

# THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

## The Crazy Prophets of the Old Testament

As we prepare to hear the many prophesies of Christ's Death and Resurrection this month, let us take a moment to reflect on the lives of the prophets themselves.

by Stephen Beale

THE PROPHETS are among the oddest and most eccentric characters of the Old Testament... Put bluntly, [their behavior] was so bizarre that by today's secular standards of sanity they would end up institutionalized, or, at the very least, in some form of intensive therapy.

Consider Isaiah, who stripped off all his clothes and wandered around naked (*Isaiah 20*). Or Jeremiah, who not only hid his underwear in a rock but then went back to retrieve it after a "long time" (*Jeremiah 13*). Jeremiah apparently didn't mind parting with undergarments, but he couldn't be separated from the cattle yoke he had fastened to his shoulders until another prophet broke it off (*Jer. 27-28*)...

Then there was Jonah, the runaway prophet who spent three days in the belly of a whale before answering God's call. When he eventually got around to preaching in Nineveh, the entire city repented. For any other preacher this would have been a joyous outcome. But Jonah—a prophetic Puddleglum if ever there was one—was so upset that his doomsday prophecy wasn't fulfilled that he begged God to kill him, a request that went unanswered.



Prophet Jonah and the Whale (sketeo.com)

Jonah then went into denial. Convinced that a local apocalypse was still in the works, he left the city and picked a vantage point from which he might safely watch the whole fire-and-brimstone show. Jonah had no pity for the Ninevites, but when a small bush that had been sheltering him from the scorching-hot sun died, he went berserk, asking God once again to just end his misery.

But the weirdest of the lot may be Ezekiel. After witnessing a vision of God flanked by four chimerical creatures, the prophet ate a scroll that had been given to him (*Ezekiel 1, 3*). Ezekiel was called to be a prophet, but his ministry initially did not involve any prophetic words, as God had rendered him mute (*Ex. 3*). Instead he took to drawing, depicting an image of Jerusalem under siege on a clay tablet. Then he lay down on his side, with an iron pan separating him from his clay art. After 390 days had passed, Ezekiel rolled over and repeated (*Ex. 4*).

The weird stuff didn't stop when Ezekiel finally start-

*(continued, see CRAZY PROPHETS, last page)*

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## Schedules

	Coffee Hour	Greeters	Tellers	Servers**
April 6	Russian Ladies*	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky	S. Stevens and G. Cattell	Team B
April 13	B. Trojan and B. Roberts*	M. Thompson and M. Fedkin	M. Stevens and H. Torbic	Team A
April 20	PASCHA	All Available Greeters	B. Haupt and M. Fedkin	All Servers
April 27	M. Thompson and K. Cattell	M. Leathers and D. Swisher	G. Cattell and R. Patel	Team B
May 4	J. Cadman and M. Leathers	B. Roberts and E. Miranda	H. Torbic and S. Stevens	Team A
May 11	L. Rush and D. Van Duin	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky	M. Fedkin and R. Patel	Team B

\* Denotes Fast

\*\*Team A: M. Doty, A. Miranda, N. Peltkan, S. Oleynik, D. Stickers, Jo. Stickers, J. Torbic, and J. Swisher  
Team B: J. Cadman, P. Doty, N. McFarland, B. Oleynik, S. Patel, L. Torbic, and Je. Stickers.

## ■ FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK

# Hats Off to Our Penn State OCF, Again!



Last month, you heard about our Orthodox Christian Fellowship sponsoring its first ever dance team at THON. In March, our chapter returned to the Jersey Shore where they had helped clean up after Hurricane Sandy last year. This time, they worked with a team from Covenant House, a nationally renowned organization that helps the homeless, the runaway, and victims of sex trafficking. Our students spent the last Saturday in March sorting thousands of donated canned goods, household items, and pieces of clothing in preparation for the shelter's busy tourist season. ■

