but satanic hatred, falsehood, murder. A similar fate awaits the adherents of the ideal of nationalism unless they subordinate this ideal to the highest ideal of all.

## Save the date:

Archbishop Michael will be visiting our parish on the weekend of October 5-6. We will also welcome Dr. Mary Ford, Associate Professor of New Testament at St. Tikhon's Orthodox Seminary. She will speak Saturday evening after Great Vespers.

## Special Meeting of the Parish

There will be a Special Meeting of the Parish on Sunday, October 5th following the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy to discuss the potential acquisition of the Congregational Church property in Norwood. Archbishop Michael will be in attendance.

## Being the Church: Our Stewardship Covenant

### Stewardship: It's All About Sharing

What does it mean to "be church"? Each week we come together bringing with us our burdens and cares, our hopes and dreams, our strengths and gifts. Together we give thanks for our blessings and offer prayer for our needs. Joined together at the Table of the Lord, we share the one body and one blood. And then we go out as "church" and share what we have received with the world.

As disciples in community... we are committed to sharing the gift of "church". Working together may we get "to know Christ better and make him better known." God forms a covenant with us; and we with God. God equips us with gifts and talents, and then invites us to use them for the good of all. Stewardship (being church) is the recognition of these gifts and acknowledges that all that I am and all that I have is from God. It is the conscious decision to make a return in thanks. Together as partners we each contribute.

### Our Stewardship Covenant

As the parish community, we are committed to use our gifts and strength in four ways:

**Worship**—to deepen our relationship with Christ and his Church, through prayer, Divine Services and the Sacraments.

**Fellowship**—to deepen our relationship with our parish family by getting to know each other better.

**Spiritual Development**—to deepen our spiritual life, our faith and knowledge of Christ through learning and spiritual growth opportunities.

**Ministry and Outreach**—to deepen the image of Jesus in us by imitating him who came "not to be served but to serve." To practice "acts of love..."

The life and work of God in a parish community is never completed or perfect. The life and work of God in an individual's life is never completed or perfect. While there is a wide continuum of Orthodox Christians who are not actively engaged in the life of the parish to those who are very engaged, it is the special work of the local parish to invite, to encourage, to promote a living Christian faith among all our people.

Our real goal is not to get people to come to church, but to teach people in how to be church. How to be church is something altogether different — to be in love with God, to be in love with life, to be happy and to be fulfilled, to know hope in the ups and downs of life, to be content, to be less materialistic and more altruistic. There are very practical and beneficial results in being church.

### PRAYER FOR CHURCH GROWTH

*Again, we pray to Thee, O Lord our God, that you would renew us and this parish by the Power of the Holy Spirit. Fill us with love and longing for Thee. Grant that we would seek not our own will but to do Thy will in all things and to be willing to lay down our lives out of love for Thee and for our neighbor. Draw thirsty souls to this place and remove their spiritual blindness, granting them through Thy grace to see the beauty of Thy Holy Glory in this place. Fill this community with new life, spiritual vigor and an insatiable desire to live godly and holy lives. Forgive us all of our sins as we fall down before Thee. Bring us all to a greater repentance and to an amendment of our lives as we look to Thee, the only Merciful and loving Lord Who calls all to salvation. We beg Thee, our merciful Lord, hear us, grant all of these petitions and all of our requests unto salvation: We pray Thee, hear us and have mercy.*