## Also From Father's Desk...

- **A Joyful Visit.** *During the second week of Lent, Fr. Alexey Petrides (PSU Civil Eng. '09), his wife, Pres. Stephanie, and their two children, Niko and Christopher surprised Dn. Alex and me, stopping by for lunch en route to a clergy family conference at Antiochian Village. His parents, Fr. Theodore and Pres. Cristen were with them. Fr. Alexey serves as assistant priest at St. Nicholas Church (GOA) in Bethlehem, PA. What a joy-filled family and what an unexpected joy for me!*
- **The Chapel of the Holy Spirit** *continues to make significant progress, one sign being its hosting of Deanery (Mission) Vespers on March 30 at the Beaver Springs Fire Hall. More than 60 people attended the service and the lenten supper that followed. In April, the Archdiocesan Council is scheduled to approve the Chapel's request for financing its building project.*
- **Speaking of financing the Chapel:** *The Parish Council has called for a special parish assembly to authorize the Chapel's indebtedness. The meeting is scheduled to take place Sunday, May 4 following liturgy. A super-quorum of two-thirds majority of the parish is required; voting on the measure will take place in both State College and Beavertown. Details will be forthcoming.*

- **Sunday School** *kids, staff and parents prepared another Soup-er Sunday to raise \$802 for Bridge of Hope. Bridge of Hope is a ministry partner with Holy Trinity, providing guidance and support for single mothers. In related news, our first mom was "matched" with the mentor team from our parish on March 16. Maria Stevens is the ministry coordinator. Contact her as to how you can help.*



- **Vacation Bible School.** *Get the kids ready for VBS. It will take place the week of June 16-20 in the evening. Dinner will be served each night. Look for more information in next month's issue of The Trisagion.*

## Crazy Prophets *(cont. from page 1)*

—ed speaking. In Ezekiel 6, he prophesies against the mountains. Six chapters later, he goes into lurid detail—at least by biblical standards—about the sexual depravity of two sister prostitutes. Later, he prophesies over dry bones in a valley. As Ezekiel stands speaking to his captive audience, he has a vision of the bones coming to life (*Ez. 37*).

One crucial detail has been omitted in these accounts: the actions of Ezekiel, Jeremiah, and Isaiah were commanded by God, which means that we cannot dismiss their behavior. Indeed, these men were not prophets in spite of their eccentricities. Rather, their actions were at the center of their ministry. In the Scriptures, they are explained as symbolic acts that convey divine messages along with their words. For example, the stripping of Isaiah symbolized the future humiliation of Egypt and Ethiopia at the hands of Assyrian conquerors. Jeremiah's yoke signified the servitude of the Jews to Babylonia while Ezekiel's dung-warmed meals foreshadowed their exile, where they would be forced to eat unclean food. Jonah might seem an exception to all this, but God ended up using his wayward journey to symbolize Christ's sacrifice and three-day descent into hell.

Looking back on Jonah and the others from the perspective of the New Testament we begin to see a sort of harmony between their bizarre behavior and their prophecies of both doom and deliverance. There is an incarnational logic to their ministries: these prophets were not just speakers of the word—they lived it out in their lives, through their actions, their choice of clothing, and even their very bodies. They are thus witnesses to how totally transforming and disruptive the Word of God can be when we let it consume our whole lives.

Now, this message may not have been as clear to the Jews of their day and those living in the centuries immediately afterwards. And the mystery of the pro-

## Sunday School Scoops

### Pascha Preparation Workshop

*On Saturday, April 12 at 4 p.m. the Sunday School will once again be conducting a workshop for children of all ages. There will be Pascha bread baking, egg decorating, crafts, etc. You and your family will not want to miss this time of fellowship and preparation before we move into Holy Week.*

### Myrrhophores

*All school-age girls are requested to serve as Myrrhophores (Myrrh-bearers) at Lamentations on Holy Friday. This traditional practice brings to mind the women who followed Christ throughout his earthly life and went early to mourn His death and anoint His body. There will be a review session following the Palm Sunday Liturgy. Participants are asked to wear white church dresses with covered shoulders.*

### Egg Hunt

*On St. Thomas Sunday (April 27) our annual Egg Hunt for all children through fifth grade will take place at Holmes Foster Park. Bring your baskets!*

—Dn. Mark Oleynik

phets would have only deepened when all prophecy suddenly ceased with Malachi, ushering in 400 years of silence.

But, because of the Resurrection of Christ, we can look back at these prophets and see them as foreshadowing Him—not just through the prophecies that told of His coming, but through their prophetic actions. Christ was, after all, the Word Made Flesh in the fullest and richest manner possible. And, like the prophets, Christ's behavior was utterly bizarre, disruptive, and confusing according to conventional social standards of the day. This was, after all, someone who dined with prostitutes and tax collectors, drove demons into a herd of swine, healed a blind man by rubbing mud in his eyes, once walked on water, and promised to rebuild the temple in three days.

It doesn't get weirder than that. ■



NEWS AND NOTES

## Recent Loss of Two Prominent Orthodox Leaders Hits Home

STATE COLLEGE [via [PostGazette.org/stots.edu](http://PostGazette.org/stots.edu)] — Last month marked the passing of two pillars of Orthodoxy in America, the Archpriest Alexander Atty and Metropolitan Philip (Saliba) of New York, who was the leader of the Antiochian Archdiocese of North America.

St. Tikhon's Seminary in South Canaan, Pa., where Fr. Alexander served as dean and chief operating officer for two-and-a-half short years, posted a eulogy

remembering him “as a dedicated churchman, a husband, a father, a friend, and a leader.” Many current and past members of Holy Trinity had the opportunity to get to know Fr. Alexander through his many visits to our community when his daughter, Katherine (PSU Art History '09), was a member of our Penn State Orthodox Christian Fellowship, or most recently, when he attended the wedding of Paul and Larissa Petrogeorge (PSU Marketing '10/Art Education '12), here in June of last year. In addition to Katherine, he is survived by his beloved wife, Khouria Olga, and son Alexander. He was a graduate of the University of Philadelphia (B.S.), St. Vladimir's Seminary (M.Div.), and the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (D.Min.). For years, he served as pastor of one of the nation's largest pan-Orthodox parishes, Saint Michael the Archangel Church in Louisville, KY, where funeral services were held. He was laid to rest at St. Tikhon's on March 28.

Though he was not as well known in the parish as Fr. Alexander, the loss of Metropolitan Philip also will also be felt here and throughout the Orthodox Church in North America. His Eminence had been the longest serving Orthodox bishop in American history, having taken office in 1966. He was laid to rest at Antiochian Village near Ligonier, the summer camp and conference center he founded in 1978 that is often visited by members of our parish. ■

dignity of the human person, the institution of marriage, and the gift of creation.

“We stress the undisputed sanctity of human life from inception until natural death. We recognize marriage as the union of man and woman that reflects the union between Christ and His Church. Our vocation is to preserve the natural environment as stewards and not proprietors of creation. In this period of Great Lent, we exhort our clergy and laity to observe a spirit of repentance, to experience purity of heart, humility and forgiveness, bearing witness to the timeless teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ in society. ■

## Patriarchs Issue Statement for Life During Lent

CONSTANTINOPLE [via [patriarchate.org](http://patriarchate.org)] — In a Lenten message authored by the leaders of the Orthodox Churches throughout the world, the patriarchs issued a statement underscoring the importance of human life from conception to natural death: “The Church is called to articulate its prophetic word. We express our genuine concern about local and global trends that undermine and erode the principles of faith, the

## Mom Assigned to Mentor Group

On March 20, our Bridge of Hope mentor group met their mom and her three children. All had a wonderful evening getting acquainted with this precious family over a casual potluck dinner. Please continue to pray for the success of this ministry.

## Help Bridge of Hope By Running!

Bridge of Hope is hosting a Mother's Day 5K Fun Run/Walk to strengthen its single women's support network. It begins at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 11 with registration (\$30 for adults/\$8 for kids) taking place an hour earlier. Individuals or teams signing up at [centre.bridgeofhopeinc.org](http://centre.bridgeofhopeinc.org) by April 25 will receive a \$5 discount and a free t-shirt for each participant. For the second straight year, Holy Trinity is also one of the organizations helping the charity raise \$20,000 at the event, enough to support one mom for two years.

## Lent/Pascha Bookstore Features

The exceedingly rich and beautiful hymnography that is unique to the lenten season can be found in the *Lenten Triodion* and the *Lenten Triodion Supplement*. Although the volumes are written for use by a choir or chanter, the texts easily lend themselves to private devotional use and are now available in the Bookstore. Also for sale is a similar volume, the *Festal Menanion*, which contains the hymnography for each major feast of the church. Be sure to check out the selection of decorated candles for your Pascha basket as well.

## Men to Serve Work Day Meal

The Men's Fellowship will serve a free brunch to all volunteers attending Holy Trinity's annual Parish Work Day on Saturday, April 5 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please attend: Many hands make light work!

## Annual Audit Conducted

An audit of the church's 2013 records was conducted last month. Deposits and accounts were randomly chosen and checked. No discrepancies were found.



## Greeting the New Bishop

In February, Fr. John had the opportunity to represent our parish and archdiocese at the consecration of Altoona-native Fr. David (Mahaffey) to the episcopal see of Sitka and Alaska at St. Innocent Cathedral in Anchorage. On March 29, in one of his first ordinations, Bishop David elevated Dn. Jason Isaac to the priesthood, who was given vestments donated by generous members of Holy Trinity. Look in the May issue of the *Trisagion* for more on Fr. Jason's ordination. **Axios!** ■

## For the Record

### AWARDS

- **Bishop Melchisedek** was elevated to the rank of Archbishop at the Spring 2014 session of the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America in advance of the fifth anniversary (June 27) of his episcopal consecration. **Axios and Many Years!**
- **Deacon Alexander Cadman** was awarded the double orarion and kamilavka by Archbishop Melchisedek on March 23 at St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral in Allison Park, PA. **Axios!**



# Holy Trinity Calendar

All events take place at 119 South Sparks Street in State College unless where noted.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>Confessions are also heard Wednesdays and Fridays at 5:00 p.m. during Great Lent.</i></p> <p><i>To receive Communion on a weeknight, at a minimum, fast from all food and drink beginning at noon.</i></p>		<p>April 1</p> <p>Clergy Staff Meeting, 11:45am Adult Study Group: <i>The Jesus We Missed</i>, 7pm</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Confessions, 5pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 6pm Lenten Potluck, 7:30pm</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 6pm @ 122 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center Choir Rehearsal, 7pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Confessions, 5pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 6pm Akathist, 7:45pm</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Annual Parish Work Day, 9am-12:30pm Children's Choir Rehearsal, 5:15pm Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions</p>
<p>6</p> <p><b>St. Mary of Egypt</b> Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Choir Rehearsal, 12:15pm Deanery Holy Unction Service, 4pm @ <i>Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Urey</i></p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Homeless Shelter Ministry, 4pm @ <i>Centre House, 217 E. Nittany Ave., State College</i> Choir Rehearsal, 6pm Adult Study Group: <i>The Jesus We Missed</i>, 6pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Confessions, 5pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 6pm Lenten Potluck, 7:30pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal, 6pm Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 6pm @ 122 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center Parish Council Meeting, 7pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Confessions, 5pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 6pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p><b>Lazarus Saturday</b> Divine Liturgy, 9am Altar Soc. Decor'ing, 11am First Confessions, 3:30pm Youth Pascha Wksp., 4pm Children's Choir, 5:15pm Great Vespers/Conf. 6pm</p>
<p>13</p> <p><b>PALM SUNDAY</b> Festal Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Myrrhophores Practice, 12:15pm Bridegroom Matins of Holy Monday, 7pm</p> <p><b>No Confessions</b> (Now thru. Apr. 26)</p>	<p>14</p> <p><b>HOLY MONDAY</b> Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 9am Bridegroom Matins of Holy Tuesday, 7pm</p>	<p>15</p> <p><b>HOLY TUESDAY</b> Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 9am Bridegroom Matins of Holy Wednesday, 7pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p><b>HOLY WEDNESDAY</b> Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 9am Matins of Holy Thursday/Holy Unction, 7pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p><b>HOLY THURSDAY</b> Vespers/Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, 10am Matins of Holy Friday (Twelve Passion Gospels), 7pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p><b>HOLY FRIDAY</b> Royal Hours, 10am (Unnailing) Vespers of Holy Friday, 4pm Matins of Holy Saturday (Lamentations), 7pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p><b>HOLY SATURDAY</b> Vespers/Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, 10am Nocturns, 11:30pm</p>
<p>20</p> <p><b>GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA</b> Matins/Hours/Divine Liturgy, 12am Blessing of Baskets/Festal Meal, 2:30am Agape Vespers, 4pm Agape Meal, 5pm</p>	<p>21</p> <p><b>Bright Monday</b> Paschal Divine Liturgy, 8am Paschal Vespers, 5:30pm OCF Executive Committee Meeting, 7pm @ <i>W. College Ave. Starbucks</i></p>	<p>22</p> <p><b>Bright Tuesday</b> Paschal Vespers, 5:30pm</p>	<p>23</p> <p><b>Bright Wednesday</b> <b>St. George the Trophy-Bearer</b> Paschal Divine Liturgy, 8am Paschal Vespers, 5:30pm</p>	<p>24</p> <p><b>Bright Thursday</b> Paschal Vespers, 5:30pm Penn State OCF: "Dinner on the Town," 6:30pm @ <i>TBD</i></p>	<p>25</p> <p><b>Bright Friday</b> <b>St. Mark the Evangelist</b> Paschal Liturgy, 8am Paschal Vespers, 5:30pm Annual Men's BBQ, 7pm @ <i>562 Lancashire Ln., Park Forest (Rectory)</i></p>	<p>26</p> <p><b>Bright Saturday</b> Great Vespers 6pm</p>
<p>27</p> <p><b>Thomas Sunday</b> Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Church School Egg Hunt, 12:30pm @ <i>Holmes-Foster Park</i> CHS Family Fun Night, 5-7pm @ <i>MACC, Beaver Springs</i></p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions</p>	<p>May 1</p> <p>Penn State OCF: End-of-Semester Game Night, 7pm @ 122 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions</p>
<p>4</p> <p><b>Holy Myrrhbearing Women</b> Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Parish Special Assembly, 12pm</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Clergy Staff Meeting, 11:45am</p>	<p>7</p> <p><b>St. Alexis Toth</b> Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions</p>	<p>8</p> <p><b>St. John the Theologian</b></p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions</p>

# Chapel Calendar

All events take place at 350 Old Orchard Drive in Beavertown unless where noted.

<p>Saturday 1</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ 845 Center Ave. (<i>Lyter Residence</i>)</p>	<p>Saturday 19</p> <p><b>HOLY SATURDAY</b> (Vespers) Divine Liturgy, 10am @ <b>Holy Trinity</b> (Nocturns, 11:30pm @ <b>Holy Trinity</b>)</p>
<p>Friday 4</p> <p>Akathist, 6:30pm @ <i>Bucknell University (Rooke Meditation Chapel)</i></p>	<p>Sunday 20</p> <p><b>GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA</b> (Paschal Matins/Hours/Divine Liturgy, 12am @ <b>Holy Trinity</b>)</p>
<p>Saturday 5</p> <p>Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions</p>	<p>Sunday 27</p> <p><b>Thomas Sunday</b> Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am Family Fun Night, 5-7pm @ <i>Middlecreek Area Community Center (MACC), Beaver Springs</i></p>
<p>Sunday 6</p> <p><b>St. Mary of Egypt</b> Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am Book Study on the Prayer of St. Ephrem, 6pm</p>	<p>Tuesday 29</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ 845 Center Ave. (<i>Lyter Residence</i>)</p>
<p>Tuesday 8</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ 845 Center Ave. (<i>Lyter Residence</i>)</p>	<p>Saturday May 3</p> <p>Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions</p>
<p>Saturday 12</p> <p>Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions</p>	<p>Sunday May 5</p> <p><b>Myrrhbearing Women</b> Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am Special Assembly, 12pm</p>
<p>Sunday 13</p> <p><b>TRIUMPHAL ENTRY OF OUR LORD (PALM SUNDAY)</b> Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am</p>	

April 2014